

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

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1/26/2004

MINUTES SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING: JANUARY 26, 2004

The chairman noted that this was a duly called meeting in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

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

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

Motion Ritter seconded Odette that the agenda be approved as posted. Approved.

Mr. Wendt introduced John Williams from Foth & Van Dyke. Mr. Ritter asked if Mr. Williams was to receive any compensation. Mr. Williams stated that he would not. Mr. Ritter also asked William Kelly if he was to receive compensation. Mr. Kelly stated that the Red Brick School Committee was paying him.

Mr. Williams stated that Foth & Van Dyke had designed the fire station and had developed that land use plan. Mr. Williams stated that if the Red Brick Building were to be used for commercial purposes the impact of State codes would have to be studied.

Ray Weber stated that this was the first time that he had heard of the possibility of a new town hall. Mr. Williams stated that a new town hall had not been discussed with the board. Patty Schoppe had a copy of a letter to Mr. Wendt dated August 11, 2003 discussing the possibility of a new town hall.

Bill Green asked if Foth & Van Dyke would be compensated any differently if a new town hall were to be built.

Mr. Ritter thought that this was not the time to evaluate the Red Brick School House Committee. Mr. Ritter also thought that more people had to be involved. The town board alone should not make any decisions about the future of the Red Brick School House.

Mr. Odette stated that he was concerned about a stipulation in the deed that restricted the use of the land to school purposes only. Tom Martens, town clerk, stated that he had talked to Carl Liebert. Mr. Liebert had donated the land to the town in 1999. There were no stipulations in his deed to the town.

Marilyn Sward commented that the Veteran's Memorial was already a reflective place. She felt that the Red Brick School House should also be a historic, reflective place.

Patty Schoppe gave a report on Kate Pier, Carl Liebert's great grandmother, who had originally donated the land to the Town of Farmington in 1924.

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Mr. Ritter handed out six different scenarios of possibilities for the Red Brick School House. He suggested one of two public hearings. Mr. Ritter also suggested a citizens group to help evaluate the options, which might come out of the public hearings.

Ms. Nimz stated that she felt that people against the building should also have a chance to speak. Ray Weber asked if the notice in the paper had stated that only people for the restoration of the school were invited to this meeting.

Leon Anderson also suggested that a committee be appointed. He also suggested that written comments should be accepted.

There will be a Public Hearing held in the Town of St. Germain on Wednesday, February 18, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. in the Community Center. The purpose of the hearing is to get input concerning potential uses and the future of the Old Red Brick School House. Both written and oral comments will be accepted. For those people wishing to make comments but not able to attend the hearing, comments may be sent to Thomas E. Martens, Town Clerk, P.O. Box 7, St. Germain, WI 54558.

Karl Zimmerman stated that Mr. Wendt and the town board should not dismiss the petition, which the Red Brick School House Committee had circulated.

Rochelle Eliason noted that before the town discusses uses for the building, we should discuss whether or not the building should be kept at all.

William Kelly noted that he had done an engineering study of the building. The structure of the building is very sound. The main problem right now is that the previous town board had cut the heating pipes in the rear portion of the building. The boilers appear to be all right. The heating units need to be replaced. Class B (business) & Class N (mercantile) would not need any further code changes. Any other uses would require code updates. Bathrooms under sixteen facilities do not need State approval. Asbestos tiles in the basement can be covered.

An assembly hall would require code changes as well as a tavern, restaurant, and some day care facilities depending on the age and number of children.

Doug Cuthill from Foth & Van Dyke said that in his opinion the main problem would be accessibility.

The clerk read three bids for the reconnecting of the pipes: Trollan Refrigeration \$1,915.00 plus any additional work found necessary at \$60/hour; Preferred Heating \$38,500; RJN Plumbing \$4,500.00.

Motion Ritter seconded Odette to authorize the Red Brick School House Committee to hire Trollan Refrigeration to reconnect the heating pipes per his bid. Approved.

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Tom Martens asked why the town board felt that it was not the town's responsibility to connect the pipes since the town board had ordered them to be cut. Also, why did the board feel that it was not necessary to maintain the building.

Ray Weber stated that he had asked for money to be put into the budget to make repairs on the Old Red Brick School House. It was not considered.

Ted from Eliason Realty asked if bids for the new patrol truck had been let out. He also asked if there were any plans for the Drews property.

Pat Falkenstern asked if the new truck was in the budget. She stated that if money can be found for the truck why can't it be found for the heating repairs.

Bill Joost asked why the town board was even considering a new town hall. When the Vilas County Board needs more room they move from the Court House all the way over to the Lincoln Town Hall. When St. Germain needs more room we move from the Old Red Brick School House next door to the Community Center. There is room for 900 people in the Community Center. It has yet to be filled.

Motion Ritter seconded Odette that the meeting be adjourned. Approved.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 P.M.

Town Clerk

Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor