

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

www.townofstgermain.org

MINUTES PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: FEBRUARY 3, 2011

1. **Call To Order: Committee chairman, John Vojta at 2:00 P.M, called the meeting to order.** The chairman noted that this was a duly called meeting in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws.
2. **Roll Call:** John Vojta, Peggy Nimz, Tim Ebert, Todd Wiese, Jim Lenz, Tom Martens, town clerk. Allen Albee and Jennifer Couch-Wendt were also in attendance.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion Nimz seconded Wiese that the agenda be approved as amended in any order at the discretion of the chairman. Approved.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion Wiese seconded Nimz that the minutes of the January 6, 2011 meeting be approved as presented. Approved.
5. **Items for Consideration--(Approve, Disapprove, Table):**

5.1 Winter Snowplowing: Mr. Vojta said that Mr. Lenz had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda. Mr. Lenz thought that since public works was trying to cut money from the budget that Mr. Ebert and Mike VanMeter should not have been out plowing last Friday. It turned out that they had to go out again on Saturday after the snowstorm. Mr. Lenz wanted to know what the policy was concerning the amount of snow that was necessary in order for the town roads to be plowed. Mr. Ebert stated that although the policy has been to plow after a two-inch snowstorm during the week and a four-inch storm on weekends, there really is no specific amount mentioned. Mr. Ebert also stated that Ms. Nimz had him and Mr. VanMeter attend a DOT class that stated that the town had 36 hours to get the roads cleared and didn't say how much snow there had to be. Mr. Ebert added that when they plowed last Friday, it was to clean up the edges of the roads so that motorists could tell where the shoulders were. He also said that he had no complaints other than from Mr. Lenz and from Brian Sherren. Mr. Ebert thought that if the town crew didn't plow even though there had been several snowstorms of fewer than two inches, the slush and ruts on the roads in the spring would be very bad. Mr. Vojta stated that he thought that things were working out very well this winter and that he and Mr. Ebert would continue doing what they had been doing.

5.2 Transfer Station Options: Mr. Vojta asked for a consensus of opinion from the committee as to what should be done with the transfer station. The options would be to have it remain in operation the way it is, close it altogether, or privatize it through a third party. Mr. Vojta thought that curbside pickup should also be an option. Ms. Nimz didn't like that idea. The committee thought that the transfer station should either be closed or privatized. Mr. Vojta handed out a sample contract and had the committee look through it.

Mr. Wiese stated that he still liked a combination of the proposals that had been submitted by the vendors at the last meeting. He like items #1 & #2 from Eagle Waste whereby the hours would be cut down and the bag fees would be raised a little. He also liked item #3 from Veolia whereby the town employee would be eliminated.

Mr. Ebert thought that if the bag fees were raised, more people would hire out for curbside pickup. He also thought that if the town was going to be getting out of the garbage business, the town should not have to pay anything towards the operation of the transfer station.

Jennifer Couch-Wendt thought that the town couldn't force people to use any one specific vendor for curbside pickup. The committee talked about putting garbage service onto the property tax bills.

Mr. Nimz didn't like the idea of a five-year contract. She thought that it should be a two-year contract at the most. She thought that perhaps the vendors could switch off having a truck at the transfer station every other weekend so that people could just toss their garbage right into the truck. Allen Albee stated that there would different ways to charge for garbage service.

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Mr. Vojta stated that he would rewrite the sample contract and add in the things that had been discussed today. He asked that the committee meet again soon so that he could present something to the vendors so that they could provide bids..

6. Communications: Mr. Vojta stated that John Shay had notified him that he would be starting his sick leave for surgery on February 22, 2011. Mr. Ebert and Mr. VanMeter have agreed to cover the transfer station during the week. The committee decided that the site would be closed on Mondays, at least until summer. A substitute would be hired to work the Saturday shifts. Mr. Martens asked how Mr. Shay should be paid for his sick leave. Fred Radtke had sent an email stating that he thought that he should be paid based on an hourly rate and that since Mr. Shay was only working a 16-hour week, that his sick pay should be based on that. Mr. Martens also explained that Mr. Shay is receiving a salary of \$14,160 and that he has been paying Mr. Shay based on that and not on the number of hours that he works. It was the consensus of the committee that Mr. Shay should be paid for his sick leave based on his current salary.

7. Citizens Concerns: There were none.

8. Committee Concerns:

Peggy Nimz: Ms. Nimz stated that she had asked Fred Radtke to draw up a job description for the town constable. Mr. Wiese thought that his duties were spelled out in the Statutes. Ms. Nimz said that the town board could set his duties.

Tom Martens: Mr. Martens stated that the only town roads that he really uses very much are Lost Lake Drive North and Big St. Germain Drive. He added that once the snowmobiles have packed down the shoulders it didn't matter how many times the town crew plowed. Someone driving a vehicle down those roads still could not see where the shoulders were.

9. Set Date and Time of Next Meeting: The next Public Works Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, February 17, 2011 at 2:00 P.M. in meeting room #4 of the Community Center.

10. Adjournment: Motion Nimz that the meeting be adjourned. Approved. Meeting adjourned 3:12 P.M.

Town Clerk

Chairman

Vice Chair

Member

Member

Member