

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

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MINUTES TOWN BOARD MEETING: DECEMBER 11, 2006

The chairman noted that this was a duly called meeting in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law. The meeting was called to order in meeting room #4 of the Community Center at 7:00 P.M.

The chairman asked all present to rise to Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

1. **Roll Call:** Jim Wendt, Todd Wiese, Peggy Nimz, Ted Ritter, Lee Christensen, Tom Martens, Town Clerk, Val Schuettner, Town Treasurer.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion Wiese seconded Ritter that the agenda be approved as presented with the winter road maintenance policy added. Approved.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion Wiese seconded Christensen that the minutes of the November 13, 2006, and the November 28, 2006 town board meetings be approved as written. Approved.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Balance General Account as of 11-30-2006: \$100,862.01; Money Market Account \$3,285.59; Lakes Account \$19,191.29; Park Fund \$5,014.83; Rental Account \$4,887.27; Bag Account \$12,422.99; Room Tax Account \$9,397.63; Debt Reserve \$199,252.61; Bike & Hike Trail Acct. \$134,997.71. Golf Course Regular Account \$65,902.59; Money Market \$0; Debt Reserve \$248,995.92; Rainy Day Fund \$101,064.57; Capital Improvement \$50,511.09. Motion Christensen seconded Nimz that the treasurer's report be approved as read. Approved. Ms. Schuettner noted that the each year the tax program gets bigger and bigger. She recommended that the town board consider purchasing a new laptop computer for the treasurer.
5. **Approval of Bills:** Motion Ritter seconded Wiese that vouchers 15527 – 15577 be approved along with the following extra bills: Carquest \$13.08 – parts; Clermont \$45.10 – repair shop fax machine; Ted Ritter \$48.00 –reim. Postage and copies. Approved.
6. **Communications:** There were no communications.
7. **Reports:**
 - 7A. **Fire Department:** Ms. Nimz reported that there had been 8 calls in December. There still has been no word on the Homeland Security Grant. The department has been watering the ice rink, but is now waiting for colder weather. There will be first responder courses starting in January.
 - 7B. **Finance Committee Report:** There was no finance committee report.
 - 7C. **Parks & Recreation Committee Report:** Mr. Christensen read the following report: The tennis nets are being repaired by Custom Covers and Awnings, LLC in Arbor Vitae by replacing the tape at the top of the net. The nets are still in good shape so this should provide a few more years of use from the equipment.

The fields have been aerated through the cooperation of the Golf Course and the Public Works personnel. The committee has been spending a great deal of time discussing and working on a Master plan for the past two years and have received from Foth and VanDyke a proposal to produce one for \$5,800. Mr. John Gartner from the UW Extension has helped the committee develop a plan that will cost almost nothing. Among other things, he put together a survey to be circulated to interested people to help determine our future needs for additional improvements and facilities. One problem with the survey is that there are no funds in the 2007 budget to print them. Another factor to consider is that there is a Master Plan developed by MSA Professional Services, which has been partially implemented, and the completion of the irrigation segment of this plan would be of great value toward returning our fields to reasonable condition. However, there are no funds available for any of the above.

The outfield of the North baseball field is in deplorable condition because of the extreme amount of use it receives as a result of various community activities in addition to normal baseball and soccer uses. This outfield needs some time each year to grow and regenerate and also needs seed, fertilizer, topsoil and water. The committee proposed a plan to build a new soccer field in

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order to take soccer play off the outfield in the fall to give it a chance to grow some grass. There is funding of \$6,000 in the budget for a soccer field, but this is half of what a decent field will cost and without irrigation, it is a waste of money. The old Master Plan called for a well, which was drilled, and there is a pump and lines already available. A modest additional expenditure would complete an irrigation system, which would service the North baseball field and two soccer fields. This water is an absolute necessity if there are going to be fields that St. Germain can be proud of.

The grounds surrounding the beautiful pavilion are a disgrace. There have been many discussions about how to resolve this, but so far, there has been no consensus on a solution. And, of course there is no funding, but the Fire Department Auxiliary and the Lions are willing to contribute. The committee will kick this around some more and bring a recommendation to the Board next year.

The grounds around the Veteran's Memorial need some attention, but nothing can be accomplished without water and again there is no funding.

Also needed are fifteen new picnic tables to replace some that have become dangerous for further use. No funding.

Many of the above-mentioned items are non-recurring and are expenditures that should have been made years ago. It doesn't make any sense to spend thousands of dollars on a Master Plan when there is no funding available for normal maintenance of the Town Facilities.

In spite of having no funding, the committee will meet sometime in January 2007 and will return with some proposals and suggestions for the future.

7D. Lakes Committee Report: There was no report.

7E. Golf Course Committee Report: There was no report.

7F. Zoning Committee Report: Mr. Wiese reported that the ordinance amendments were ready for county approval. They will be on the county's January agenda. The committee turned down a request to review a downtown-burning ordinance. Mr. Wiese had talked to the owner of Coyote Joe's. She stated that she had gotten some punky wood and would not use it. The committee was reviewing four possible fire department ordinances concerning, burned buildings, fumigation, fire lane parking, and the sale and storage and permitting of fireworks. The travelway permit for Little Acorn Lodge was denied. The driveway was to have been closed by today at 4:00 P.M. The committee will discuss possible penalties at its next meeting. The property owner and contractor are to come in with some alternate proposals.

7G. Personnel Committee Report: Mr. Ritter noted that he had faxed each of the board members concerning the employee contracts. Since the elected officials had been granted raises at the elector meeting, the public works employees are refusing to sign their contracts. They feel that they should have larger increases.

7H. Public Works Committee Report: Ms. Nimz reported that a mower had been ordered for delivery in the spring. The committee has not met since the budget hearing.

7I. Grants Committee Report: There will be a discussion later in the agenda.

7J. Citizens Groups & County Rep: Fred Radtke reported that the county board was still discussing the fairgrounds and that Jim Sanborn had resigned as Vilas County Clerk after 30 years of service.

Mr. Radtke also reported that 45 people attended the last Prime-Timers meeting. There now are 278 members. The group has donated \$500 to the St. Germain Elementary School to be put towards a media center. The Christmas Party will be this Thursday.

8. Items for Consideration (Approve, Disapprove, Table):

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8A. Review Library Agreement: The town board is still concerned about the wording of paragraph #9. Mr. Christensen noted that a budget is just an estimate and that the library is asking that an amount be added to the budget so that it is just an estimate of what they want. Ed Johnston claims that the wording has not changed from the last agreement so that the board can still pay whatever they want to pay. Mr. Ritter stated that he would agree to sign the agreement if there was a termination date. Mr. Wiese asked that the town get a legal opinion to see if the town is bound by the wording. Mr. Ritter also suggested that the library board talk to the other towns to get their opinions of the agreement. If the library board would not do that, Mr. Ritter suggested that we do it. Mr. Wendt will contact Attorney Steve Lucarelli to get an opinion of the wording. Motion Christensen seconded Ritter to table the agreement with the Walter Olson Library for now. Approved.

8B. Town and Golf Course Budgets: Mr. Wendt presented the proposed golf course budget for 2007. The budget is down about 1% from the last year. The pro Shop budget is up about 2.67% over last year. Motion Nimz seconded Wiese to accept the golf course budget for 2007 as presented. Approved. Mr. Christensen noted that the course has a 4.5 star rating for the second time in a row. He thanked Steve Spears and Brian Baldwin for their work. Mr. Spears and Mr. Baldwin thanked that town board for their cooperation.

The clerk presented an amended town budget including the raises granted at the special elector meeting and also the \$5,000 increase in the library contribution. \$11,920 from the carry over balance will be needed to balance the budget. Motion Nimz seconded Ritter that the proposed budget for 2007 be approved.

8C. Poll Worker Appointments: The clerk had given the following list of poll workers to Mr. Wendt for board approval. Chief Inspectors – Lorraine Washechek, and Patricia Rockafeld. The other poll workers are Judy Kaisler, Margaret Chyko, Lois Pietz, and Shirley Sambo. Motion Nimz seconded Christensen that the poll workers be appointed as presented. Approved. Mr. Wendt had not received any recommendations from the political parties.

8D. Red Brick Information Review: Ms. Nimz had met with Paul Zimplemann. He stated that the 1965 portion of the building really had no historical value and would not be worth repairing. He did state, however, that the 1941 portion of the building could cost, as much as \$500,000 to repair and restore, but he felt that it would be worth trying to save it. Mr. Zimplemann also stated that any asbestos could not be encapsulated. It would have to be removed. Ms. Nimz also stated that Visner Construction would also come out to look at the building, but would charge \$3,000. Mr. Wendt stated that he felt that if the town spent the money to repair the Red Brick Schoolhouse, that the town should use the space for offices and meeting rooms. Mr. Ritter stated that he thought that the board should see what would be needed in the Red Brick Schoolhouse if the town were to use it. Mr. Wiese felt that the building was not worth trying to fix.

8E. Oneida County EMS Update: Mr. Wendt stated that the Oneida County EMS now wanted to charge the town \$500 per call. The charge had been \$250. Mr. Wendt will attend a meeting on December 20, 2006 to try to get an explanation of the charges. He also wanted to find out why the town would be charged if the patients are also being charged.

8F. Winter Road Maintenance Policy: Motion Wiese seconded Christensen that the town winter road maintenance policy be accepted as presented. Approved. The policy will be placed on the town's website.

9. Citizen Concerns (3 minute maximum)

9A. Fred Radtke: Mr. Radtke stated that he thought that the golf course budget should be made more public. He felt that it should be part of the budget hearing along with the town budget. Mr. Wendt stated that Boyd Best has a report each month that is available for anyone to look at. Mr. Radtke also asked that the town website be kept more up to date.

9B. Mary Platner: Ms. Platner stated that she would like to find out from the state just how libraries get funded.

9C. Ellen Allen: Ms. Allen noted that the agendas needed to be changed to show that the meetings were being held in meeting room #4 of the Community Center.

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Closed Session: Motion Ritter seconded Christensen that per Wisconsin Statutes, the meeting be adjourned into closed session to discuss personnel issues at 8:50 P.M. Approved.

Motion Ritter seconded Nimz that the meeting be reconvened into open session at 9:30 P.M. Approved.

10. Board Concerns:

10A. Notification of Non-Candidacy: The clerk noted that he had received notification of non-candidacy from Val Schuettner for treasurer, Ted Ritter for supervisor #4, and Jim Wendt for chairman.

11. Meeting Schedule: The next regular town board meeting will be on Monday, January 8, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. in meeting room #4 in the Community Center.

12. Adjournment: Motion Nimz seconded Christensen that the meeting be adjourned. Approved. Meeting adjourned 9:45 P.M.

Town Clerk

Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor