

# TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
P.O. BOX 7

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

## MINUTES TOWN BOARD MEETING: August 10, 2015

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Tom Christensen called the meeting to order at 6:35 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 10 other people in attendance.
4. **Open Meeting Verification:** Mr. Christensen noted that he had posted the meeting agenda at three locations in town on August 8, 2015 by 5:00 P.M.
5. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion Anderson 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. **Read and Approve Minutes of Past Meetings:** Motion Albee seconded Vojta to dispense with the reading of the minutes and that the minutes of the July 13, 2015 & July 21, 2015 town board meetings are approved as written. By a voice vote: Yes – 5, No – 0. Motion carried.
7. **Citizen's Comments:** Milt Klingsporn reported that the Prime Timers had received donations from some deceased members' families that are to be used for benches on the bike & hike trails. Mr. Klingsporn also asked that the carpeting in room #6 either be replaced with new carpeting or tile. Mr. Anderson added that the carpeting in rooms #4 & #5 also needs to be replaced. He also thought that it was bare concrete beneath the carpeting.  
  
Phil Monday thought that the town board should get a copy of the survey that is being used in Plum Lake concerning ATV's on the town roads. The survey is advisory but would give the board a heads up on the sentiment towards ATV's in town.  
  
Bruce VanHoozen asked why his bid for the new lighting at the Veterans' Memorial had been turned down. It was around \$800 less than his competitor. Mr. VanHoozen stated that he had heard that someone on the board had said that he had not done his homework. He added that he had an engineer from Viking determine which lights would be best. Mr. VanHoozen stated that the town would only be saving around \$106 per year with the lights, not the \$800 that had been claimed. Mr. VanHoozen insisted that someone tell him why his bid was not accepted. Mr. Vojta stated that Mr. VanHoozen's bid was not accepted because his bid was to use all the same kind of lights. The competitor's bid used lights to keep the appearance of the Memorial the same as it has been. Mr. Christensen stated that it would not look the same using all of one kind of light. Mr. VanHoozen accused the board of "cronies' politics". Mr. Christensen told Mr. VanHoozen to sit down or he would call the sheriff.
8. **Town Chairman Report and Concerns:** Mr. Christensen stated Attorney Steve Garbowicz had told him that there are changes in the works for shoreland zoning. Mr. Christensen said that he would write to Senator Tiffany to see how it was going to affect the town. Fred Radtke said that the town had adopted Vilas County Shoreland Zoning. Ted Ritter thought that Mr. Christensen should call Dawn Schmidt first. Mr. Christensen also reported that the stumping of the road into Eaglewatch should start either today or tomorrow. Mr. Anderson said that the pillars into Eaglewatch from Half Mile Road might be in the way of the plow. There will be a fall WTA workshop in Minocqua on September 16, 2015. Mr. Christensen stated that the decision was made to allow the 19<sup>th</sup> Hole to use the golf course sprayer because he thought that there was a working relationship between the town, golf course, and the 19<sup>th</sup> Hole. However, Mr. Anderson checked with the WTA attorney and found out that there is no statute that says that the town can loan town property to a private business. Without a statute saying that it can be done, it can't. And, it doesn't matter that the money for the sprayer came from the golf course and not from taxes. Mr. Christensen said that had made a mistake and that it would not happen again. Mr. Christensen will call Jim Lenz at the 19<sup>th</sup> Hole to let him know.
9. **Town Supervisors' Reports and Concerns:** Mr. Vojta said that he would not be in town for the September meeting. Mr. Albee will also be gone. Mr. Christensen said that the meeting would be held as usual unless another board member could not make the meeting. Mr. Anderson stated that the yard waste facility had been opened for about a day and a half after the last storm. Mr. Swenson reported that the trail committee would be cutting branches along the bike & hike trail on Hwy. C. Mr. Anderson

asked about the landscaping around the Veterans' Memorial. The committee is waiting for the shrubs to go on sale this fall.

**10. Town Clerk's Report and Concerns:** There was no report.

**11. Town Treasurer's Report and Concerns:** Balance General Account as of 7-31-2015 \$68,886.42; Room Tax Account \$42,795.04; Lakes Committee Account \$25,543.47; Lakes Committee CD \$15,605.07; Skateboard Park Fund \$2,842.40; Loan Reserve Fund \$38,293.89; Bike & Hike Trail \$25,466.54; First National Money Market \$145,400.04; Play Ground Equipment Fund \$4,394.87; Debt Reserve Account \$39,751.78; Fire Department Restricted Acct \$11,733.28; Fireworks Donation Account \$5,052.03; Fire Dept. Vehicle/Equipment \$138,176.28; Community Development Acct \$36,801.08; Golf Course Gen Acct \$202,482.08; Golf Course Money Market \$54,434.93. Ms. Janssen also reported that the UCC Thrift Shop had donated \$100 to the bike & hike trail. A \$50 check from John Huppert was in the donation box along the trail. The WTA has advised Ms. Janssen that she can collect delinquent personal property taxes through small claims court. She has sent out five letters. So far, one person has paid. Ms. Janssen asked about the Emergency Preparedness Plan. Mr. Vojta said that he would be updating the phone numbers and contacts. Mr. Vojta asked that the clerk and treasurer figure out a way to get the pro shop rent payment to Mr. Sievert in a timely manner. For the last two months, the check has taken over two weeks to get to him. Starting in September, the check will be sent through the internet bill pay option at First National Bank.

**12. Fire Chief's Report and Concerns:** There was none.

**13. Report of the Standing Committees:**

- a. **Golf Course:** Mr. Christensen stated that the committee had met on August 5, 2015. The brush along the driving range needs to be thinned so that the golf balls can be picked up. Mr. Becker will be working a mud hole by the driving range and the 18<sup>th</sup> fairway. Ms. Rogers has reported that the league events have gone well this summer. The Bo-Boen Snowmobile Club's Drive with the Drivers event is going to be held in St. Germain this year. Revenues are up over last year. Mr. Becker has reported that the greens are at their peak levels. The greens and tees are being aerified. The bunkers are holding up well. #12 & #17 will be getting sand in 2016. A fence and potato rock has been placed near #2 & #7 where the carts have been leaving the path. Mr. Becker & Ms. Rogers would like to budget for 6 new carts and a rough mower. The committee will meet in closed session with Ms. Rogers to discuss her contract. She needs to know by September in order to preorder for the pro shop merchandise.
- b. **Public Works:** Mr. Vojta stated there had not been a meeting this month. Mr. Ebert is getting bids for the various projects. There might have to be a special town board meeting to approve the bids.
- c. **Finance:** Mr. Albee stated that the finance committee had not met.

**14. Report of the Special Town Committees:**

- a. **Lakes Committee:** Mr. Swenson reported that Channel 12 had aired a very one-sided report concerning the weeds in Little St. Germain Lake. None of the officers of the Little St. Germain Lake District were available to give comments. Mr. Swenson said that the legislators need to look at the disparity in the funding for forests as compared to the funding for the lakes and streams in the state. The next meeting in October 14, 2015. Ted Ritter explained that the weeds in south bay are not invasive by definition. They are native weeds, but they are very hard to control. He would not be surprised if the problem was not worse next year.

**15. Discussion /Action Items:**

- a. **Payment of Bills:** Mr. Vojta asked what could be done to make sure that the town was being given credit for returns and overpayments. He said that some companies just let the money sit in their account without notifying the town that there is the credit. It was suggested that a letter be sent along with the checks instructing the vendors to apply any credits to the next payment. Motion Anderson seconded Albee that vouchers 741-799, 7991-7999, 79991-79995, & 23139 - 23224 (with #23207 being voided) be approved and that the following extra bills be paid: Meyer Insurance \$23.00—sprayer insurance; Northwoods Portable Toilets \$110.00—porta potties by bike trail; Anderson Metz \$150.00—accounting assistance. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried.
- b. **Room Tax Commission Appointments – All of the commission member's appointments have expired on June 30, 2015 and need to be reappointed:** Motion Christensen seconded Albee that Fred Radtke, Tom Best (Idle Hours Resort), Deb Harvey (Harv's Vacation Rentals), Paul Bohnen

(Paul's Rental), Tom Christensen and Marion Janssen be reappointed to the Room Tax Commission. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried.

- c. Additional Person on Public Works Committee – Change section 2a to include one additional person from the community:** Mr. Christensen noted that per the policies and procedures for the public works committee, one additional person from the community needed to be appointed to the committee to avoid an open meeting violation. Motion Christensen seconded Swenson that the policies and procedures document be followed by appointing an additional person to the public works committee. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried.
- d. Appointment of New Member to Public Works Committee:** Motion Christensen seconded Vojta that Doug Olejniczak be appointed to the public works committee. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried.
- e. Continuing Discussion regarding how the Town enforces its Ordinances – Possibility of sharing a Municipal Judge with the Town of Presque Isle:** Mr. Anderson stated that he didn't think that all of the town ordinances needed an overhaul. Things like cats and dogs, home occupations, and nuisance ordinances probably needed to be worked on. The Presque Isle judge hears from 3 to 5 cases per year at a cost of around \$1800 plus a \$500 retainer. Mr. Vojta thought that there might be more cases to start with. Mr. Anderson thought that Mr. Berdan should meet with the town board. Motion Anderson seconded Vojta to authorize the board to contact judge Berdan and the Presque Isle town board to discuss the concept and to look at some of the town's ordinances. By a voice vote: Yes – 5, No – 0. Motion carried. Mr. Christensen will call the Presque Isle town chairman to tell him of the board's intent.
- f. Resolution to borrow money from the First National Bank to pay off higher interest bearing Baird Loan:** Ms. Janssen verified with Mr. Martens that the total Baird Loan cost for 2015 was to be \$799,000.50. \$18,688.00 had been allocated from the debt reserve to offset a loan payment. The amount levied for the Baird Loan is \$254,950.00. The total allocated from the budget is \$273,638.00. The funds needed to close the loan on September 1, 2015 are \$525,362.50. The balance of the loan reserve \$38,293.89 and the balance of the debt reserve \$21,063.78 will be applied. The balance needed to be financed with First National Bank of Eagle River is \$466,000.00. Motion Vojta seconded Albee that the town board adopts Exhibit A, the borrowing resolution, for \$466,000 at 1.95% for two years, with no prepayment penalty, and levy a sufficient amount to pay the principle and interest payments to the First National Bank of Eagle River in 2016 & 2017. By a roll call vote: Mr. Swenson – yes; Mr. Vojta – yes; Mr. Albee – yes; Mr. Anderson – yes; Mr. Christensen – yes. Motion carried.
- g. Planning and Zoning Plat – Review of Final Plat Government Lot 5 and part of Government Lot 6 Section 26, T40N, R8E:** Motion Vojta seconded Albee that noting no violations of the St. Germain Zoning Code, the final plat for part of Gov't Lot 5 & 6, Section 26, T40N, R8E, prepared by Northwoods Surveying for Louis & Donna Mirek be approved as presented. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried. It was noted that the signature page of the document is incorrect. It was reviewed by the St. Germain town board, not the St. Germain zoning committee and signed by the town chairman and not the remaining supervisors.
- h. Planning and Zoning Change to Lot:** Chris Marion was present to ask that his property at the corner of Old Hwy. 70 and STH70 be rezoned from the residential low density zoning district to the community and highway business zoning district. Mr. Marion stated that Mr. Ebert told him that it might be a mistake on the zoning map since the community and highway business zoning district stops at Mr. Marion's lot for no apparent reason. The town board thought that it did not appear to be a mistake. Mr. Marion's next step would be to complete an application for a rezone and submit the fee. A public hearing will have to be scheduled, a notice published for two weeks, and a certified letter to be sent to all property owners within 300ft of Mr. Marion's property. If the rezone is approved, Mr. Marion would then have to apply for a conditional use permit and submit a fee since mini storage units are not a permitted use in the community and highway business district. Mr. Martens is going to double check to see what was all needed for the last rezone request.
- i. Housing Authority Appointment – With the retirement of Jerry Eliason a replacement for him is necessary on the Housing Authority Commission:** Motion Christensen seconded Anderson that Francine Byrns be appointed to complete Jerry Eliason's term on the St. Germain Housing Authority which expires on September 1, 2018. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried.
- j. Insurance Review and Bid Update:** Mr. Vojta stated that he will be meeting with John Strom. He will have a list prepared for any companies who are going to be submitting quotes. Ms. Janssen asked that premiums for the golf course be kept separate from the other insurance premiums.

**k. Update on Ground Water Monitoring at the Closed Town Dump:** Mr. Albee stated that the DNR has the documents needed to approve of an annual inspection rather than a semi-annual inspection. Some private wells still need to be sampled. With fewer inspections, there will be less cost for this year. However, the total cost for this year will be well over the budget. Mr. Albee will be seeking bids for the monitoring of the wells.

**16. Town Board Concerns:** Mr. Anderson asked that the red brick schoolhouse be returned to the agenda. Mr. Vojta asked that Mr. Martens send copies of the fire department statement of accounts to the fire department officers. He also asked that the utilities and shop expenses be reported separately.

**17. Next Regular Town Board Meeting Date – September 14, 2015 at 6:30 P.M.**

**18. Adjourn:** Motion Albee seconded Vojta that the meeting be adjourned. By a voice vote Yes -5, No -0. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 9:30 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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