

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

www.townofstgermain.org

MINUTES ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING: DECEMBER 1, 2014

Call To Order: Acting chairman, Marv Anderson, called the annual elector meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Mr. Anderson noted that this was a duly called meeting in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws.

Roll Call: John Vojta, Tom Christensen, Alan Albee, Marion Janssen, Town Treasurer, Tom Martens, Town Clerk. Walt Camp was absent. There were also 24 qualified electors in attendance.

Mr. Anderson asked the clerk to highlight the changes in the budget for 2015.

Carolyn Ritter asked about the constable. She said that the new county animal control ordinance provided for the animal control officers to be appointed. Our constable is still elected. Mr. Christensen explained that at this point, the electors could not change the position for this election. The electors could eliminate the constable position and make the animal control officer an appointed position when the constable's 2015-2017 term expires.

Carolyn Ritter also asked if the \$60,000 for equipment was once again in the budget. John Vojta said that it was a three-year plan. A new tanker truck would cost between \$180,000 and \$200,000. Ms. Ritter said that she didn't remember the money expressly being collected for a tanker truck. Ted Ritter said that he remembered that the town was supposed to also contribute \$30,000 to the fund. Ms. Janssen didn't no if there would be that much of a carryover balance. Mr. Christensen stated that \$15,000 from the carry over balance was already being used to balance the budget.

Carolyn Ritter also asked about the Integrys land purchase. Ms. Janssen explained the details of the purchase. Ms. Janssen noted that the property had partially been purchased with a Stewardship Grant. Therefore, the DNR has some say in what can and cannot be done with the property. Ms. Janssen also noted that the town had purchased a 50ft. strip of land running from Half Mile Road to the town property. The town owns that strip of land. The DNR doesn't have any control over it.

Brian Sherren stated that he thought that the town should have waited to purchase the Integrys property. The remaining property did not sell at auction. The town could have probably negotiated a better price. Mr. Sherren stated that several years ago he had prepared a tax levy projection. The increases in the loan payments are making the tax levy very close to his projection. Mr. Sherren was not happy with a tax levy of almost \$900,000.

Phil Kohout asked if the town was considering purchasing more Integrys property. The board explained that the last town board meeting Mr. Camp had asked what the board would like him to do. It was decided that Mr. Camp should have Patty Van Den Elden from Integrys come to the next town board meeting to discuss the possible purchase of more property. There is a concern that if the property sells, that the snowmobile trail running to the west of town could be closed.

Tim Gebhardt asked why Mr. Camp was not at the meeting. Mr. Anderson explained that the board had considered four or five alternative dates. There was no date that was agreeable to all five board members.

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In order for the tax bills to be prepared in a timely manner, the board decided to have the budget hearing on December 1, 2014. Mr. Camp had already made other plans.

Mr. Christensen stated that Tim Ebert was concerned that one of the plow trucks was 10 years old. Mr. Christensen asked if the town should possibly start a fund of \$40,000 per year for a new plow truck. Mr. Sherren was against doing that. He said that if the town debt was paid down in a few years as is projected, the town could purchase a truck without borrowing.

Since there were no further questions, Mr .Anderson closed the annual budget hearing.

Motion Albee seconded Vojta that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned 8:46 P.M.

Town Clerk

Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor