

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

www.townofstgermain.org

MINUTES SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING: JUNE 23, 2015

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Tom Christensen called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call, Establish A Quorum:** Tom Christensen, Marv Anderson, Alan Albee, John Vojta, Jim Swenson, Marion Janssen, Town Treasurer, Tom Martens, Town Clerk. There were also 12 other people in attendance.
4. **Open Meeting Verification:** Mr. Christensen noted that he had posted the meeting agenda at three locations in town on June 22, 2015 before 6:00 P.M.
5. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion Albee seconded Vojta that the agenda be approved in any order at the discretion of the chairman. By a voice vote Yes – 5, No – 0. Motion carried.
6. **Citizen's Comments:** Ted Ritter asked that he be able to join the discussion of item j on the agenda. Ann Small once again asked that the board consider residential garbage pickup so that the town could do away with garbage burning.
7. **Discussion /Action Items:**
 - a. **Payment of Bills:** Motion Albee seconded Vojta that the following bills be paid: Meyer Insurance \$8,532.00—installment, town & fire dept.; Allied 100 \$1,231.75—defibrillator; Yogi Golf Carts \$3,651.53—cart repairs; Knitt's Hardware \$487.64— golf chainsaw; John Deere Landscape \$2,567.30 – golf; Carquest \$103.87– golf maintenance; Dean Distributors \$292.85 – golf beer. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried. The remainder of the golf superintendent bills will be paid at the regular town board meeting in July.
 - b. **Fire Department Members are they Employees of the Town?:** Mr. Anderson stated that according to the WTA handout that he received, for W-2 and IRS purposes, volunteer firemen are employees of the town. A meeting of the staff doesn't need to be posted, but if a meeting requires a quorum of members to be present, then it would need to be posted. Volunteer firemen are covered under workmen's compensation, but unless they earn more than 20% of a fulltime fire fighter's wages, they are not entitled to medical coverage. Mr. Vojta stated that employees needed to be paid at least every 30 days. The town is paying the volunteer firemen once per quarter. Mr. Christensen will call Workforce Development to make sure that the town is following the law. Mr. Martens said that he would call the Wisconsin Retirement System to see if volunteer firemen who are enrolled in the WRS through their fulltime employer should also be enrolled under the town. Mr. Christensen questioned whether or not the town board needed to be covered by the WRS.
 - c. **Insurance Bid Procedure for 2015:** Mr. Vojta said that he would like to meet with the various insurance carriers to see what they think that the town needs. Mr. Christensen said that the board needs to meet to go over what the town has now. The town board and the insurance carriers will have to agree on values for the town property and what deductibles there should be. The board agreed with Mr. Vojta's suggestions.

- d. Cross Country Ski Trails and Snowshoe Trails on Town Property:** Ms. Janssen stated that the money in the Bike & Hike Account had been donated for the Bike & Hike Trail, not for the Awassa property trails. The money from the Freedom 5K run this year will be divided between the Bike & Hike Trail and the Awassa trails. Ann Small stated that she had a quote of \$1,200 to lay out the trails. The old benches cost around \$375 apiece. Ms. Small that she could use 8 to 10 more. Ms. Small will call a meeting of the special trail committee. Mr. Albee thought that people would sponsor the benches. Ms. Small also stated that she would apply for grants. Motion Anderson seconded Albee to officially give authority to the trail committee chairman to put together a plan and budget needs for potential paths and come back to the board. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried.
- e. Yard Waste Clean Up:** Mr. Anderson stated that the expenses were a little greater than the revenues this spring. He thought that it was because the site was open for two extra weeks in April and two extra weeks in June. There wasn't much activity during those weeks. Mr. Anderson also reported that someone had dumped stumps with dirt, concrete blocks and pallets. The chipper will not come in if he sees those types of things. The attendant didn't see the debris hidden under the needles and leaves. Mr. Vojta said that the town might as well just leave the site open if dumping like that is going to occur. The consensus of the board was to have to have the town crew pick up the stumps, pallets and blocks and take them to Hwy. G.
- f. Accounting Procedures:** Mr. Christensen stated that the board had discussed having the town treasurer and clerk use the same accounting system. Mr. Martens said that he likes what he is using now. It has all of the codes required for the annual financial statement that must be completed for the Department of Revenue. Mr. Martens and Ms. Janssen reminded the board that their books have to be kept separate. Mr. Albee asked if the books would have to be separate if the town had a simple audit done each year even though it is not required. Mr. Christensen will check to see what type of accounting systems that he can find. He also thought that there must be other towns in the same situation.
- g. WPS request to use the community area parking lot for a staging area in the event of a devastating storm causing power outage to the area:** Mr. Christensen stated that WPS would like the entire parking area next to the pavilion, not just half of it as was suggested at the last town board meeting. Mr. Anderson stated that he couldn't see why the town would not want WPS to use the parking lot. He thought that they would be out here as soon as possible. Motion Christensen that the town denies the WPS request to use the parking lot for a staging area. Motion died for lack of a second. Motion Anderson seconded Christensen that the request is approved as presented and that Mr. Christensen be authorized to work the details with WPS. By a voice vote: Yes – 3; No -2. Motion carried.
- h. REI proposal for “Memorandum of Agreement” between the town and Lake Content, LL:** Mr. Christensen thought that the reason for the memorandum was to have the town do the plowing this winter. The consensus of the board was that the town should not accept a road until it has been brought up to town specifications. Motion Vojta seconded Swenson that the REI “Memorandum of Agreement” be denied since the road has not been brought up to town specifications for a town road. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried.
- i. Finance Committee:** Mr. Christensen reported that Mr. Martens had checked with the DOR and that the town would only have to prepare a resolution to exceed the levy limits and not have to hold a referendum election. Mr. Martens will try to work out the levy limit worksheet to see if a resolution

will be necessary. It is possible that the Baird Loan could be refinanced so that the town would not exceed the levy limit for 2016, but that it probably would for 2017.

j. Circuit Court Handling our town Ordinance Compliance Compared to a Municipal Judge:

Ted Ritter asked why the town had ordinances if they can't be enforced. He said that when he was on the town board, the board thought that it had ordinances that could be enforced. Boards before that and after also thought that they had ordinances that could be enforced. Mr. Ritter thought that the town should take advantage of the help that was offered by the municipal judge from Presque Isle. Mr. Vojta stated the Bill Clark, former municipal justice for St. Germain, said that he would recommend that if the town is going to have another municipal judge that it be someone who is familiar with the law. Mr. Anderson said that the town could just do away with zoning and follow Vilas County's zoning. If the town board would decide to look into doing away with town zoning, there would have to be discussions with Vilas County to see how the town would be affected. The concern of the board is that the town ordinances seem to be updated. Some have been, but a lot of them have not. Motion Anderson seconded Albee that the question be tabled until the August meeting so that the board can look into how it wants to handle ordinance compliance. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried.

k. Update Cable Service: Mr. Swenson reported that he had talked to Lakeland Cablevision and that they have no intention of bringing anything new into St. Germain. They have around 700 to 750 subscribers between St. Germain and Sayner. He also talked to other providers and they were not interested in coming to St. Germain. Ted Ritter said that the county is working on high speed internet. He thought that the county representatives should be present to give a report. Mr. Christensen will invite Carolyn Ritter and Mark Rogacki to attend a meeting.

l. Understanding the St. Germain Housing Authority: Due to the length of the meeting, Mr. Anderson will give his report at a later meeting.

8. **Town Board Member Concerns:** Mr. Vojta asked about the insurance for the housing authority. The town holds a liability policy for the housing authority members, but who has the insurance policy for the buildings?
9. **Next Regular Town Board Meeting Date:** The next regular town board meeting will be held on Monday, July 13, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in meeting room #4 of the community center.
10. **Adjourn:** Motion Anderson seconded Albee that the meeting be adjourned. By a voice vote Yes -5, No -0. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 9:17 P.M.

Town Clerk

Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor