

# TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

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

## MINUTES TOWN BOARD MEETING: OCTOBER 10, 2016

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Tom Christensen called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call, Establish A Quorum:** Tom Christensen, Ted Ritter, John Vojta, Jim Swenson, Doug Olson, Tom Martens, Town Clerk. Marion Janssen, Town Treasurer, was absent. There also 10 other people in attendance. Dawn Schmidt, Vilas County Zoning Administrator, was in attendance.
4. **Open Meeting Verification:** Mr. Christensen noted that he had posted the meeting agenda at three locations in town on October 8, 2016 before 5:00 P.M...
5. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion Swenson 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 Ritter seconded Swenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes and that the minutes of the September 28, 2016 town board meeting are approved as written and that the minutes of the September 12, 2016 and September 20, 2016 town board meetings be approved as amended. By a voice vote: Yes – 5, No – 0. Motion carried.
7. **Citizen's Comments:** Tim Clark asked why the discussion of the ambulance was under a closed session. Mr. Christensen explained that it was because the matter might require competition or bargaining. Mr. Clark also asked if the time limit for delivering the new tender truck without a penalty had been exceeded. Mr. Christensen gave Mr. Clark a copy of the contract. Mr. Clark said that when he was fire chief, there had been a date after which the company would have to pay a penalty. He couldn't find it now.
8. **Town Chairman Report and Concerns:** Mr. Christensen noted that everything that he had to report was later on the agenda.
9. **Town Supervisors' Reports and Concerns:** Mr. Swenson reported that the transportation meeting that he had attended stressed sustainability. It also had stressed that local officials and residents should contact their legislators letting them know that people up here are unhappy with the amount of money that is being allocated for our highways. Mr. Swenson also noted that the Walk with Walker was tomorrow morning at 10:00 A.M.
10. **Town Clerk's Report and Concerns:** Mr. Martens stated that the Board of Review needed to be scheduled during the last week of October. The board decided that it would be held on Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. in meeting room #4 of the community center.
11. **Town Treasurer's Report and Concerns:** Mr. Christensen read the treasurer's report. Balance General Account as of 9-30-2016: \$87,905.98; Room Tax Account \$27,379.28; Lakes Committee Account \$27,294.22; Lakes Committee CD \$15,632.35; Skateboard Park Fund \$2,844.19; Bike & Hike Trail \$24,633.99; First National Money Market \$254,049.28; Play Ground Equipment Fund \$7,623.82; Fire Department Restricted Acct \$11,940.74; Fireworks Donation Account \$5,159.83; Fire Dept. Vehicle/Equipment \$46,015.85; Community Development \$63,380.60; Golf Course Gen Acct \$252,104.16; Golf Course Money Market \$54,489.12; Awassa Trail Funds Savings \$11,262.35.
12. **Fire Chief's Report and Concerns:** Fire Chief Tim Gebhardt noted that there had been 78 calls last month.
13. **Report of the Standing Committees:**
  - a. **Golf Course:** Mr. Christensen reported that the committee had not met.
  - b. **Public Works:** Mr. Vojta noted that Mike VanMeter has taken another job and will be leaving at the end of the month. An ad for a replacement will be in the Vilas County News Review and the Lakeland Times for the next two weeks.
  - c. **Planning & Zoning:** Mr. Ritter reported that committee has been discussing the off premises sign ordinance with regards to zoning. There was a motion to remove the discussion of the sign from the

zoning committee. It was the consensus of the committee that the Plan Commission should take over discussions of non-zoning ordinances. Mr. Ritter also questioned the duties and responsibilities of a Plan Commission.

**d. Finance:** Mr. Vojta stated that the committee not met.

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

**a. Lakes Committee:** Mr. Ritter reported that the committee will meet on October 18, 2016.

**b. Non-Motorized Trail Committee:** Mr. Swenson noted that mile markers had been installed. The committee is planning on bringing up plans for new walking and skiing trails for 2017..

**15. Report from Lake Districts and Other Organizations:** Several of the lake districts have meetings coming up soon.

**16. Discussion /Action Items:**

**a. Payment of Bills:** Motion Olson seconded Ritter that golf course account checks 15292-15315, general account checks 24468-24499 along the following extra bills: Wisconsin Public Service \$3,343.70—golf electricity; Eagle Waste \$619.34-town dumpsters and \$149.46 golf course dumpsters; Airgas \$92.35-tank rental; Gard Specialists \$383.37-shop supplies; Pitlik & Wick \$5,108.48-cold mix & crushed recycle. By a voice vote Yes – 5, No – 0. Motion carried.

**b. Resolution to Borrow Money from mBank for 2016 Road Projects:** Mr. Christensen noted that he had not received the resolution from mBank.

**c. Resolutions to Proceed with Preparations to Enforce Ordinances:** Motion Ritter seconded Swenson that Resolution SG16-10-01, a resolution to proceed with preparations to enforce ordinances be adopted as presented. By a voice vote Yes – 5, No – 0. Motion carried.

**d. Do we Continue with Local Zoning Ordinances or do we Discontinue Local Ordinances in Favor of only County Zoning?** Dawn Schmidt was present to answer any questions that the board might have. Mr. Ritter explained that for the last few months the planning & zoning committee had been going through ordinances and that the town board had been discussing doing away with town zoning and going entirely with county zoning. The WTA said that the town board did not need elector approval to do away with local zoning. There has to be a public hearing, but it would only be advisory. The question came up as to whether or not the town's current zoning map could be grandfathered into the county ordinance. Ms. Schmidt said that it couldn't. Mr. Martens said that when he looked at the county zoning map for St. Germain pretty much all that he saw was general business. Ms. Schmidt said that under Vilas County Zoning the residential districts that St. Germain now has may become general business and that a business could be built between two homes. Mr. Vojta was concerned about the enforcement of the town's current zoning ordinance. Tim Ebert stated that back in 2001; the town ordinance had been drafted by one of the best zoning attorneys in the State. He must have known what he was doing. Mr. Vojta read an opinion from attorney Steve Garbowicz stating that the town should get out of zoning. Mr. Martens said that what Mr. Vojta read pretty much applied to Shoreland Zoning and not to the other districts in town. Ms. Schmidt stated that the county deals with Shoreland Zoning and certain setbacks. The county does not, for instance, address mobile homes. A question came up concerning a single-wide mobile home that has recently been moved into town.

**e. Dog Ordinance Final Review:** Motion Ritter seconded Swenson that Chapter 11, an ordinance for the licensing and control of dogs be adopted as presented. By a voice vote Yes – 5, No – 0. Motion carried.

**f. Increase Bathroom Capacity in the Community Park:** Motion Christensen seconded Vojta that Jim Swenson, John Vojta, Jim Wendt, Tim Gebhardt, and Tim Ebert be appointed to a special committee to review the bathroom situation in the town park and to make recommendations to the town board with John Vojta being named as the chairman of the committee. By a voice vote Yes – 5, No – 0. Motion carried.

**g. Fire Department Budget Adjustments:** Motion Vojta seconded Olson that the following adjustments be made to the fire department budget: Line 103 Fire protection take \$112,000 out of actual 2016 and apply to Fire Department Equipment cash fund Line 104 up budget amount to \$1903.00 Line 107 apply payroll of \$9,072.50 for Quarter 3 Leaving balance of \$8647.50 Line 112 Reduce budgeted amount to \$2250 reducing by \$750 Line 113 Reduce budgeted amount by \$8153, making budget amount \$11,847, leaving a balance of \$7939.85( You may have a \$1500.00 bill to apply here as well) Line 114 Reduce budget by \$500. Line 118 reduce budget from

\$1000. to \$0. Add new line Well repair/maintenance \$10,000. By a voice vote Yes – 5, No – 0.  
Motion carried.

**17. Closed Session – Adjourn to closed session in accordance with Sections 19.85 (1) (e) of the Wisconsin Statutes to consider ambulance service for the Town and replacement of the Lost Creek culvert on Big St. Germain Drive.**

**(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 Swenson that the meeting be adjourned into closed session at 8:16 P.M. By a roll call vote: Mr. Olson – yes; Mr. Vojta – yes; Mr. Swenson – yes; Mr. Ritter – yes; Mr. Christensen – yes. Motion carried.

**18. 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 Ritter seconded Olson that the meeting be reconvened into open session at 9:12 P.M.. By a voice vote Yes – 5, No – 0. Motion carried.

**19. What Items From This Meeting Need To Be On The Website?** Mr. Ritter will place resolution SG16-10-01 and Chapter 11 onto the website.

**20. Next Regular Town Board Meeting Date – Monday November 14, 2016 at 6:30pm:** There will also be a special town board meeting on Wednesday October 12, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. in meeting room #4. The Board of Review will be held on Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. in meeting room #4 of the community center. A budget workshop on Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at 5:00 P.M. and the Annual Budget and Special Elector meeting held on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. The elector meeting will follow immediately after the budget hearing.

**21. Adjourn:** Motion Ritter seconded Swenson that the meeting be adjourned. By a voice vote Yes – 5, No – 0. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 9:18 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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