

# TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

[townofstgermain.org](http://townofstgermain.org)

## MINUTES TOWN BOARD MEETING: DECEMBER 14, 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.
2. **Roll Call:** Peggy Nimz, Lee Christensen, Todd Wiese, John Vojta, Fred Radtke, Marion Janssen, Town Treasurer, Tom Martens, Town Clerk. There were also 14 other people in attendance.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion Vojta seconded Christensen that the agenda be approved in any order at the discretion of the chair. Approved.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion Wiese seconded Radtke that the minutes of the November 9, 2009 town board meeting be approved as written. Approved.
5. **Approval of Treasurer's Report (Town and Golf Course):** Balance General Account as of 11-30-2009: \$42,949.34; Lakes Account \$29,239.81; Lakes Committee CD \$15,375.21; Park Fund \$0.00; Rental Account \$5,177.32; Bag Account \$22,828.52; Room Tax Account \$15,135.92; Debt Reserve \$233,958.07; Bike & Hike Trail Acct. \$63,422.74, First National Money Market \$77,293.50, Playground Equipment Fund \$5,780.22. Golf Course Regular Account \$87,227.99; Money Market \$196,011.34; CD \$0.00. Fire & Rescue Checkbook Balance \$17,149.86. Motion Radtke seconded Christensen that the treasurer be approved as read. Approved.
6. **Payment of Invoices:** Motion Wiese seconded Christensen that vouchers 18033 – 18095 be approved along with the extra bills St. Germain Post Office \$55.00—P.O. Box 67 rental; Schwartz & Shea \$238.00 – treasurer's tax bond. Approved.
7. **Communications:** There were none.
8. **Town Committee Reports:**
  - 8A. **Fire Department:** Tim Ebert reported that there had been 10 calls last month. The new fire truck is here, but there are still things that need to be replaced. Mr. Ebert also handed out the year-end report. The total calls for 2008 had been 242. The total calls for 2009 were 203. Mr. Ebert asked that the town board remind the residents that driveways need to be a minimum of 14' wide in order for emergency equipment to be able to make it into the driveway. The department has begun to flood the ice rink.
  - 8B. **Planning & Zoning:** Mr. Vojta had nothing to report.
  - 8C. **Public Works/Parks & Recreation:** Mr. Wiese stated that the committee had agreed to put up No Trespassing signs rather than No Hunting signs on the circle in Holiday Estates. People have been hunting deer in that area. The Chamber has asked to cut down the Christmas tree in front of their building. The committee would like to have the town crew trim the tree first to see if it can still be used. The committee has had a request to plow the private road at the end of Hemlock Road. The decision was not plow private roads. There have been other requests to plow the circles in Colonna Estates and Wilderness Estates in reverse so that the snow doesn't end up in private driveways. The town's plows cannot be turned so that can be done. It would be too dangerous to plow against traffic. Mr. Vojta noted that he has had a similar complaint from the residents on Little Mamie Lane. Tim Ebert is getting quotes for removing the grass around the Pavilion and replacing it with pavers. One of the committee members is going over all of the papers concerning the transfer station.
  - 8E. **Bike & Hike Trail:** Mark Hiller reported that the committee has received a \$40,000 matching grant from Wisconsin Valley Improvement for the bridge project on Phase II of the bike trail. The DNR might also have more matching grants. On November 30<sup>th</sup>, Bonestroo met with Pat Zatopa from the DNR. Ms. Zatopa agreed to extend the current grant, however, the town would have to apply for the extension. Ms. Zatopa thought that there might be up to \$250,000 more available in matching grants. The town would have to come up with the money to match the grants. Ms. Zatopa also thought that there would be money available in matching grants for a Phase III to extend the trail to Old Hwy. 70 and to have more access routes from Hwy. 70.

There have been talks with the properties owners between Sunrise Lane and Thunderbird Pass. It might be possible to move the trail farther off of Hwy. 70. Ken Meyer from Cedar Corp. informed the committee that the D.O.T. is agreeable to having the trail run on Sunrise Lane from Holiday Drive to the end of Sunrise Lane. Mr. Hiller also noted that the D.O.T. is agreeable to having the trail only be 8'

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wide from the Chamber building to Holiday Drive so that it can weave through the trees rather than having to cut down most of the trees. The stakes that have been put in are not correct. Mr. Radtke asked that the trees that are to be cut be marked first so that the town board can see which ones will be cut.

**8F. Golf Course:** Mr. Vojta noted that the committee was considering a Hole-In-One Contest next summer with a \$10,000 prize. Mr. Vojta stated that N & M Transfer would only release the agreements and contracts with the Whitetail Inn by subpoena. Mr. Vojta also stated that Attorney Jack O'Brien has all of the agreements and contracts between the town and the owners of the Whitetail. The owners of the Whitetail Inn have requested the information under the public records law.

**8G. Finance:** Mr. Radtke noted that the Room Tax Budget would be discussed later in the agenda.

**8H. Housing Authority & Cemetery:** Mr. Christensen noted that Francine Burns has worked out a Workout Plan with HUD. Since there have been so many vacancies, the reserve fund for capital improvements has not been increasing fast enough. There was nothing to report concerning the Cemetery.

**8I. Lakes:** Mr. Wiese reported that the DNR had approved all nine of the grants. The papers have all been signed and returned. Onterra will be doing the lake studies. On November 13<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Wiese attended a meeting of the Alma-Moon Lake District. They were concerned about the huge increase in their equalized values. It turned out to be a Department of Revenue error. The district also made a request that fire numbers also be placed on the lakeshore. They are working on district boundary changes with the Little St. Germain District. The clarity of Moon Lake is down from 18% to 15%. There is a concern about the low water level in the lakes.

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Weise attended a meeting of the Big St. Germain Lake District. 2400 Walleyes have been planted in the lake. Rob Manthei and Ray Alexander donated 400 of them. The district agreed to ask for donations rather than tax the residents.

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Wiese attended a meeting of the Little St. Germain District. The district will no longer include off-water parcels. There have been problems with the tax codes. The boat landing repairs were approved. \$11,000 will come from tax money and \$42,000 will come from the DNR and WVIC. The exotic weed control grant has been extended. Onterra will be sending out surveys in spring. The lake districts will probably be looking for part-time employees next summer. However, since the employees are entitled to unemployment insurance, the districts might not want to hire them. Chuck Their thought that fire numbers should be placed on the lakeshores of all of the lakes.

**8J. Room Tax:** Ms. Janssen reported that there are a few people who refuse to cooperate and might have to be turned over to the town's attorney. Mr. Radtke noted that the budget will be discussed later in the agenda.

**8K. Land Committee:** Mr. Christensen stated the next meeting will be on January 15, 2010. Lumberjack now sponsors WHIP. So far, most of the weeds have not been found in St. Germain.

**8K. Vilas County Board Representative:** Ms. Platner stated that there was a new 5-year library plan. Mr. Wiese asked what had been found out about the dog shelter. Mr. Radtke stated that it was a private enterprise and that the county had nothing to do with it. Part of the fee goes to the county and part goes to the state. Mr. Wiese also asked about a letter that had been received from mapping stating that the county does not assign the fire numbers. Mr. Radtke will check into it. Mr. Ebert stated that the county had assigned a number on Moon Road.

**8L. Yard Waste:** Mr. Radtke had nothing to report.

**8M. Landfill Venture Group:** There was nothing to report.

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

**9.1 Approval of 2009/2010 Snowmobile Routes:** Motion Radtke seconded Christensen that the town roads to be approved as snowmobile routes for 2009/2010 be approved as presented. Approved. The list is the same as last year. Mr. Vojta abstained.

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**9.2 Underground Storage Tank Insurance:** Motion Wiese seconded Vojta that the storage tank third party liability corrective action and cleanup policy quote from Schwartz and Shea be accepted for \$3,287.00. Approved. The snowmobile club and golf course will reimburse the town for their share of the premium. Mr. Radtke asked what the \$10,000 deductible covered. Mr. Vojta had a second quote for \$8,883.75 for a fixed site pollution legal liability policy, but the board decided to consider that for the 2011 budget.

**9.3 Golf Course Signature Card Authorization:** Motion Vojta seconded Christensen that the town chairman, town treasurer and town clerk and their successors be granted access to the golf course bank accounts. Approved.

**9.4 Appointment of Tom Christensen as chairman to the Sign Committee:** Motion Radtke seconded Vojta that Tom Christensen be appointed chairman to the sign committee. Approved.

**9.5 Appointment of Wally Geist as Recording Secretary to the Sign Committee:** Motion Vojta seconded Radtke that Wally Geist be appointed as recording secretary to the sign committee. Approved.

**9.6 Approval of 2010 Town Budget:** Motion Vojta seconded Christensen that the town budget for 2010 be approved with a tax levy of \$800,041 as approved by the electors at the Special Elector Meeting held on November 30, 2009. Approved.

**9.7 Approval of 2010 Golf Course Budget:** Motion Radtke seconded Christensen that the golf course budget be approved as presented. Approved.

**9.8 Approval of 2010 Room Tax Budget:** Motion Vojta seconded Christensen that the Room Tax Budget be accepted as presented with the following changes: The Lakes Improvement category will be increased to \$5,000 from \$3,500 and the Community Improvements category will be lowered from \$10,000 to \$8,500. Approved. Ms. Nimz noted that this was a rolling budget and that depending on the room tax collections, the budgeted amounts were not guaranteed. The clerk asked how much room tax money was anticipated. Ms. Janssen stated that the \$61,830 that is budgeted would represent 25% of the total, which would be \$247,320.

**9.9 Approval of Partial Payment for 2010 Bartolotta Contract for 10% more Product:** Motion Radtke seconded Wiese that a partial payment of 50% (\$12,000) to Bartolotta guaranteeing 10% more product be approved. Approved. The payment will be made after the first of the year.

**9.10 Appointment of 2010-2012 Election Board:** Motion Christensen seconded Wiese that Pat Rockafeld, Lorraine Washechek, Judy Kaisler, Lois Pietz, Shirley Shambo, and Margaret Chyko be appointed to the election board for 2010-2012. Diane Misina will be an alternate. Approved.

**9.11 Approval of As-Needed Plow Crew/Dispatch Procedure:** Motion Radtke seconded Wiese that John Vojta and Tim Gebhardt be approved as non-CDL drivers and that Chad Bacon, Gary Jacobi, Tom Ebert and Greg Seegert be approved as CDL drivers for as-needed snowplowing this winter. Approved. Tim Ebert will call them when needed.

**9.12 Memorandum of Understanding Naming Vilas County as the Provider Under the Statewide Voter Registration System:** Motion Radtke seconded Vojta that the Memorandum of Understanding naming Vilas county as the provider under the SVRS be approved. Approved.

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

**10a. Verdell Mauthe:** Ms. Mauthe stated that 93 people had attended the party. There will be a sleigh ride on December 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be two separate trips to South Dakota next fall.

**10b. Mary Platner:** Ms. Platner noted that several counties are reducing the services to senior citizens.

**10c. Gary Guymon:** Mr. Guymon stated that he had volunteered to work at the boat landings last summer, but had never been called. Mr. Guymon also wanted to know why the snowmobile routes were being approved so late in the year. He also said that since he started voting here, he had never been asked to provide identification.

## 11. Board Concerns:

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**John Vojta:** Mr. Vojta wanted to know what the copy rate was. He asked because of the copies needed for the open records request from the owners of the Whitetail.

**Marion Janssen:** Ms. Janssen noted that she had been getting a lot of calls from lake property owners complaining about their taxes. She also stated that there were several mistakes with personal property tax bills. She volunteered to work with Paul Carlson to help get them corrected. Ms. Janssen also would like to have the fire department financial report prior to the meeting so that she and the board could look it over.

**12. Set Date & Time For Next Meeting.** The next regular town board meeting will be held on Monday, January 11, 2010 at 5:00 P.M. in meeting room #4 of the Community Center.

**13. Adjournment:** Motion Vojta seconded Christensen that the meeting be adjourned. Approved. Meeting adjourned 7:29 P.M.

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Town Clerk

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Chairman

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Supervisor

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Supervisor

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Supervisor

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Supervisor