

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN
P.O. BOX 7
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558
www.townofstgermain.org

MINUTES TOWN BOARD MEETING: JANUARY 13, 2014

- 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 6:30 P.M.
- 2. Roll Call:** Walter Camp, Marv Anderson, William Bates, Alan Albee, Tom Christensen, Marion Janssen, Town Treasurer, Tom Martens, Town Clerk. There was a standing room only crowd.
- 3. Approval of Agenda at the Chair's Discretion:** Motion Anderson seconded Bates that the agenda be approved in any order at the discretion of the chairman. By a roll call vote: Christensen – no; Bates – yes; Albee – no; Anderson – yes; Camp – yes. Motion carried.
- 4. Approval of Minutes:** Motion Anderson seconded Bates that the minutes of the December 9, 2013 town board meeting, December 11, 2013 special town board meeting and the January 8, 2014 special town board meeting be approved as written. Approved.
- 5. Financial Report:** Balance town general account as of 12-31-2013: \$1109.14; room tax account \$11,851.80; lakes CD account \$15,560.41; lakes account \$29,057.49; skateboard park fund \$4,157.63; bike & hike trail account \$16,098.31; money market account \$1,934,283.43; playground equipment account \$4,391.58; debt reserve account \$401,210.68; fire department \$5,839.40; fireworks donation account \$1,050.49; community development account \$36,657.06; golf course general account \$26,898.12; golf course money market \$76,539.95; Road Improvement Fund \$0; Loan Reserve Fund \$60,306.14; Spears Memorial Fund \$0; Fire Dept. Vehicle/Equip. \$8,126.03. Ms. Janssen noted that she had transferred \$2,500 from the loan reserve account to pay year end bills. She also noted that she could put about \$1,500 back into the account that she didn't use.
- 6. Payment of Vouchers, Town, Fire Department, Golf Course:** Motion Albee seconded Bates that vouchers 1204-1252, 100-111, 21697-21704 and 21705-21775 be paid along with extra bills: Premier Powersports-\$400.00 fire department snowmobile parts; Knitts Hardware-\$55.17 fire department wire, paint, hitch pin, etc.; Northway Communications-\$23.34 inv. #37192; Eagle River Area Fire Dept.-\$60.00 diary; Verizon Wireless-\$19.01 cellphones. Approved.
- 7. Chairman's Report:** Mr. Camp recognized county board representative Mark Rogacki. Mr. Rogacki explained that he was attending the meeting because of the town road for snowmobile use that is on the agenda. He said that the STH 155 snowmobile trail issue has gotten a life of its own. Many of the county board members are not aware of the issues. Safety issues have been brought up and those safety aspects need to be discussed by the full county board. Mr. Camp stated that the town board's only role is to open or close town roads to snowmobiling. The town board encourages snowmobiling.

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8. Town Committee Reports/Comments:

A. Fire Department: Tim Clark reported that there had been 15 calls last month. The generator still needs to be fixed. The Water Systems bill is being held. The hose reel also needs to be worked on .

B. Public Works: Mr. Camp stated that the committee had not met due to the cold weather on the meeting day. Mr. Albee said that he has received complaints from people living on Lullaby Lane. After the plow goes by, the road is like a washboard. The crew should have it taken care of by the end of the week. It seems to be only on the roads that have been plowed by the loader.

C. Golf Course: Mr. Bates reported that in the past few years, the town has offered a promotion price for memberships prior to the end of the year. That promotion isn't being offered this year. The insurance company should be paying for the pump controls. The company is trying to find equipment like we have, but it is so old that there doesn't seem to be any available. The town's policy is replacement cost, so the equipment should be replaced with newer equipment. There might be two claims with two deductibles. The superintendent is asking for a snowblower attachment so that he can get the greens cleared before they start to thaw and refreeze. Hopefully that will prevent winter-kill.

D. Lakes: Mr. Christensen noted that the committee had not met. Mr. Albee reported that the Big St. Germain Lake District needs a permanent committee member from the town board. He also asked that a Big St. Germain District be added to the town's website. Mr. Anderson noted that was already there. Mr. Albee also reported that the district had voted unanimously to oppose a boat landing on Lake Content. Mr. Anderson added that Eurasian Milfoil had been found in Lost Lake.

E. Planning & Zoning: Mr. Anderson reported that he had sent a report to each board member. A draft of the nuisance ordinance appears later on the agenda. The committee is also considering reviewing the home occupation ordinance and dog & cat ordinance. The town's attorney has stated that portions of those ordinances are ambiguous.

F. Cemetery Committee: There was no report.

G. Housing Authority: Mr. Anderson noted that the Housing Authority is negotiating with A & M services to take over the managing of the Housing Authority when Francine Byrns retires later this year. A & M would take care of everything. Tim Clark asked that he be placed on the agenda for the next Housing Authority meeting.

H. Room Tax: There was no report.

9. Action Items (Approve, Disapprove, Table)

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A. Replacement of controls for Pumps at Golf Course and Purchase of snow blower attachment: Course superintendent Todd Renk stated that the control units for both pumps needed to be replaced. He had quotes from Mr. Wakefield. Mr. Renk had tried to get quotes from Reinders and John Houser, but didn't receive replies. According to Mr. Wakefield, the pumps do not need to be replaced. If these problems are not taken care of, it might not be possible to water next summer. Mr. Wakefield could do the work now. His quotes are good for 60 days. After that time, he would have to fit the work into his schedule. The equipment is to be paid for by the town's insurance, less the deductible. Mr. Christensen said that he needed an updated quote. He would have to vote "no" tonight since he felt that he really didn't know what he was voting for. He would be willing to have a special meeting once the town received an updated quote. Mr. Camp explained that the quotes were current. Mr. Bates said that we can't wait for the insurance company to decide what it is going to do. The work needs to be done. Motion Bates seconded Camp that the town pay for the pump control units. By a roll call vote: Mr. Christensen – no; Mr. Bates – yes; Mr. Albee – yes; Mr. Anderson – yes; Mr. Camp – yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Renk also noted that he needed a snowblower attachment. He had quotes from John Deere and Kobota for \$7,100 to \$7,800. The committee recommended the lowest price with the quickest delivery. Bob Stippich might have to make the hydraulic hoses work on either attachment. Motion Bates seconded Anderson to purchase the snowblower attachment per the John Deere presentation from Lakeland Lawn. By a roll call vote: Mr. Christensen-yes; Mr. Bates-yes; Mr. Albee-yes; Mr. Anderson-yes; Mr. Camp-yes. Motion carried.

B. 2014 Golf Course Rates: Motion Bates seconded Albee that the golf course rate comparison sheet be approved as presented by golf pro, Margo Rogers Anderson. Approved.

C. Town Roads for Snowmobile Use: Mr. Camp stated that Mr. Albee had asked to have the matter placed on the agenda. Mr. Albee stated that Tom & Karen Martens had asked him to come over to their property on Sunday morning to see just where the proposed snowmobile trail would cross the highway. Mr. Albee stated that he had read over meeting minutes and several reports and understood the Martens' concerns, and although he agreed with the safety concerns, he didn't feel that he had obtained adequate knowledge of the issue in the limited amount of time he researched it to undue the decisions that took many individuals, including MSA Engineering, the WDOT, the Snowmobile Club, and many current and prior Town officials two years to determine. Mr. Camp stated that the DOT had made the decision of what they thought was the best route. Mr. Camp said that personally, he thought that the crossing was unsafe. Mr. Camp also stated that he wasn't so much concerned about the first or second snowmobile that crosses the highway, but any that might follow and not check for traffic. However, it was not the board's concern. If people put themselves into harm's way, the town board has no control over it. The engineering study has said that they would make it so that the crossing has the minimum required sight distance. Mr. Anderson stated that the town board had made its decision to open Sixteen Road based on the engineering study. Mr. Bates stated that he would go with the professionals and believe that they knew what they were doing. Mr. Anderson

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asked Mr. Rogacki if the county board could vote on the crossing. Mr. Rogacki said that politically, the county board had to do something, whether to vote on it or discuss the safety aspects of it, he didn't know. Mr. Christensen asked what safety issues. The necessary agencies had issued the necessary permits. Mr. Christensen went on to say that the county board would be setting a precedent. The county board has never been involved with a snowmobile trail before. The trail system has been successful for a long time. Will the county board now be involved in every trail? Why is the county board making an issue now? Mr. Camp stated that anyone who is concerned should contact their county board representative. No action was taken.

D. Resolution for Town Clerk to determine Number of Poll Workers: Motion Anderson seconded Bates that that town clerk, subject to state statute, be given the authority to determine whether there shall be three, five or seven poll workers serving on the election board for any given election. Approved.

E. P&Z changes to proposed Nuisance Ordinance: Mr. Anderson explained that one of the issues that the planning & zoning committee discussed was the enforcement and compliance of the ordinance., should the town take someone to court or not? Mr. Anderson talked to the WTA attorney. He was told that a special assessment can be added to someone's property taxes only by citation. It could be written into the ordinance that civil action would have to be taken. Someone would have to be appointed who could issue a citation. Mr. Camp stated that any of the town board members could issue a citation now, if someone was in violation of a town ordinance. The committee took out noise, noxious weeds, etc. The ordinance mainly pertains to garbage and trash. Mr. Anderson asked the rest of the town board if the committee should move forward with the ordinance or not. Mr. Albee thought that the county already had ordinances to handle most of what is in the proposed nuisance ordinance. The county could handle the cleanup and the civil action, if necessary. Mr. Anderson stated that health issues have already been turned over to the county. Mr. Camp would like to read through the ordinance again. He thought that the committee should slow down. The town board could have a public hearing in a few months. Mr. Christensen asked if the ordinance could be made part of the county ordinance, or could the county ordinance be expanded to include the town's ordinance. Mr. Anderson said that he would go back to the committee. Ms. Janssen added that most of the problems seem to be with renters rather than the property owners.

F. 2014 Budgets: Ms. Janssen noted that she had taken \$2,500 from the loan reserve account to pay bills at the end of 2013. However, she did not spend the entire amount. The town board decided to use \$22,048 from the loan reserve account, less what Ms. Janssen transfers back into the account, as the carry over balance to balance the 2014 town budget. Motion Anderson seconded Albee to approve the town budget for 2014 in the amount of \$1,292,965 including the \$60,000 collected as part of the tax levy for a future fire truck. Motion carried by a voice vote. Mr. Christensen thought that the town should have the books audited. Towns with both a clerk and a treasurer are not required to have an annual audit. Mr. Camp said that it would have to be worked into the budget. A full audit could cost \$20,000 to \$30,000.

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Motion Anderson seconded Bates that the golf course budget of \$788,800 be approved and that superintendent Todd Renk and golf pro Margo Rogers Anderson be made aware that there needs to be a \$120,000 balance at the end of the year to carry over through the off-season. Motion carried by a voice vote. Mr. Christensen voted against.

10. Adjourn to Closed session Per Sec. 19.85 (1) (e): Motion Camp seconded Albee to adjourn into closed session at 9:10 P.M. to discuss a potential real estate transaction. By a roll call vote: Mr. Christensen-yes; Mr. Bates-yes; Mr. Albee-yes; Mr. Anderson-yes; Mr. Camp-yes. Motion carried.

11. Reconvene into Open Session: Motion Bates seconded Anderson that the meeting be reconvened into open session at 9:20 P.M. By a roll call vote: Mr. Christensen-yes; Mr. Bates-yes; Mr. Albee-yes; Mr. Anderson-yes; Mr. Camp-yes. Motion carried.

10. Set Time and Date for Next Meeting: The next regular monthly town board meeting will be held on Monday, February 10, 2014, at 6:30 P.M. in meeting room #4 of the Community Center. .

15. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned 9:21 P.M.

Town Clerk

Chairman

Supervisor #1

Supervisor #2

Supervisor #3

Supervisor #4