

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

www.townofstgermain.org

MINUTES SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING: JANUARY 30, 2017

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Tom Christensen called the meeting to order at 5:31 P.M.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call, Establish a Quorum:** Tom Christensen, John Vojta, Ted Ritter, Jim Swenson, Doug Olson, Marion Janssen, Town Treasurer, Tom Martens, town Clerk. There were also 8 other people in attendance.
4. **Open Meeting Verification:** Mr. Christensen noted that he had posted the meeting agenda at three locations in town on January 28, 2017 prior to 4:00 P.M.
5. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion Olson 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. **Discussion Action Items:**
 - a. **Ambulance Service – Request from the Town of Plum Lake for the Town of St. Germain to pay \$20,000.00 per year for the next five years, total of \$100,000.00, to be used for the purchase of a new ambulance:** Mr. Christensen said that he had heard comments after last week's meeting that if St. Germain didn't contribute the \$100,000 towards the Plum Lake ambulance, that they wouldn't purchase it. Mr. Ritter added that the board hasn't heard anything about other options. He would like to have more details before he would commit to the agreement. Mr. Christensen noted that the board would have to make a decision tonight. Mr. Vojta added that the Plum Lake proposal is the cheapest option, but that he didn't want to commit to a long term commitment. He would rather contribute \$50,000 over a two-year period, with the option to pay more after the two years. Mr. Vojta also said that the ambulance box couldn't be transferred to another chassis. He added that Plum Lake had told the St. Germain Fire Department the same thing the last time that they wanted to purchase a new ambulance. Mr. Vojta said that there needs to be a contract. A new hospital that is being considered by Marshfield Clinic could put Howard Young Hospital out of business. Mr. Swenson asked if seven people were enough to staff the ambulance and whether or not the present ambulance is on its last leg. Mr. Swenson also asked if Plum Lake were to use the present ambulance for another two years wouldn't it give everyone a chance to see what Vilas County and Marshfield Clinic might be doing.

Mr. Vojta was also uncomfortable committing to a \$100,000 payment with no say in what the ambulance was going to be. Mr. Vojta also said that he had a problem with who is going to collect money and who is going to do the billing. Mr. Christensen agreed. Mr. Christensen thought that St. Germain and Plum Lake could possibly set up an EMS district. Mr. Ritter said that the Plum Lake proposal is worth pursuing. He also thought that the board should look into the details for an EMS district and that he was OK with a \$20,000 payment over five years. Mr. Vojta thought that it might be a good idea for St. Germain to meet with Plum Lake every other month to try to work out the details. Mr. Christensen thought that St. Germain would have to take the lead in checking on an EMS district and also in checking with Arbor Vitae. Marv Anderson has already talked to Dr. Brodhead about the future of medical care in Vilas County.

Motion Ritter seconded Christensen that the Town of St. Germain not commit to the Town of Plum Lake proposal of \$20,000 per year payments over five years at this time. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion Carried.

Mr. Olson thought that a contract would have to spell out who would be paying for routine maintenance. Ms. Janssen wanted to know what rate would be charged to St. Germain residents if St. Germain had contributed towards purchasing the ambulance. Mr. Christensen thought that the proposal could be a joint venture. Mr. Ritter wanted to know who was going to schedule the staffing. Mr. Vojta wanted to know if St. Germain could just write a check for \$100,000 to Plum Lake to be put towards the ambulance. Mr. Ritter said that he would be against that. The consensus of the board was that a lump payment should be run past legal counsel.

Motion Ritter seconded Christensen that the fire chiefs from both St. Germain and Plum Lake and one elected town board member from each town form a joint committee to work out the issues

concerning the ambulance and report to the two town boards. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion Carried.

Mr. Christensen will send a letter to Plum Lake chairman Will Maines to set up the first meeting.

b. Financial Audit 2016: Mr. Christensen noted that Mr. Martens had talked to Peterson-Metz accounting early in January and was told that the town didn't need to conduct an audit. Mr. Martens said that he had stopped there wanting to ask what they needed to have in order to do the audit. Mr. Christensen stated that when was on the Northland Pines School Board, they had an audit every year. He is in favor of having an audit. Motion Vojta seconded Swenson to go ahead with a Financial Audit for 2016. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion Carried. Ms. Janssen thought that the fire department donation account should be included in the audit. There was no motion to include the fire department account. The ordinance creating the account requires the fire department to give a report each month. Mr. Christensen will contact Tim Gebhardt to make that the report is given to the town board.

7. Adjournment: Motion Vojta seconded Swenson that the meeting be adjourned. By a voice vote Yes – 5, No – 0. Motion carried. Meeting 6:25 P.M.

Town Clerk

Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor