

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

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MINUTES ANNUAL ELECTOR MEETING: APRIL 13, 2004

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

Board members present: Wendt, Odette, Ritter, Nimz, McConnell, Schuettner, Martens.

There were 52 registered voters and one visitor present.

Mr. Wendt briefly explained what business could be conducted at the meeting. He asked for items from the floor.

Mary Platner asked for more citizen involvement on the various town committees.

Patty Schoppe suggested that the Red Brick Building officially be called the "Red Brick Schoolhouse". Ms. Schoppe also noted that the students at Northland Pines are still interested in the skateboard park. It will be a new group, however, since the original group has graduated or now have cars.

Ed Seirgiej wanted to know how the bike trail was going to be financed. Mr. Wendt stated that the town board had appropriated \$12,500 from the room tax account for preliminary engineering expenses, only. The trail is to be funded by grant money. The board has committed no tax money at this time. Mr. Seirgiej was also concerned about the cost of maintaining the trail in the future.

Clyde Owens stated that the bike trail would be a great asset to the town.

Brian Sherren, a member of the bike trail committee, stated that there were three or four proposals for funding the trail. The town has applied for a D.O.T. enhancement grant. The town will also apply for a DNR stewardship grant. The cost of the trail, if the town receives the grants would be around \$700,000 and would go from Plum Creek Ave, where the Plum Lake trail ends along Hwy. C and Hwy. 70 into St. Germain and then on to Hwy. O. If the grants are not received, the cost of \$330,000 would be funded by a loan. The trail would then run from Sayner along Hwy. C and Hwy. 70 into downtown St. Germain. The bike trail will be separate from the snowmobile trail.

Pat Falkenstern asked about the cost of maintaining the trail. Mr. Sherren said that Boulder Junction was setting aside \$2,000 - \$5,000 per year for maintenance. However, the trail is too new to know an exact cost for maintenance.

Tom Zimmerman asked if there would be a gravel base beneath the blacktop. Mr. Sherren stated that there would be.

Jean Seifried asked if the bikers would help pay for the maintenance of the trail. Mr. Sherren said that at this time, they would not.

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Jim Penkalski asked who would be holding the liability insurance for the bike trail. Mr. Sherren once again said that the State of Wisconsin a law whereby a person participating in a recreational activity assumes the risk and is 99.9% responsible. This law has greatly reduced the cost of liability insurance for things such as the bike trail. The town would have the liability insurance on its policy.

Patty Schoppe asked why the trail was not going along Hwy. 155. She is concerned about the safety of the kids riding their bikes on the highway. Mr. Sherren noted that Hwy. 155 had been the committee's first choice. In most areas the road right-of-way was too narrow. There was not enough room for the trail. Ms. Schoppe emphasized that she thought that the town was wrong to have the trail along Hwy. C and Hwy. 70. She also stated that bikers would tend to turn right towards Arbor Vitae than ride into St. Germain to do business.

Mr. Sherren asked that the town board give its opinion of the bike trail. Mr. Wendt, speaking for the board, stated that he supported the bike trail on the premise that it won't be on the tax roll. If the town has to take out a loan to cover expenses until any grant money is received, the interest charges could come from the room tax account.

Pat Falkenstern thought that the town board was depending too much on the room tax account.

Joan Kazda stated that she supported the bike trail because of the health benefits derived from the use of the trail.

Carolyn Ritter, to change the subject, commended the town board on attempting to put policies and procedures into place for conducting town business.

Tom Christensen, Northland Pines school board president, thanked the people for supporting the recent school building referendum.

Clyde Owens thanked Lee Holthaus, who was not present, to his years of service to the town as supervisor.

Ed Odette thanked the board for its support in refinancing the State Trust Fund portion of the town debt. The interest rate of the new loan through US Bank is 3.25% compared to the Trust Fund rate of 5.25%. There should be a \$30,000 to \$40,000 savings to the town over the remainder of the term of the loan.

Motion Don Buchholtz seconded by Ed Seirgiej that the meeting be adjourned.
Approved by a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned 7:50 P.M.

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Town Clerk

Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor