

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

townofstgermain.org

MINUTES SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING: MAY 26, 2009

- 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. Ms. Nimz noted that this was a meeting of the town board. She also stated that she had not received any offers for donations to the Red Brick Schoolhouse.
- 2. Roll Call:** Peggy Nimz, Todd Wiese, John Vojta, Fred Radtke, Lee Christensen, Marion Janssen, town treasurer, Tom Martens, town clerk.
- 3. Approval of Agenda:** Motion Vojta seconded Wiese that the agenda be approved in any order at the discretion of the chairman with item #5 to be moved before item #4. Approved.
- 4. Citizens Concerns:**
 - Mary Platner:** Ms. Platner stated that nobody knew that they were supposed to be making donations to the Red Brick Schoolhouse. The motion at the Annual Elector meeting was that the town board was authorized to repair the roof. After that any other money was to come from other sources. Ms. Platner also stated that she had presented information to the town board earlier concerning what Boulder Junction was doing about their town hall. She also stated that she had talked to the three girls who had worked on the Caring for Kids Park. Ms. Platner felt that the town should appoint a steering committee to figure out what should be done.
 - Joe Koscielniak:** Mr. Koscielniak reminded the board that the results of the November were to spend no money on renovating the building.
 - Ellen Allen:** Ms. Allen asked if there could be an insurance claim to repair the roof.
 - Bernie LaPorte:** Mr. LaPorte stated that the town board was going to have to spend money on repairing the Community Center roof. He also felt that the cost of removing the Red Brick Schoolhouse had been exaggerated.
 - Bruce VanHoozen:** Mr. VanHoozen stated that the argument over the Red Brick Schoolhouse had been going on for a long time. The motion to demolish the Red Brick Schoolhouse had been defeated at the Annual Elector meeting. Mr. VanHoozen stated that his motion to repair the roof with taxpayer money, but that all other work was to be done with money from other sources was a compromise.
 - Jim Schroeder:** Mr. Schroeder asked if the building could be used as a practice burn for the fire department.
 - Tom Zimmerman:** Mr. Zimmerman stated that the town needed more room. He felt that the town board would have to do something. He felt that it would cost over one million to build something new.
 - Judith Kohout:** Ms. Kohout asked how the town board could ignore the results of the November referendum.

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Tim Gebhardt: Mr. Gebhardt stated that there never has been a referendum with a clear-cut question. He also stated that there have been no grants.

Barb Zimmerman: Ms. Zimmerman stated that grants had not been applied for because the town board had not given approval. Ms. Nimz stated that the present board had given approval to apply for grants.

Rosalie Sherwin: Ms. Sherwin stated that the estimate to remodel the Red Brick Schoolhouse was \$561,000. She also stated that the cost of the roof would be \$100,000. She felt that the public would not match that amount of money.

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

5.1 Red Brick Schoolhouse – 1.5 hour maximum:

Fred Radtke: Mr. Radtke stated that at first he felt that the building should be torn down. But, after touring the facilities that some of the other towns have, he changed his mind. He also stated that the town needed storage and fireproof storage for the town records. He also felt that 10 of the 14 towns in Vilas County had offices that were staffed. Why didn't St. Germain? Mr. Radtke also stated that the last town board felt that an addition to the Community Center was necessary for more space. He felt that the service organizations in town have contributed a lot to the town and that the town should provide space for them.

Lee Christensen: Mr. Christensen agreed with Mr. Radtke. He also stated that the people wanted to spend as little as possible. Mr. Christensen also reminded the board that the electors have not authorized the town board to remove the Red Brick Schoolhouse.

Todd Wiese: Mr. Wiese stated that there was no money to staff an office. He also felt that although it would be nice to provide space for the town civic groups, it was not an obligation of the town. Mr. Wiese brought up the town hall facilities in Arbor Vitae. Mr. Wiese also stated that St. Germain doesn't qualify for grants because of our high-equalized value.

John Vojta: Mr. Vojta stated that the board had to do something. He noted that the lowest bid to remove the building was for \$31,380 last January. The lowest bid for repairing the roof was for \$39,730. Mr. Vojta also added that it would be very expensive for the fire department to burn the building since then the asbestos becomes air born. Mr. Vojta felt that the town didn't have space issues. The town hasn't used the Red Brick Schoolhouse in three years. Mr. Vojta also noted that when a rumor about closing the transfer station got out, there were complaints at the Annual Elector meeting. He stated that the people don't want to give anything up. He also stated that the town was going to have to consider a salt dome very soon.

Peggy Nimz: Ms. Nimz felt that if the wall between the two meeting rooms was removed, a fireproof storage area could be built. She also stated that if the town organizations staggered their meeting nights, there would be room in the community center. Ms. Nimz stated that she would not make a commitment for town money until there were donations for the building.

Motion Radtke seconded Christensen that the town replaces the roof on the 1965 portion of the Red Brick Schoolhouse with a hip roof. By a roll call vote: Mr. Radtke – Yes; Mr. Vojta – No; Mr. Wiese –

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No; Ms. Nimz – No; Mr. Christensen – Yes. Motion failed.

Motion Wiese seconded Vojta that the town spend no taxpayer money on repairing the Red Brick Schoolhouse. By a roll call vote: Mr. Radtke – No; Mr. Vojta – Yes; Mr. Wiese – Yes; Ms. Nimz – Yes; Mr. Christensen – No. Motion carried.

5. Board Concerns:

Fred Radtke: Mr. Radtke asked if there should be a survey to see what organizations need storage space. Mr. Wiese felt that the town was not responsible for providing storage space.

Lee Christensen: Mr. Christensen noted that something still had to be done around the pavilion. The south side was not in very good shape. Crushed granite had been suggested.

Todd Wiese: Mr. Wiese and Mr. Vojta reiterated the need for a salt dome.

6. Set Date and Time for Next Meeting:

The next regular town board meeting will be held on Monday, June 8, 2009 at 5:00 P.M. in meeting room #4 of the Community Center.

7. Adjournment:

Motion Vojta seconded Nimz that the meeting be adjourned. Approved. Meeting adjourned 6:30 P.M.

Town Clerk

Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor