

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

townofstgermain.org

MINUTES TOWN BOARD MEETING: SEPTEMBER 8, 2008

1. **Call To Order:** The chairman noted that this was a duly called meeting in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M.
2. **Roll Call:** Peggy Nimz, Lee Christensen, Fred Radtke, John Vojta, Todd Wiese, Marion Janssen, Town Treasurer, Tom Martens, Town Clerk.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion Christensen seconded Radtke that the agenda be approved in any order at the discretion of the chair. Approved.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion Radtke seconded Wiese that the minutes of the August 4, 2008 public hearing and the August 11, 2008 regular town board meeting be approved as written. Approved.
5. **Approval of Treasurer's Report (Town and Golf Course):** Balance General Account as of 08-31-2008: \$7,598.92; Lakes Account \$14,644.81; Lakes Committee CD \$15,063.23; Park Fund \$3,168.05; Rental Account \$2,761.54; Bag Account \$16,969.33; Room Tax Account \$35,873.84; Debt Reserve \$404,725.19; Bike & Hike Trail Acct. \$38,659.96, First National Money Market \$885,199.11, Playground Equipment Fund \$14,138.89. Golf Course Regular Account \$906.66; Money Market \$470,822.20. Motion Wiese seconded Vojta that the treasurer be approved as read. Approved. .
6. **Payment of Invoices:** Motion Radtke seconded Wiese that vouchers 16941 – 17001 be approved along with the following extra bills: Crispell-Snyder - \$1,584.86—bike trail; Carquest - \$490.36 – parts; Mid-States Blade & Chain - \$ 2,019.58 – chain, hook, binders, shoe. Approved.
7. **Communications:** Ms. Nimz reported that she had received a complaint about the condition of the bike & hike trail. But, it turned out that the complaint was for a trail in another town.
8. **Town Committee Reports:**
 - 8A. **Fire Department:** Tim Ebert reported that there had been 24 calls last month. On October 11, 2008 from 9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. the department will be holding their open house for fire safety. Mr. Ebert also asked if the town board was considering purchasing a new fire truck in 2009. After November there is going to be a 3% increase in the cost of the truck. Mr. Christensen asked that the department give a financial report each month.
 - 8B. **Planning & Zoning:** Mr. Wiese reported that the next meeting will be on Monday, September 15, 2008 at 4:00 P.M. The committee will be reviewing the plat for DorWay, two setback violations, one permit violation, and one camping violation. On September 29, 2008 there will be a sign ordinance workshop. The Board of Appeals will be meeting tomorrow to consider a variance request by John Bennett.
 - 8C. **Public Works:** Ms. Nimz reported that the committee was in the process of working on its budget for 2009. The GIS letters have been sent out and the errors are being worked out. The fire number installation should begin in about two weeks and be finished in about a month. The town needs to purchase topsoil for the new soccer field. It will be seeded within the next two weeks. Pitlik will begin

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the roadwork this week. Fahrner has completed the crack filling. The next meeting will be at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday.

8D. Parks & Recreation: Ms. Nimz had nothing to report. Mr. Ebert noted that the protective mats were in for the Caring for Kids Park.

8E. Bike & Hike Trail: Mark Hiller reported that the website has been updated. There has been a \$1,400 donation from the 5-K event. The third party agreement is still being worked out with Cedar Corporation. The board will need to meet soon to discuss the agreement. There was a poor turnout for the dance. Mr. Wiese noted that Mark Hiller and Jim Wendt have done a lot of legwork trying to iron out all of the changes that need to be done with Phase II of the trail. The engineering bills from this year will have to be taken out of the Bike & Hike Trail Account.

8F. Red Brick Schoolhouse: Mr. Radtke stated he had just received three grant packets from Marlene Bartelt. They are still considering grants. Mr. Radtke stated that the town board should get involved with the grant process. The board should not depend on a third party.

8G. Golf Course: Mr. Christensen stated that the course has had a good summer. Play has been good in September. The course will close in late October. The next meeting will be on September 22, 2008. The Prime Timers will be touring the course on September 25, 2008. A study is being done concerning the condition of the carts and batteries.

8H. Finance & Personnel: Mr. Christensen stated that the Finance Committee had met and decided that it would not be necessary to get a loan this year. The personnel committee also met. There will be a closed session to discuss personnel matters later in the meeting.

8I. Housing Authority & Cemetery: Mr. Christensen stated that the Housing Authority was going to be meeting tomorrow, but that there was nothing else to report.

8J. Lakes: Mr. Wiese reported that the projects for this year have been finished. The committee feels that people are getting burned out hearing about AIS. Therefore, the committee will probably not be applying for the grant to operate a booth at the flea market for next year. Big St. Germain is proceeding with its application for a Lake District. Little St. Germain has approved a large budget for 2009 to treat upper East Bay with alum. It should not kill the fish. Nothing will be done with the boat landing this year.

8K. Room Tax: Ms. Janssen reported that about 95% of the establishments are reporting. One person refuses to respond. The next step will be legal action.

8L. Vilas County Board Representative: Ms. Platner noted that there had been two resignations from the County Board. The annexation of the 12 lots to the Little St. Germain Lake District will be coming up again. Mr. Radtke stated that the county has purchased a new computer for 911.

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9. Items for Consideration (Approve, Disapprove, Table):

- 9.1 Attorney's Opinion of Riverview Drive road Extension Request:** Mr. Wiese stated that it was the opinion of the town's attorney that the town was not obligated to extend Riverview Drive. The property owner could do it at his expense. Ms. Janssen suggested that the town offer the owner a license or easement to build the road. It would have to be built to town specifications.
- 9.2 Russell Steel Request for Financing for Taxidermy Museum:** Mr. Steel stated that he would need grants in the amount of \$2,000,000 to build his museum. Ms. Nimz stated that the town could not finance a private enterprise. She also stated that the town did not have any grants available. She suggested that Mr. Steel contact the Vilas County Museum for assistance.
- 9.3 WPS Letter of Intent:** Mr. Wiese stated that he had sent a letter of intent to WPS on August 14, 2008. It was also noted that there are signs on the property indicating that there will be an auction on October 15, 2008 to sell four lake lots. None of the board members knew what the starting bid might be. Since the lots are ten acres or more, no town permit is necessary. There will, however, be permits required for any roads that enter the highway.
- 9.4 Sexually Oriented Business Ordinance Request:** Mr. Wiese noted that a group of citizens had presented a proposal for a sexually oriented business ordinance to the Planning & Zoning committee at its last meeting. Mr. Wiese had told that the group that he would get the opinion of the town board as to whether or not the board felt such an ordinance was necessary. Mr. Wiese stated that if this type of ordinance was to be written, it would have to be done by an attorney. Motion Vojta seconded Christensen that the matter be tabled at this time.
- 9.5 Town of Plum Lake Donation Request (Ambulance Service):** Mr. Wiese that the Town of Plum Lake had asked the Town of St. Germain to donate \$2,500 towards the LOSA program for the Plum Lake ambulance service. There is a mutual aid agreement between the two fire departments, but the ambulance service apparently doesn't fall under the agreement. Over 70% of the ambulance calls are to the Town of St. Germain. The St. Germain Vol. Fire Department members are very much against paying the donation since St. Germain does not charge when we are called to Plum Lake. Mr. Wiese suggested that we make the payment this year, since it is already in the budget, but not do it in the future. Mr. Radtke thought that \$2,500 was pretty cheap for the service. Mr. Vojta said that St. Germain residents were paying for the service three times. Once for an ambulance call, again at the EMT benefit dinner, and now this donation. Motion Christensen seconded Radtke that the Town of St. Germain pay \$2,500 to the Town of Plum Lake towards the LOSA program as was budgeted. Approved. Mr. Vojta voted against. Ms. Nimz abstained.
- 9.6 Referendum Questions Review:** Ms. Nimz stated that at the last special town board meeting, Mr. Martens had been asked to rewrite the referendum questions. Mr. Martens felt that the wording was unfair and proposed three scenarios. Scenario #1: Should the Town of St. Germain spend taxpayer dollars to renovate and make the Red Brick Schoolhouse ADA compliant to be used for town office space and meeting rooms.

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Should the Town of St. Germain spend taxpayer dollars to remove the Red Brick Schoolhouse entirely. Scenario #2: Should the Town of St. Germain spend taxpayer dollars to renovate and make the Red Brick Schoolhouse ADA compliant to be used for town office space and meeting rooms at an unknown cost.

Should the Town of St. Germain spend taxpayer dollars to remove the Red Brick Schoolhouse entirely and renovate and make the Community Center ADA compliant for town office space and meeting rooms at an unknown cost. Scenario #3: Should the Town of St. Germain spend up to \$500,000 taxpayer dollars to renovate and make the Red Brick Schoolhouse ADA compliant to be used for town office space and meeting rooms

Should the Town of St. Germain spend up to \$500,000 taxpayer dollars to remove the Red Brick Schoolhouse entirely and renovate and make the Community Center ADA compliant for town office space and meeting rooms.

Motion Wiese seconded Vojta that the referendum questions be scenario #1. Mr. Radtke, Mr. Christensen and Ms. Nimz voted against. Mr. Wiese and Mr. Vojta voted for. Motion failed.

Motion Christensen seconded Radtke that the referendum questions be scenario #2. Mr. Radtke, Mr. Christensen and Ms. Nimz voted for. Mr. Wiese and Mr. Vojta voted against. Motion carried. The clerk is to fax the questions to the Vilas County Clerk tomorrow morning.

9.7 Insurance Review for 2009 - 2010: Mr. Vojta presented a proposal from EMC Insurance Companies. There was also a packet from Meyer & Associates, but there was only the application, and no quote. Mr. Wiese thought that Meyer & Associates should also be able to present a bid before a decision is made. Motion Wiese seconded Christensen that the insurance proposal be tabled at this time and that Mr. Vojta request a quote from Meyer & Associates before October 1st. Approved.

9.8 Road Maintenance for 2008: Mr. Wiese stated that Fahrner Asphalt would be chip sealing approximately 2.18 miles town roads at a cost of approximately \$50,000. The roads will include Halberstadt Road, Gessert Road, Kuehne Road, and Hiawatha Circle. If there is any money left, a portion of Big St. Germain Drive will be done.

10. Citizens Concerns and Non-Appointed Committee Reports (3 Minute Maximum):

10a. Verdelle Mauthe: Ms. Mauthe reported that 87 people had attended the last Prime Timers meeting. They will be touring Northwoods Wildlife, the golf course, and the vitamin factory in Woodruff.

11. Board Concerns:

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John Vojta: Mr. Vojta stated that he was disappointed with the message that was sent to the fire department by donating the \$2,500 to the Town of Plum Lake when money for our department has been cut from the budget.

Todd Wiese: Mr. Wiese asked what happened to the Prime Timer request for financing for their garage. Ms. Nimz stated that the request had been withdrawn. Mr. Wiese also stated that he thought that the town needed a long distance service at the community center. He is currently calling long distance from his home phone.

Marion Janssen: Ms. Janssen also stated that at tax time, she has to make quite a few long distance calls from her home. She also stated that she felt that the town board was going to have to prepare informative sessions so that people would know what they were voting for in the referendum.

12. Closed Session: It is anticipated a motion will be made and seconded to convene into closed session pursuant to Sec. 19.85(1)(e) for the purpose of discussion of employee contracts and discussion of possible zoning litigation and town attorney's opinion and WPS land purchase.

12.1. Adjourn Closed Session Pursuant to Sec. 19.85(1)(e) and Return to Open Meeting: Motion Wiese seconded Vojta that the meeting be adjourned into closed session at 7:58 P.M. By a roll call vote: Mr. Radtke – yes; Mr. Vojta- yes; Mr. Wiese – yes; Mr. Christensen - yes; Ms. Nimz – yes. Motion carried.

12.2. Return to Open Session: Motion Wiese seconded Vojta that the meeting be reconvened into open session at 9:04 P.M. By a roll call vote: Mr. Radtke – yes; Mr. Vojta- yes; Mr. Wiese – yes; Mr. Christensen - yes; Ms. Nimz – yes. Motion carried.

13. Set Date & Time For Next Meeting. The next regular town board meeting will be held on Monday, October 13, 2008 at 5:00 P.M. in meeting room #4 of the Community Center. There will be a special budget workshop on Wednesday, September 10, 2008 at 7:30 P.M. in meeting room #4 of the Community Center. There will be a special town board meeting held on Thursday, September 18, 2008 at 5:00 P.M. in meeting room #4 of the Community Center.

14. Adjournment: Motion Christensen seconded Wiese that the meeting be adjourned. Approved. Meeting adjourned 9:07 P.M.

Town Clerk

Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

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