

**TOWN OF ST. GEMAIN
P. O. BOX 7
ST. GERMAIN, WI 54558**

Minutes, Sexually Oriented Businesses Committee
October 29, 2020

1. **Call to order:** Meeting called to order by Ritter at 6:40pm.
2. **Verify posting of meeting:** Ritter posted the agenda in accordance with town board posting procedures on October 20, 2020
3. **Roll call, establish a quorum:** Members present – Reese, Reuling, McGill, Ritter
Absent – Hiller, Swenson
4. **Public comments:** There were none.
5. **Approve minutes of September 03, 2020 meeting:** Motion Reuling, second McGill to approve as presented. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.
6. **Discuss:**
 - a. **Eagle Riiver Code of Ordinances – Signs**
 - b. **Village of Fontanna ordinance**
 - c. **Reed v. Town of Gilbert, U. S. Supreme Court**
 - d. **Addressing Reed step-by-step**
 - e. **Other ordinances/research results**

The consensus of the Committee was that while towns may adopt sign ordinances to regulate the size and placement of signs in the interest of public safety, such ordinances may not censor the message on the sign. Freedom of speech rights override censorship powers. However, the Committee also felt there must be boundaries somewhere addressing the aesthetics and imagery of signs in order to prevent vulgarity.
 - f. **Next step toward a Town of St. Germain sign ordinance:**

Committee members agreed to accomplish the following in advance of the next meeting:

 1. Search for court cases supporting ordinance authority to regulate sign imagery
 2. Re-review the draft St. Germain sign ordinance in light of the Reed v. Gilbert Supreme Court ruling.
7. **Next meeting:** 6:30pm, Thursday, December 3, 2020
8. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 7:26pm

Minutes prepared by Ritter, Committee Chairman