

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

www.townofstgermain.org

MINUTES SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING: APRIL 12, 2018

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, John Vojta, Ted Ritter, Jim Swenson, Doug Olson, Marion Janssen, Town Treasurer, Tom Martens, Town Clerk. There also 39 other people in attendance.
4. **Open Meeting Verification:** Mr. Christensen noted that he had posted the meeting agenda at three locations in town on April 11, 2018 before 10:30 A.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. **Citizen's Comments - Citizens are encouraged to share their concerns and ideas with the Board. Please limit your comments to five minutes or less.** There were none.
7. **Discussion /Action Items:**
 - a. **Payment of Bills:** Motion Vojta seconded Swenson that general account vouchers 25486-25489 be approved along with a bill from Vilas County Mapping \$45.00—downtown park map. Check 25490 to the Town of Plum Lake was held pending changes that need to be made to the list of EMS responses to St. Germain for January thru March. By a voice vote: Yes – 5, No – 0. Motion carried.
 - b. **Continuing Discussion and update of the Red Brick/Community Center Replacement Project:** Mr. Christensen stated that he felt very frustrated after the last meeting. He heard that the group that wanted the gym would vote against the project the gym and that the group that wanted the large room would vote against the project if there was a gym. The board could not please both groups. Mr. Christensen suggested that the community center not be torn down. He thought that all of the interior walls could be removed. The gym would remain. The area on the west side could be for pickle ball or volleyball. There should also be room for a walking track around the perimeter. The building would need a new roof. The present bathrooms would be removed and bathrooms would be constructed as part of a new addition. The building could be left open more like what it is now. The heating system might have to be changed, but the building also wouldn't have to be kept as warm as if it was to be used for meetings. Events and bingo could still be held in the large rooms. The plan might mean that the baseball field would have to be moved. Mr. Vojta had been against moving the field, but since the light poles are starting to rot, if the field were to be moved, now might be the time to do it. Mr. Christensen added that the red brick schoolhouse would still be demolished and that a new building with a large meeting room and offices would be built. Bob Schell asked why there would still have to be a large meeting room. Mr. Vojta stated that there would be too much wear and tear on the gym floor. Mr. Swenson added that the acoustics would still be bad. Marv Anderson thought that Vandervort Park might be a good kids' ball park. Tim Ebert said that since none of the plans so far had been totally what the board had asked for, couldn't the board come up with its own plan. Mr. Ritter added that the closer the end of the project, the more people show up at the meetings with more ideas. Ken Dahnke thought that this new idea would cost more money. Bob Schell asked why the price is so high since the Lakeland Senior Center is building a new building for much less. Brian Cooper stated that at one of the meetings, Melody Hamlin had said that the basic building would cost around \$2 million. The \$.3 million price is turn-key. We don't know what is included in the senior center plans. Roger Weber thought that there was going to a water problem by the entrances with ice buildup just as there is now.

A lady said that now, the gym group and the large meeting room group had been satisfied, but, what about the red brick schoolhouse group. Jim Lenz thought that there could be a red brick room in the new building. It was also suggested that a portion or a wall could be incorporated into the plan. Tom Martens stated that at the January 28, 2004 town board meeting, supervisor Ted Ritter had said that in his opinion, the decision concerning the red brick schoolhouse should not solely be made by the town board. The residents in a 1997 survey had, 3 to 1 responded not to demolish the school. A 2005 referendum and a 2008 referendum voted against demolishing the school. A motion to demolish the school at a 2009 elector meeting was defeated. At the same

meeting, a motion to repair the roof passed, but the town board never did anything about it. Brian Cooper added that at the May 26, 2009 town board meeting, “Motion Wiese seconded Vojta that the town spend no taxpayer money on repairing the Red Brick Schoolhouse.” By a roll call vote: Mr. Radtke – No; Mr. Vojta – Yes; Mr. Wiese – Yes; Ms. Nimz – Yes; Mr. Christensen – No. Motion carried. Mr. Martens noted that the electors had never voted to do anything but to keep and renovate the school. It has only been the town board that has voted against it. At the December 20, 2017 town board meeting, supervisor Ted Ritter made a motion to go with Funktion Design’s option #4 which is to demolish both the red brick schoolhouse and the community center. Mr. Martens said that he now felt that the town board has taken any decision about the red brick schoolhouse out of the electors’ hands. Mr. Christensen disagreed. He said that the electors can still vote down the building project. Mr. Ritter said that if the project is defeated, the board would have to come back with something else. Someone in the audience said that people are happy that after twenty years, the town board is finally making a decision. Mr. Martens noted that the board had paid Funktion Design over \$5,000 to make a recommendation. Funktion’s recommended recommendation was option which would have incorporated the 1941 portion of the red brick schoolhouse into the new building.

After a short break, Mr. Christensen asked the board what he should do. Motion Ritter seconded Vojta that Mr. Christensen proceed with the plan as presented tonight with the community center being made into a fieldhouse/recreation center and to construct, as in option #4 a new building to tie into it. By a voice vote: Yes – 5, No – 0. Motion carried.

- c. **Continuing Discussion and Bid opening of the Proposed New Bathroom Facility Located in the Community Area by the Skateboard Park:** Mr. Swenson handed out a breakdown of the bids that had been received from Waldmann Construction \$126,096, Rappa Construction \$124,543, and Nasi Construction \$146,847. Mr. Swenson also noted that there is a possibility of receiving 50-50% DNR grant. However, the application has to be sent in by May 1, 2018. Notification of receiving the grant would not be until this fall or early winter. Work cannot be started until the grant is in place. The town would pay all bills and then be reimbursed. Mr. said that he would help with the grant application. Motion Christensen seconded Vojta to accept the bid from Rappa Construction for \$124,543 with committee continuing to work on the grant application with the state. By a voice vote: Yes – 5, No – 0. Motion carried.
- d. **Information and Action if needed to address Spring Breakup of Border Creek Road:** Mr. Vojta stated that Border Creek Road is about 18’ wide up until at branches off to Riverview Drive, where it narrows down to about 12’. There is barely room for vehicles to pass. It is dangerous during snowmobile season. Mr. Vojta added that with the spring thaw, the chip seal that had been applied several years ago was breaking up. Tim Ebert added that there are now ruts in the road and that the road is beyond repair. The owners along the road would sign off if more land was needed to widen the road. Mr. Vojta estimated that the cost would be approximately \$144,000. Mr. Ritter thought that the list of roads should be prioritized. Mr. Ebert will put 4 ton road limit signs on the road. Jim Lenz said that he would snow blow the road for the rest of the season so that the heavy town truck would not break up the road even worse. Since Border Creek Road is not a gravel road, it doesn’t fit in with the gravel roads that were discussed at the last meeting. It would be part of the road work that would be done this year.

8. **Closed Session – Adjourn to closed session in accordance with Section 19.85 (1) (c) (e) of the Wisconsin Statutes to discuss Public Works Department Personnel.**
 - (c) **Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility:** Motion Christensen seconded Swenson that the meeting be adjourned into closed session at 8:05 P.M. By a roll call vote: Mr. Olson – yes; Mr. Swenson – yes; Mr. Vojta – yes; Mr. Ritter – yes; Mr. Christensen – yes. Motion carried.
9. **Reconvene to Open Session – Reconvene to open session to take such action as the Board deems appropriate, following consideration given in closed session:** Motion Vojta seconded Olson to reconvene into open session at 9:32 P. M. By a voice vote: Yes – 5, No – 0. Motion carried.
10. **Next Town Board Meeting Date – Regular Town Board Meeting, Monday May 14, 2018:**
11. **Adjourn:** Motion Olson seconded Swenson that the meeting be adjourned. By a voice vote Yes –5, No – 0. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 9:33 P.M.

Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor