

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
P.O. BOX 7
ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558
www.townofstgermain.org

MINUTES TOWN BOARD MEETING: September 28, 2023

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Tom Christensen called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call to Establish a Quorum:** Jim Swenson, Brian Cooper, Tom Christensen and Ted Ritter along with Jeanna Vogel town treasurer and June Vogel town clerk are in Community Center in room 4 with 9 community members. Jenn Jones deputy clerk/treasurer is attending via Zoom.us along with 6 community members. Kalisa Mortag arrived at 6:49 pm. Mr Cooper left the meeting at 7:52 pm and returned at 9:14 pm.
4. **Open Meeting Verification:** Mr Christensen noted that he had posted the meeting agenda at three locations in town on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 before 6:30 pm.
5. **Citizen's Comments – Citizens are encouraged to share their concerns and ideas with the Board. Please limit your comments to five minutes or less.**
6. **Discussion /Action Items:**
 - a. **Approval of town bills for payment.** Motion by Ritter to approve town bills as presented; second Swenson. Discussion: None. The motion passed by voice vote with three votes in the affirmative and one abstention by Cooper.
 - b. **Approval of past meeting minutes.** Motion by Swenson to approve the meeting minutes of September 11, 2023, September 22, 2023 and September 25, 2023 as presented; second Ritter. Discussion: None. The motion passed by voice vote with three votes in the affirmative and one abstention by Cooper.
 - c. **Review of St. Germain Chamber of Commerce Room Tax Report of 2022, concerning Tourism Development.** Discussion by the board.
 - d. **Continuing discussion/action concerning the section of road between West Lost Lake Drive and Kummels Northwoods Cabi, LLC (Ed Gabes) a Town Road.** Gas tax prior to 1976, verified by DOT. Town discontinued portion of road within Gabes property, up to the north side. No gas tax received after 1980. Cul de sac deeded to the town from the investment group that took over Gabes and cul de sac is utilized today. Discussion by board. Motion by Cooper that the town chairman contact a surveyor to interpret the document description from 1978 of the discontinuance of older Hwy 155 and to attempt to determine ownership of road north of Gabes connecting with North Lost Lake Drive; second Ritter. Discussion: Funds coming out of town budget. The motion passed by voice vote unanimously.
 - e. **Chamber Agreement auto renews at the end of the year. Notice of changes need to be made to the Chamber by 10/03/2023.** Discussion by board. Motion by Ritter that we notify the Chamber prior to 10/03/2023 that we recommend item 5c of the contract be changed to...each year thereafter for the remainder of this agreement the chamber shall allocate at least 13%, add 'at least'; second Swenson. Discussion: Town Chairman will be sending letter indicating this. The motion passed by voice vote unanimously.
 - f. **Approve the purchase of a new DPW patrol truck to replace the current International Truck.** Recommendation from Tom Stoltman and Jimmy Vogel to purchase Western Star truck from UP Truck Center (\$127,995.00) and equipment and extended warranties/coverage from Truck Equipment (\$166,095.00 and \$5,242.00). Original build in Green Bay with full service out of Wausau. Motion by Christensen to purchase the Western Star 47X from UP Truck Center for \$127,995.00 along with listed extended warranties for \$5,242.00 and purchase upgrades for truck equipment for \$166,095.00 from Truck Equipment for a total of \$299,332.00 with funds coming from fall 2023 loan; second Swenson. Discussion: Stoltman to get verification of warranties. The motion passed by voice vote unanimously.
 - g. **Birch Spring Road relocation off of private property.** Discussion by board. The road was built in the incorrect place, on personal property. Budget cost from Pitlik to move section of road to correct location is \$24,750.00, 650' long x 18' wide. Motion by Mortag to

approve the Pitlik proposal for \$24,750 to relocate north end of Birch Spring Rd to correct location being paid out of room tax; second Cooper. Discussion: None. The motion passed by voice vote unanimously.

- h. Review County Zoning proposed “Tourist Rooming Houses” ordinance provisions.** Discussion by the board. Board supports. Will suggest adding evidence of registration with town. Additional concerns to be considered in the future would be animal control and garbage disposal. Ritter will send letter to county indicating town support and the suggestions as discussed.
- i. Approve alcohol related licenses.** Motion by Mortag to approve alcohol related licenses as presented; second Swenson. Discussion none. The motion passed by voice vote unanimously.
- j. Correct ATV/UTV usage of Hwy C to include the entire length of Hwy C.** Discussion by the board. Motion by Christensen to revise the previous usage request, to now request Vilas County to open up County C from Hwy 70 to Hwy 155 in its entirety year-round for ATV/UTV use; second Cooper. Discussion none. The motion passed by voice vote unanimously.
- k. Consider draft letter(s) concerning alleged Chapter 1 – Zoning violation.** Motion by Ritter to authorize Tom Christensen to sign both letters regarding zoning violations; second Mortag. Discussion: None. The motion passed by voice vote unanimously.
- l. Town budget 2023 updates.** Discussion by board. Motion by Ritter to approve town budget 2023 updates as discussed; second Swenson. Discussion none. The motion passed by voice vote unanimously.
- m. Golf Course 2023 budget updates.** Discussion by board. Motion by Ritter to approve golf course 2023 budget updates as discussed; second Mortag. Discussion none. The motion passed by voice vote unanimously.
- n. Fire Department Truck/DPW Truck/Well Loan.** Discussion by board. Motion by Ritter that the fall 2023 loan be approved at 1.65 million (fire truck, DPW truck, fire department well); second Swenson. Discussion: None. The motion passed by voice vote unanimously.
- o. Town credit card receipts.** Clerk explained how receipts are not being turned in on time, wrong receipts are received and personal charges are happening. Discussion by the board. Chairman will put offending users 30 day notice.
- p. Review and approve placement of the “Snowmobile Friendly Town” sign on Town property.** Discussion by the board. Motion by Christensen to allow Bo-Boen Club to place Snowmobile Friendly sign to the south of the Welcome to St Germain sign on Hwy 70; second Ritter. Discussion none.
- q. Bid opening for fall road maintenance projects.** Three bids received and opened for crack sealing; Fahrner to \$87,494.56 and does not list the names of roads to be repaired, Pitlik & Wick \$114,863.20 and Thunder Road \$131,400.00. Discussion by the board. Motion by Cooper to accept bid by Pitlik & Wick as presented for \$114,863.20 coming from road maintenance funds; second Mortag. Discussion none. The motion passed by voice vote unanimously.

Bid for overlay for section of Juve from Four Corner Lane to past Muskellunge Creek Road (.6 of a mile); Pitlik and Wick \$95,425.00. Discussion by the board. Motion by Christensen that we go ahead with overlay bid from Pitlik and Wick for .6 mile on Juve from 4 corner lane to approximately Muskellunge Creek Road for \$95,425.00 and request that \$10,288.20 be billed in 2024; second Mortag. Discussion: There is \$20,000 in room tax set aside for road maintenance, the balance could be paid in 2023 from this. The motion passed by voice vote unanimously.

- r. Anonymous letter to the Town Board, Vilas News Review and Lakeland Times.** Discussion by the board. 1) Audit not done, not required by state statute because clerk and treasurer positions are separate. 2) Flea market is not town, run by fire department association. Funds are collected by them and dispersed. Golf course monies are collected by golf course personnel and deposited into town accounts; used for expenses and improvements of the course. In September 2023 \$18,490.61 transferred from golf course account to town account for 2022 town support. Interest that is earned at Peoples bank on golf course account goes into town account monthly. Both town budget and GC budget are on towns website. 3) All ambulance volunteer personnel have been recertified June 2023, everyone is in compliance. Fire department volunteer personnel have different levels of training; the role they are assigned to do they are trained for that duty, not all FD personnel have the same training.

7. Report of the Standing Committees

- a. Independence Day Celebration Committee** No report
- b. Lakes Committee** No report

- c. **Non-Motorized Recreational Trails Committee** Leaves are very colorful at the trails. Awassa and Fern Ridge are in good shape. Will be blowing leaves as needed.
- d. **Parks and Recreation Committee** Ordered three benches that were put in playground park. Looking at getting benches from recycle group to put at tennis court area. Working on Fright night. Committee does not feel grafitti at skateboard park needs to be addressed, feels it is the culture of a skate park.
- e. **Zoning Committee** Will be finalizing a list of amendments to chapter 1 zoning for town board to review. Had 4 CUP hearings, two were tabled because of needing clarity on site plans with final action planned for October 4, 2023.
- f. **Report from Lake Districts and Other Organizations** Little Saint Lake District has a new treasurer.

8. **Adjourn** Mr Christensen adjourned the meeting at 9:35 pm

Town Clerk

Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor