

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

www.townofstgermain.org

MINUTES ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING: NOVEMBER 15, 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 6:00 P.M.
- 2. Board Members Present:** Walt Camp, Lee Christensen, John Vojta, Fred Radtke, William Bates, Marion Janssen, Town Treasurer, Tom Martens, Town Clerk. There were 105 people in attendance.

Town Budget 2012: The chairman asked if there were any questions from the floor. Jim Lenz asked how much the golf course lost this year. Mr. Camp explained that the budget that was being presented was the town-operating budget for 2012. The golf course budget would be discussed at a regular town board meeting. Mr. Camp also explained that as of this time, the taxpayers have not had to contribute anything to the golf course. In fact, over the years since the course has been open, the town has received approximately \$200,000 in revenues from the course to help offset the town's tax levy.

Mark Hiller asked if the town had any long-range plans for anything. The clerk said that the last page of the handout showed a plan to keep the tax levy for debt constant over the next five years. Along with the current debt reserve account, if the taxpayers approved \$105,322 for 2012 and \$108,997 for 2013, the \$132,000 increase in the Baird Loan in 2014 and the \$332,000 balloon payment for the M & I Loan in 2016 would be paid without having to borrow more money. The town board is in the process of refinancing the \$1,000,000 balance of the 1998-bonding obligation.

Pat Falkenstern asked how the town board felt about being around \$3,000,000 in debt. The clerk said that the present town board had inherited most of that debt and that the taxpayers had approved the rest.

Jim Lenz asked why the town didn't plow the town roads last weekend after the snowstorm. Mr. Camp stated that the weather forecast was for a warm-up and that the decision was made not to plow.

Loren Anderson asked if the town board was doing anything to bring businesses and development back into town. He said that when Bradford Point was developed, the tax rate went down considerably. Cora Mollen added that the town had a survey done by Foth & VanDyke. Mr. Anderson said that with the way the economy is now, any plans done 20 years ago could be thrown out.

Todd Wiese asked why the golf course budget was separate from the town's budget. Mr. Camp said that is the way it was when Mr. Wiese was on the town board and that it hasn't changed. Mr. Camp did say, however, that the current town board is taking a much greater part in the operation of the golf course. Phil Monday noted that the fire department also has its own budget.

Mr. Vojta said that with the new refinancing, the golf course portion of the payment is much less than it has been in the past. The \$160,000 loan for operating expenses should be enough to carry the course through until the season starts next spring. Pat Falkenstern wanted to know how the

Taxpayers would know that the town board is not going to spend the money on some luxury item. Mr. Camp said that as elected officials, the taxpayers would have to trust the town board to do the right thing. Mr. Radtke added that the debt is \$3,000,000, but that three years ago, the taxpayers added \$700,000 for the fire truck and that there are still things from 20 years ago that are being paid for.

Jim Lenz said that the town board doesn't spend enough on the golf course. He said that it is the "Jewel of the North". And, it should be kept that way. Rosalie Sherwin asked if the golf course would make it now that the debt has been refinanced. Brian Sherren thought that in the future, the golf course budget should be presented at the same time as the town budget.

There were no further questions or comments. Mr. Camp closed the Annual Budget Hearing

Town Clerk

Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

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