

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

www.townofstgermain.org

MINUTES TOWN BOARD MEETING: MARCH 14, 2016

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Tom Christensen called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call, Establish a Quorum:** Tom Christensen, Marv Anderson, John Vojta, Jim Swenson, Doug Olson, Tom Martens, Town Clerk, Marion Janssen town treasurer. There also 20 other people in attendance.
4. **Open Meeting Verification:** Mr. Christensen noted that he had posted the meeting agenda at three locations in town on March 12, 2016 by 5:30 P.M.
5. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion Vojta seconded Swenson 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 Olson seconded Swenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes and that the minutes of the February 8, 2016 & February 17, 2016 meetings are approved as written. By a voice vote: Yes – 5, No – 0. Motion carried.
7. **Citizen's Comments:** Bob Schell asked if a priority schedule for the maintenance of the town roads had been decided upon. Mr. Christensen noted that the town debt would be paid off in about two years. After that, the town could pay cash for a large portion of the roadwork. Mr. Schell also asked if golf course money would be used towards some of the cost. Mr. Schell also asked if a letter had been sent concerning the condition of STH155. Mr. Anderson noted that the letter had been sent and that Senator Tiffany took a ride in the town plow truck. Wally Geist asked if he could talk during the ATV Ordinance discussion.
8. **Town Chairman Report and Concerns:** Mr. Christensen stated that he had sent a letter to the DNR asking the State to open forest roads to ATV use. The trail committee has received a permit to work on the STH70 right of way for the new trail crossing. The paperwork for the new patrol truck has been received. Ann Small has raised \$1,466 for the bike station. She still needs about \$200 for the concrete slab. Mr. Christensen also noted that he has received a request from Vilas County for the town to once again participate in the county beaver control program.
9. **Town Supervisors' Reports and Concerns:** Mr. Swenson asked that a street light be placed at the south entrance to School Road near the new bike trail crossing. So far, nothing has been done concerning the dog issue in Holiday Estates.
10. **Town Clerk's Report and Concerns:** There were none.
11. **Town Treasurer's Report and Concerns:** Balance General Account as of 02-29-2016 \$58,838.73; Room Tax Account \$10,182.66; Lakes Committee Account \$29,050.14; Lakes Committee CD \$15,618.80; Skateboard Park Fund \$2,843.12; Bike & Hike Trail \$28,346.72; First National Money Market \$358,833.66; Play Ground Equipment Fund \$4,395.98; Fire Department Restricted Acct \$11,936.26; Fireworks Donation Account \$3,789.78; Fire Dept. Vehicle/Equipment \$158,214.65; Community Development Account \$71,022.07; Golf Course Gen Acct \$87,395.40; Money Market \$54,466.70; Awassa Trail Funds Savings \$2,089.23. Ms. Janssen also stated that WPS had donated \$5,000 for the development of the Awassa Trail.
12. **Fire Chief's Report and Concerns:** Mr. Vojta reported that Fire Chief Tim Gebhardt could not make it to the meeting tonight. Mr. Vojta reported that three people had completed the EMR refresher course. Mr. Gebhardt had also asked Mr. Vojta to ask the board if he could give a quarterly report rather than a monthly report. The board agreed. Mr. Anderson thought that a town board member could be a liaison to the fire department and could report to the rest of the town board.

13. Report of the Standing Committees:

a. Golf Course: Mr. Christensen reported that some stumps needed to be removed from the end of the driving range to make it easier to find the golf balls. Ms. Rogers-Anderson is increasing the program to include a T-time discount via email. The pro shop computer has been updated. The course appears to be in very good shape.

b. Public Works: Mr. Vojta reported that the crew would use the new blower to clean the bike trail through town. If that didn't work, they would have to use the brush on the John Deere. It would cost \$795/month to rent a cutter for the roots on the bike trail. The wood for the pavilion has been stained. The material for the fire pit has been purchased. It will cost \$2,135 to replace the town road signs along STH70 & STH155 with larger signs as mandated by the State. The new road specs will be discussed next month. Mr. Vojta also thought that it might be a good idea to take out a loan for roadwork now while the cost of oil and interest rates are down rather than wait until the other town debt has been paid off.

c. Finance: There was no report.

14. Report of the Special Town Committees:

a. Lakes Committee: There was no report.

15. Discussion /Action Items:

a. Payment of Bills: Motion Swenson seconded Olson that general account checks 24158 - 24168 and golf course account checks 15040-15059 be approved along the following extra bills: Rhinelander Fire Department \$110—hose fittings; Dominion Voting \$9,089—new voting machine; Bike Fixtation \$1,466—bike stand; Quill \$86.30—clerk & treasurer supplies. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried.

b. Zoning Change for the Lot on the Northeast Corner of Old Hwy 70, Hwy 70 and County O: Mr. Christensen stated that after hearing the comments at the public hearing, there is no clear evidence why the property was not zoned as community and highway business. He also stated that it may have been an oversight. The adjacent property owners are against the storage buildings. There were comments in favor, but the people didn't live right next door. Mr. Christensen thought that nothing had really changed since the last hearing. On an old map, all of the property in the area was zoned as general business. The new zoning gave some order to the area. Mr. Christensen also doubted that Mr. Marion would be able to get an entrance off of STH70. Mr. Olson noted that Mr. Marion had agreed to place a deed restriction on the property stating that it would only be used for storage buildings. Mr. Anderson added that letters from former owners stated that the property was zoned general business when they owned it. Mr. Anderson also based his comments on the letter from Zoning Administrator claiming that in his opinion, there had been a mistake made when the property shows as residential low-density on the current town zoning map. Mr. Martens stated that in 2001, there had been public hearings and a town board vote on the current zoning map. Nobody at that time thought that there had been a mistake. Motion Anderson seconded Olson to approve Chris Marion's request to rezone his property in Sec. 36, T40N, R8E, tax parcel 24-2520, from the residential low-density zoning district to the community and highway business district. By a roll call vote: Mr. Olson – yes; Mr. Swenson – no; Mr. Vojta – yes; Mr. Christensen – no; Mr. Anderson – yes. Motion carried. Mr. Marion will still have to obtain a conditional use permit in order to construct the storage buildings.

c. Weight Limit Exemptions During Road Limits – Garbage Trucks 8 Tons, Delivery Trucks 8 Tons & School Buses 13 Tons: Motion Vojta seconded Anderson to increase the town road load limits from 5 Tons to 8 Tons with the 2017 road limit season. By a voice vote: Yes-5; No – 0. Motion carried.

d. Item for Annual Meeting – Eliminate the Constable Office and replace with Animal Control: Motion Anderson seconded Swenson to place an item on the April 19, 2016 Annual Elector Meeting agenda to eliminate the office of constable and to replace it with an appointed position of animal control officer. By a voice vote: Yes-5; No-0. Motion carried.

- e. **2016 Room Tax Budget – Create a Room Tax Budget for Fiscal Year 2016:** Ms. Janssen presented a proposed Room Tax Budget for 2016. Ms. Janssen explained that the bike trail loan had been paid off, however, she left the \$12,000 in the budget so that a fund could be built up for trail maintenance. Ted Ritter told Mr. Christensen that once he is on the board, he would work with the lakes committee. Mr. Ritter feels that the whole concept of a lakes committee needs to be revisited. He also felt that the money in the lakes and lakes CD account should be spent and that the town did not need to contribute anything to the lakes committee in the Room Tax Budget. Motion Vojta seconded Swenson to approve the Room Tax Budget as presented with the exception that the \$3,500 that had been allocated to the Lakes Committee be placed in the Community Improvement Account. By a voice vote: Yes-5; No-0. Motion carried.

- f. **Appointments for Emergency Preparedness Plan – Three positions need to be filled, Media Person, Damage Assessment & Coordinator:** Mr. Vojta stated that he thought that Phil Kohout had been appointed as coordinator of the Emergency Preparedness Plan. Ms. Janssen said that she researched the minutes and found that Mr. Christensen had been appointed as coordinator. Mr. Vojta was not sure if Mr. Kohout would accept the position or not. Mr. Anderson suggested that between now and the April town board meeting, that a list of people willing to accept the positions be prepared.

- g. **Review Chapter One Zoning Ordinance:** Item tabled until the next meeting.

- h. **Review New Ordinance Creating the Plan Commission:** Item tabled until the next meeting.

- i. **Review New Ordinance to Regulate ATV/UTV Usage in Town:** Mr. Christensen began the discussion by noting that the proposed ordinance came off of the Wisconsin Legislative Website. Section 30.01. It was the consensus of the board that rather than writing out All-Terrain Vehicle and Utility Terrain Vehicle that they be referred to as ATV's and UTV's throughout the ordinance. Section 30.03 is confusing. It appears that the same thing is being said twice. Mr. Christensen felt that part of it referred to giving the board the authority to open the town roads and that part of it referred to the regulation of the use of the town roads. Mr. Garbowicz will have to check the wording. Section 30.05 should say changed to say all St. Germain Town Roads rather than all St. Germain roads. Sections G & H of 30.06 referring to a curfew and a speed limit should be removed. A town map indicating the preferred route through St. Germain should be incorporated into Section 30.05. Motion Christensen seconded Vojta that after making the proposed changes, the town chairman be authorized to forward the ATV/UTV Route Ordinance to attorney Steve Garbowicz for review. By a voice vote: Yes-5; No-0. Motion carried.

- j. **Sale of the 2006 Patrol Truck:** Motion Anderson seconded Olson to advertise the 2006 patrol truck for sale at a price of \$75,000 with delivery date to be after September 1, 2016. By a voice vote: Yes-5; No -0. Motion carried.

- k. **Golf Course Committee Recommendations Concerning Golf Cart Battery Purchase, Golf Cart Accessories, Ventilation Improvements in the Cart Barn, Water Purifier for Wash of the Golf Carts and Washing Bay Improvements:** Mr. Christensen noted that all of the items were in the budget and all were under \$5,000 except for the batteries. Motion Christensen seconded Anderson to replace the remaining old batteries at a cost of approximately \$9,700.00. By a voice vote: Yes-5; No-0. Motion carried. The batteries are now on a three-year replacement plan.

- 16. **Closed Session: Adjourn to closed session in accordance of Chapter 19, Sub-Chapter IV of the Wisconsin State Statutes for the purpose of discussing the purchase of property in the Town of St. Germain in accordance with the exemptions as noted in Section 19.85 (1) (e): (e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session:** Motion Christensen seconded Olson that the meeting be adjourned into closed session at 9:10 P.M. and that Ted Ritter and the town clerk be invited to attend. By a roll call vote: Olson-Yes; Swenson-Yes; Vojta-Yes; Christensen-Yes; Anderson-Yes. Motion carried.

17. Reconvene to Open Session: Reconvene to open session to take such action(s) as the Board deems appropriate, following consideration given in closed session: Motion Swenson seconded Anderson that the meeting be reconvened into open session at 9:42 P.M. By a roll call vote: Olson-Yes; Swenson-Yes; Vojta-Yes; Christensen-Yes; Anderson-Yes. Motion carried. There was no business to discuss from the closed session.

18. Next Regular Town Board Meeting Date: The next regular town board meeting will be held on Monday, April 11, 2016 at 6:30 P.M. in meeting room #4 of the community center.

19. Adjourn: Motion Swenson seconded Olson that the meeting be adjourned. By a voice vote: Yes-5; No-0. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 9:42 P.M.

Town Clerk

Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor