

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

www.townofstgermain.org

MINUTES TOWN BOARD MEETING: FEBRUARY 11, 2019

1. **Call to Order:** The chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call, Establish A Quorum:** Tom Christensen, Jim Swenson, Ted Ritter, Doug Olson, Brian Cooper, Tom Martens, Town Clerk. Marion Janssen, Town Treasurer. There were also 15 other people in attendance.
4. **Open Meeting Verification:** Mr. Christensen noted that he had posted the meeting agenda at three locations in town on Saturday, February 9, 2019 before 6:00 P.M.
5. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion Cooper seconded Olson that the agenda be approved in any order at the discretion of the chairman. By a voice vote, motion carried unanimously 5 – 0.
6. **Read and Approve Minutes of Past Meetings:** Motion Swenson seconded Ritter to dispense with the reading of the minutes and that the minutes of the January 14, 2019, January 24, 2019, and the January 31, 2019 town board meetings are approved as written. By a voice vote, motion carried unanimously 5 – 0.
7. **Citizen's Comments – Citizens are encouraged to share their concerns and ideas with the Board. Please limit your comments to five minutes or less:** Phil Monday stated that he has noticed people plowing and blowing snow onto or across the town roads. He also said that he has had problems with the etiquette of snowmobilers. Marv Anderson stated that he has written to Sen. Tiffany and the DOT concerning the condition of Hwy. 155. He thinks that it is very disrespectful that he hasn't had a response from anyone. Mr. Anderson also added that Vilas County is working on enhancing paramedic service. The committee will be meeting with all EMS groups. Mr. Anderson also noted that the town roads needed to be plowed. Wally Geist said that one truck was down and not working.
8. **Report of the Standing Committees:**
 - a. **Zoning:** Mr. Ritter stated that the committee will be meeting on Wednesday.
 - b. **Finance:** Mr. Christensen stated that since there are only three loans that the town board could make the decision concerning loan payments and that the committee would not have to meet.
9. **Report of the Special Town Committees:**
 - a. **Lakes Committee:** Mr. Ritter reported that the committee would be meeting on February 25, 2019. Little St. Germain and Lost Lake have been working on their grants. The iLid Camera grant has been denied. The reason that was given for the denial was that the Northern Highland State Forest management team has started a policy of not allowing anything to be installed on forest lands. There is a one-year moratorium. The grant could be applied for again next year.
 - b. **Non-Motorized Trail Committee:** Mr. Swenson said that 3rd Annual Candlelight Event was attended by around 100 people. The comments have all been favorable. All of the trails have been groomed. People have also been using the Fern Ridge Trail for snowshoeing.
10. **Report from Lake Districts and Other Organizations:** Mr. Cooper noted that the Big St. Germain District would be meeting on June 17, 2019 at 6:00 P.M.
11. **Discussion /Action Items:**
 - a. **Payment of Bills:** Motion Swenson seconded Olson that golf course account checks 16100-16111, general account checks 26041-26104, and direct deposit checks DD10-DD55 be approved along with the following extra bills: Life-Assist \$306.31; Knitt Hardware \$52.37; Stryker Sales Corp. \$27.40. By a voice vote, motion carried unanimously 5 – 0.
 - b. **Town Chairman's Report**

1. **Golf Course Report:** Mr. Christensen reported that Mr. Becker was keeping an eye on the greens. Bob Stippich is working two days a week. Mr. Becker will be advertising for a fulltime replacement soon.
 2. **Public Works:** Mr. Christensen stated that the town roads had all been sanded last Friday. The International truck had a wiring problem, but it has been fixed. Mr. Christensen said that Rick Arbaugh and Tom Stoltman have been doing a great job. In Tim Ebert's absence Phil Monday has been plowing with the loader.
- c. Treasurer's Report:**
1. **Bank Account Balances:** Balance General Account as of 01-31-2019: \$12,458.94; Room Tax Account \$39,993.87; Lakes Committee Account \$16,223.46; Skateboard Park Fund \$2,847.51; Bike & Hike Trail \$43,756.11; mBank Money Market \$2,015,115.10; Playground Equipment Fund \$1,501.40; Public Works Equipment Fund \$60,037.98; Fire Department Restricted Account \$8,719.83; Fireworks Donation Account \$1,662.11; Hometown Bank Ambulance Acct \$6,922.80; Fern Ridge Trail Savings \$3,000.36; Road Work Savings \$270,113.87; Community Development Account \$70,127.81; Golf Course General Account \$20,269.18; St. Germain Ambulance Fund \$3,199.46; Awassa Trail Fund Savings \$8,511.32.
 2. **Fourth Quarter Room Tax:** Ms. Janssen reported that the fourth quarter room tax collections for 2018 were \$41,932.73. The town share is \$10,483.18 and the chamber of commerce share is \$31,449.55.
- d. Fourth Quarter Room Tax Report from the Chamber of Commerce:** Penny Strom reported that the Chamber of Commerce had spent \$87,533.84 on advertising, \$101,014.56 on promotion, and \$91,641.66 on wages and salaries in 2018.
- e. Determine which Loans to make Early Payments Towards or Payoff Completely:** Ms. Janssen noted that \$355,170.31 had been collected to be put toward the town loans. She suggested that the new road loan be paid off since it has the highest interest. Motion Christensen seconded Cooper that the 2018 mBank road loan be paid off in the amount of approximately \$298,500; that the fire truck payment be made on March 1, 2019 in the amount of \$33,898.08; and that the remaining balance of approximately \$22,900 be applied to principle on the 2016 mBank road loan. By a voice vote, motion carried unanimously 5 – 0
- f. Third Review, Remote Meeting Attendance Policy:** Mr. Ritter noted that he had added that remote attendance at public hearings was prohibited. Motion Ritter seconded Cooper that the remote meeting attendance policy, as amended, and resolution SG19-02-1, authorizing the remote meeting attendance policy, be approved and adopted. By a voice vote, motion carried unanimously 5 – 0
- g. Review and Update Concerning the St. Germain Housing Authority:** Marv Anderson gave a history of the Housing Authority. The first building was built in 1982, the last in 1992. Dick & Don Eliason had donated that land. The Housing Authority received a 1% loan for around \$1,000,000 from Rural Development. In order to have low income subsidized housing, there has to be debt. The original loan will never be paid off. Jason Gruitt from A&M Services in Crandon is now handling all of the applications and maintenance. The Housing Authority is for low-income, elderly or disabled housing. This past year the Housing Authority received a loan for \$850,000 to do renovations inside and out. The Housing Authority can't use any of the money that it has in its accounts. A nursing home would require that there be municipal water. Rural Development is no longer doing new projects and is cutting back on the ones that it has. Mr. Ritter will put the information on the town's website.
- h. Consider Rescinding or Updating Old Ordinances; "Fire Lanes", "Fire Damaged Buildings", "Fumigation" and "Recycling":** Before the board makes any decisions concerning the fire lane, fire damaged buildings, and fumigation ordinances, Mr. Ritter will check with the Wisconsin Towns Association and the St. Germain Fire Chief to see if they are necessary. The recycling ordinance is on the list by mistake.
- i. First Review of the Re-Drafted Fire Department Volunteer Funds Ordinance:** No action was taken. Mr. Ritter reported that the Fire Chief had not responded to his questions.

- j. Transfer Temporary Funds for the Golf Course:** Motion Christensen seconded Olson that Ms. Janssen be authorized to temporarily transfer funds from the town general account to the golf course account as necessary. By a voice vote, motion carried unanimously 5 – 0. The funds will be repaid to the town during the 2019 golf season.
- k. Approve Adjusted 2019 Golf Course Budget:** Motion Christensen seconded Swenson that the 2019 golf course budget be approved as adjusted. By a voice vote, motion carried unanimously 5 – 0. The total budget is \$854,878.11 with a projected carry-over balance of \$95,116.96
- l. Room Tax & Community Development Budgets for 2019:** Motion Ritter seconded Swenson that the 2019 room tax budget be approved as presented. By a voice vote, motion carried unanimously 5 – 0. Ms. Janssen said that the only payments that have been allocated from community development are for Funktion Design. She did not do a budget for community development.
- m. Fireworks Contract for 2019:** Motion Ritter seconded Swenson that a three-year contract with Krueger Pyrotechnics Co. at a fixed at of \$17,000 per year be approved. By a voice vote, motion carried unanimously 5 – 0.
- n. Approve Class B Combination License for the Bull Pen Sports Bar & Grill, Todd Stanek, Agent:** Motion Cooper seconded Olson that a Class B Combination License be granted to Bull Pen Sports Bar & Grill, Todd Stanek, agent. By a voice vote, motion carried unanimously 5 – 0
- o. Review Whitetail Purchase Presentation from Our Last Meeting:** Jerry Burkett from Century 21 Burkett Realty in Eagle River had presented an offer to purchase the Whitetail Inn to the town board at the January 24, 2019 special town board meeting. Mr. Christensen stated that he would consider purchasing the property as a restaurant, not to remodel it into a town hall. Mr. Cooper asked if the purchase would be put on the tax roll, or if it would be paid from the golf course budget. Mr. Christensen added that Ms. Rogers Anderson has thought that for the town to own the Whitetail Inn, would make the golf course complete. Mr. Cooper was concerned about it being sold to someone who might have other ideas for it. Mr. Christensen thought the next step would be to review the finances of the restaurant. Mr. Christensen also added that he would not be in favor of using tax dollars to purchase the property.

Motion Cooper seconded Swenson to investigate the purchase of the Whitetail Inn and move to the first step. By a voice vote, motion carried 4 – 1.

Moton Swenson seconded Cooper that Mr. Cooper, Mr. Christensen and Ms. Janssen be authorized to sign a non-disclosure agreement to review the financials for the Whitetail Inn. By a voice vote, motion carried unanimously 5 – 0

Next Regular Town Board Meeting Date – Monday, March 11, 2019, 6:30 PM, Community Center.

12. Adjourn: Mr. Christensen adjourned the meeting at 9:22 P.M.

Town Clerk

Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor