

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

www.townofstgermain.org

MINUTES TOWN BOARD MEETING: JANUARY 10, 2011

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, Walt Camp, Fred Radtke, Lee Christensen, John Vojta, Marion Janssen, Town Treasurer, Tom Martens, Town Clerk. There were also 32 other people in attendance.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion Vojta seconded Camp that the agenda be approved in any order at the discretion of the chair. Approved.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion Radtke seconded Vojta that the minutes of the December 13, 2010 town board meeting be approved as written. Approved.
5. **Approval of Treasurer's Report (Town, Golf Course and Fire Dept):** Balance General Account as of 12-31-2010: \$3,343.23; Lakes Account \$35,233.49; Lakes Committee CD \$15,440.61; Rental Account \$0; Bag Account \$0; Room Tax Account \$19,326.05; Debt Reserve \$291,776.91; Bike & Hike Trail Acct. \$67,118.61; First National Money Market \$2,245,671.16; Playground Equipment Fund \$5,784.74; Golf Course Regular Account \$483.05; Money Market \$0; CD \$60,085.94. Fire & Rescue Checkbook Balance \$20,875.20. Motion Vojta seconded Camp that the treasurer's report be approved as read. Approved.
6. **Payment of Invoices:** Motion Radtke seconded Christensen that vouchers 18879-18947 be approved. Approved. Motion Radtke seconded Christensen that the golf course vouchers be approved as presented with the addition of \$336.06 – unemployment insurance; \$1,000 – Jeff Seivert-January rent. Approved.
7. **Communications:** Mr. Vojta asked that the committee assignments be updated on the website.
8. **Items for Consideration (Approve, Disapprove, Table):**
 - 8.1 **Public Works Information/Recommendations, Approval:**
 - a. **Frontier High Speed Internet:** Mr. Vojta reported that two representatives from Frontier had met with the Public Works Committee. They stated that the Sayner area was scheduled for high-speed Internet service by mid June. Within one mile of the station, there would be 7mb service; within three miles 3 mb service and beyond that 768 kb service. Most of the rest of St Germain should get the service by mid September. The exception is the Normandy Court Road area which might not have high-speed internet service until 2013. There will be stations near Juve Road & Hwy. 155, Hwy. 70 & the cemetery and Hwy. C & Plum Creek Ave. The 479 exchange will also be upgraded.
 - b. **Transfer Station Operation:** Mr. Vojta stated that there also were three representatives from local waste haulers present at the public works meeting. The consensus was that the facility should be closed, but each company also presented a proposal of what they thought should be done. One of the proposals was that the town leases the facility out to a third party. Mr. Vojta asked the town board if the public works committee should come up with possible solutions to present to the town board. Mr. Camp thought that the entire town board should be involved. Mr. Radtke said that the town board could attend the public works meetings, if they wanted to. Ms. Nimz thought that the committee should bring in proposals. Ms. Nimz said that a decision needed to be made by the April town board meeting.
 - c. **McNaughton Employee:** Mr. Vojta said that the committee had decided to hire an employee from McNaughton. He thought that the town should probably hold off until spring. The employee no longer needs to be constantly supervised by the town maintenance engineer.
 - d. **Ice Skating Rink:** Mr. Vojta asked if it was the town crew's responsibility or the fire department's responsibility to flood the ice skating rink. It was the consensus of the board that the fire department should do it. Mr. Vojta said that he would coordinate the brooming of the rink by the town crew with the flooding by the fire department.
 - e. **Plowing for Private Events:** Mr. Vojta stated that the public works committee had received a request to plow a parking lot for a private event. The committee decided that because of budget cuts the parking lot would not be plowed. The owner could contact a private contractor..

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- 8.2 Sign Ordinance Application Form:** Motion Camp seconded Christensen that the sign ordinance inventory application form be approved as presented. Approved. The fee schedule still needs to be determined. The Vilas County Board will make a decision on the ordinance at its January 18, 2011 meeting.
- 8.3 Approval of 2011 Budget:** Ms. Nimz stated that the public works committee had decided to cut \$40,000 from its budget. Mr. Martens thought that the public works budget would come up short if that money were to be cut. Brian Sherren, former town chairman, noted that surplus money from 2010 could be added as a line item to the budget. Ms. Janssen asked Mr. Sherren to tell the board just what he would cut from the budget to make up for the \$68,406 that was removed by the people at the November budget hearing. Mr. Sherren said that it could be cut from wages. Mr. Vojta said that the town was under contract with the employees and that nothing could be done about wages until the next contract. Mr. Vojta asked what the town board could do to help him fight against higher taxes from the schools and county. Mr. Vojta thought that the money that is spent on fireworks could be used for something else. Mr. Camp thought that the room tax dollars could go a long way to help reduce the budget problem. Pat Falkenstern suggested that the board members reduce their salaries. It was also suggested that every other streetlight be turned off. The board decided to table the budget. There will be a special budget workshop on Wednesday, January 13, 2011 at 7:30 P.M. in meeting room #4 of the community center.
- 8.4 Appointment of Fire Chief:** Motion Vojta seconded Camp that Tim Clark be appointed as fire chief for a term of five years. Approved. The town clerk swore in Mr. Clark. He also signed the oath of office. Ms. Nimz asked Mr. Clark what he hoped to accomplish during his term as chief. Mr. Clark that the first thing that he wanted to do was to apply to have the town's insurance rating lowered from a rating of eight to at least a seven and in some areas of town possibly a six. Mr. Clark didn't know what he would like to tackle after that.
- 9. 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 purpose of discussion of employee contracts.**
- 9.1 Adjourn Closed Session Pursuant to Sec. 19.85(1)(e) and return to open meeting.** Motion Radtke seconded Vojta that the meeting be adjourned into closed session at 6:13 P.M. By a roll call vote: Mr. Radtke – yes; Mr. Camp – yes; Mr. Vojta – yes; Mr. Christensen – yes. Ms. Nimz – yes. Motion carried.
- 9.2 Open Session – Return to Open Session:** Motion Camp seconded Vojta that the meeting be reconvened into open session at 6:36 P.M. By a roll call vote: Mr. Radtke – yes; Mr. Camp – yes; Mr. Vojta – yes; Mr. Christensen – yes. Ms. Nimz – yes. Motion carried
- 9.3 Action on Closed Session, If needed:** Motion Radtke seconded Camp that the town transfer station and recycling manager salary and health insurance benefit be paid on 26 equal installments. Approved. Mr. Vojta had left the meeting and did not vote.
- 10. Town Committee Reports:**
- 10A. Fire Department:** Tim Clark, newly appointed fire chief, had nothing to report..
- 10B. Planning & Zoning:** Mr. Camp asked if the town board wanted the planning & zoning committee to work on the fee schedule for the sign ordinance. The board thought that the committee should work on the fees. It also needs to be decided who is going to do the inventory.
- 10C. Public Works/Parks & Recreation:** Ms. Nimz noted that the town board has been working on the high-speed internet service for several years.
- 10D. Emergency Preparedness:** Ms. Nimz stated that John Vojta and Phil Kohout were on the committee. Mr. Camp asked if there was a plan. Ms. Nimz noted that there was and that each town board member should be familiar with it so that they could take over in case of an emergency.
- 10E. Bike & Hike Trail:** Clyde Owens the DNR grant has been extended to December 31, 2011. With money that is being saved, the committee is hopeful that the trail still can be extended to Old Hwy. 70. Janke is putting together the final plans. The bridge will be constructed on site this winter. Hopefully the paving will be done in mid May. All of the trail has been cut and graveled except for near Sunrise Lane. The clerk stated that he will be sending the applications for reimbursement from the grants.

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10F. Golf Course: Mr. Christensen noted that the committee is now meeting on the first Monday of each month so that the bills can be approved and presented at the town board meeting on the following Monday. Brian Baldwin has proposed a new cart season pass and a new twilight season pass. Maintenance of the course will not be cut from the budget.

10G. Finance: Mr. Radtke asked why the town took out a loan for the bike trail when the town could have borrowed from itself. The clerk and treasurer explained that the money in those accounts is needed for loan payments that are coming up this spring.

10H. Housing Authority & Cemetery: Mr. Christensen had nothing new to report.

10I. Lakes: Mr. Camp reported that the committee would be meeting again in February. Ms. Nimz asked who had approved the Onterra bills. Wisconsin Valley Improvement has agreed not to draw Big St. Germain down so far this year. They have also agreed to consult with the Big St. Germain Lake District as to when and how far the lake should be drawn down. Ms. Nimz is negotiating with the lakes and the group that will be holding the ice fishing tournament that is going to be held on February 5, 2011 on Big St. Germain Lake to see if she can get a 50% donation of the raffle proceeds towards stocking Big St. Germain.

10J. Room Tax: Mr. Radtke noted that the next meeting will be in February.

10K. Invasive Committee: Mr. Christensen stated that the last meeting was on December 17, 2010. Eleven groups have signed the memorandum of understanding. There are plans to make the group self-sustaining..

10L. Vilas County Board Representative: Mr. Radtke handed out a sheet with Vilas County tax bill statistics and also a sheet with Vilas County permit figures. Mary Platner added that the county is proposing an animal control bill. She also noted that the town can raise its dog license fees. Ms. Platner also noted that she had been receiving calls from people who could not believe that the town would allow 32 sq. ft. off-premise signs on the town roads.

10M. Yard Waste: Mr. Radtke handed out the final statistics for 2010. There had been 925 drops. The facility cost the town \$2,090 in wages.

10N. Landfill Venture Group: Mr. Camp stated that he had attended the last LVG meeting. The matter of allowing a town to leave the LVG was once again tabled. Ms. Nimz said that she would check with attorney Steve Lucarelli to see if he would attend the next LVG meeting with Ms. Nimz. She also thought that the towns should work together.

10O. Insurance: Mr. Camp asked Ms. Nimz about a letter that she and Mr. Vojta had signed making Schwartz & Shea the agent of record. Mr. Camp said that the letter handcuffs the town while trying to seek bids on insurance. All of the bids come into the agent of record so that Schwartz & Shea know what the bids are going to be. He said that it would not give a fair bid. He also questioned on what authority Ms. Nimz and Mr. Vojta had signed the letter. He thought that the committees were advisory committees to the town board. Ms. Nimz stated that she had signed the letter as town chairman and as the committee vice-chair.

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12. Citizens Concerns and Non-Appointed Committee Reports (3 minute maximum):

Verdelle Mauthe: Ms. Mauthe stated that 151 people attended the Snowflake Dance last Saturday. Jim Peterson, retired from the special forces, spoke at the last meeting. There is a waiting list for the trip to Tennessee next fall.

Wally Geist: Mr. Geist stated that most of the complaints that he and Ms. Janssen have been receiving are from a lack of information. Mr. Geist also stated that he thought that the town should make more use of the Northland Pines Elementary School.

13. Board Concerns:

Peggy Nimz: Ms. Nimz stated that she was going to be asking the town board to decide just what the duties of the town constable should be. She thought that perhaps the constable should be paid on a per call basis rather than a salary. She asked if the town should have a constable at all. She will be placing the matter on the town board meeting agenda.

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Fred Radtke: Mr. Radtke handed out a sheet with Vilas County tax bill statistics and also a sheet showing the number of permits issued in the Vilas County. Mr. Radtke thought that the town should get copies of the budgets from the surrounding towns. He also stated that his taxes are still less than what he had been paying where he used to live in Southern Wisconsin.

Marion Janssen: Ms. Janssen noted that the town has done a lot since Brian Sherren was town chairman. She will be interested to see what he decides can be cut from the budget.

14. Set Time & Date for Next Meeting: The next regularly scheduled town board meeting will be held on Monday, February 14, 2011 at 5:00 P.M. in meeting room #4 of the community center. There will be a budget workshop on Wednesday, January 13, 2011 at 7:30 P.M. in meeting room #4 of the community center.

14. Adjournment: Motion Radtke seconded Camp that the meeting be adjourned. Approved. Meeting adjourned 8:00 P.M.

Town Clerk

Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor