

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

www.townofstgermain.org

MINUTES TOWN BOARD MEETING: JANUARY 13, 2020

1. **Call to Order:** The chairman called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call, Establish A Quorum:** Tom Christensen, Jim Swenson, Ted Ritter, Tim Clark, Brian Cooper, Marion Janssen, town treasurer. There were also 37 other people in attendance.
4. **Open Meeting Verification:** Mr. Christensen noted that he had posted the meeting agenda at three locations in town on Saturday, January 11, 2020 before 6:30 P.M.
5. **Read and Approve Minutes of Past Meetings:** Motion Cooper seconded Swenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes and that the minutes of the December 9, 2019, December 11, 2019, and the December 18, 2019 town board meetings are approved as written. By a voice vote, motion carried unanimously 5 – 0. Motion Swenson seconded Clark to approve the special January 7, 2020 meeting as written. By a voice vote: Yes – 4; No- 0. Motion carried. Mr. Cooper abstained.
6. **Citizen's Comments – Citizens are encouraged to share their concerns and ideas with the Board. Please limit your comments to five minutes or less:** Marv Anderson said that Don Baumann's work as animal control officer is well respected in the whole county. Mr. Anderson noted that Francine Byrns is resigning from the Housing Authority. Mr. Anderson asked that the town board express an opinion to the county on the current proposal to increase the allowable boathouse size on lakes over 500 acres to 720 sq. ft. Since St. Germain has its own zoning, by resolution, St. Germain could opt out of allowing the larger boathouses. Phil Monday said that he has heard several positive comments about the new Christmas ornaments. Mr. Clark said that some of the comments in the tax letter concerning the ambulance were not correct. There is only a part time paramedic. Mr. Clark said that the response time is more than 20 minutes. Mr. Christensen said that the tax letter will be on the February regular meeting agenda.
7. **Report of the Standing Committees:**
 - a. **Independence Day Celebration Committee:** Mr. Swenson the committee is working the budget and what will be on the website.
 - b. **Lakes Committee:** Mr. Ritter had nothing to report.
 - c. **Non-Motorized Recreational Trails Committee:** Mr. Swenson noted that there will be a snowshoeing event off of Forest Lane on the Fern Ridge Trail on Saturday from 1 pm to 4 pm. Over the holidays an ATV drove on the Fat Bike Trail and ruined the base. The sheriff found the person who did it. It took several hours to repair it.
 - d. **Parks and Recreation Committee:** Mr. Clark had nothing to report.
 - e. **Zoning:** Mr. Ritter handed out a summary of the zoning administrator activity for 2019.
8. **Report from Lake Districts and Other Organizations:** No reports
9. **Discussion /Action Items:**
 - a. **Payment of Bills:** Motion Clark seconded Cooper that general account checks 26666-26729, golf course checks 16398 – 16410 (with the exception of #16406), and payroll checks DD1038-DD1084 and payroll checks DD20-1 – DD20-18 be paid. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously. Motion Swenson seconded Cooper check #16406 be paid. By a voice vote: Yes – 4; No – 0. Motion carried. Mr. Clark abstained.
 - b. **Chairman's Report:**
 1. **Public Works:** Mr. Christensen had no report.
 2. **Golf Course:** Mr. Christensen had no report..

c. Treasurer's Report:

1. Bank Account Balances: Balance General Account as of 12-31-2019: \$85,589.34; Room Tax Account \$42,825.81; Lakes Committee Account \$21,748.65; Skateboard Park Fund \$2,848.80; Bike & Hike Trail \$59,342.80; mBank Money Market \$2,712,547.01; Playground Equipment Fund \$1,502.09; Public Works Equipment Fund \$60,065.45; Fire Department Restricted Account \$37,116.35; Fireworks Donation Account \$1,687.14; Hometown Bank Ambulance Acct \$11,002.50; Fern Ridge Trail Savings \$4,808.59; Road Work Savings \$269,597.16; Community Development Account \$44,284.58; Golf Course General Account \$183,857.95; St. Germain Ambulance Fund \$100.28; Awassa Trail Fund Savings \$11,119.62; Fire Dept. Donation Account \$41,727.77

d. Continuing Discussion Concerning a Resolution making the Town of St. Germain a Second Amendment Sanctuary Town. Guest Speaker, Vilas County Sheriff – Joe Fath: Mr. Cooper noted that he had received several emails and phone calls both against and in favor of the resolution. Sheriff Fath stated that he has not had to determine the constitutionality of a law. That would be a matter for the Attorney General and the Justice Department. Sheriff Fath said that the proposed resolution is not trying to tell his office what laws to enforce. He also thought that the Chamber of Commerce could make sure that the correct information is given out. Sheriff Fath didn't see any problems with adopting the resolution. Sheriff Fath thought that if the Attorney General determined that a bill was unconstitutional, the bill would probably die. Mr. Christensen opened the floor for comments. Several were for the resolution and several against. It was suggested that the town board shouldn't be making a political statement for the residents of the town. It was also suggested that a referendum question be placed on the April 7th Spring Election ballot. Mr. Christensen thought that the resolution might be a little premature. Mr. Clark thought that it should be tabled tonight. Mr. Swenson wanted to review other resolutions to see if the wording was similar. Mr. Ritter would vote against adopting the resolution tonight and also thought that it should not be tabled indefinitely. Motion Cooper that the matter be tabled indefinitely. For lack of a second, the motion died. Motion Clark seconded Swenson that the Second Amendment Sanctuary Town resolution question be placed on the April 7, 2020 ballot and that it be brought up again at the regular May town board meeting. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously.

e. Discussion with Sheriff Fath Concerning the Enforcement of Speed Limits on Town Roads: In order to be able to enforce speed limits on town roads, Sheriff Fath said that the speed limits have to conform with DOT regulations. The DOT would have to do a study of the town roads. The sheriff's department can't enforce town speed limits without the approval of the DOT. Sheriff Fath wasn't sure if select roads could be studied or if it had to be all of them. There would have to be a contract with the town, county and sheriff department. Then there would be manpower, equipment and cost considerations. The statute changed in 2005. Mr. Christensen will check to find out what is involved with the DOT study.

f. Discussion with Sheriff Fath Concerning the Cost of Extra Road Patrolling by Sheriff Deputies: Mr. Christensen said that it has been brought up before about sheriff deputies patrolling the subdivisions and during the special events in town. Sheriff Fath said that he typically does assign one or two deputies to patrol during the special events. There aren't enough deputies to go around for all of the special events in the county. The department covers all that they can. Since the officers need to travel through St. Germain to get to the other towns, St. Germain is saturated more than the other towns in the county. Retired deputies need to maintain their certification. Marv Anderson suggested "radar enforced" signs.

g. Consider Placing a Referendum Question on the April 7, 2020 ballot pertaining to Non-Partisan Groups Defining Voting Districts. Guest Speaker & Presenter, Vilas County District #12 Supervisor, Carolyn Ritter: Ms. Ritter said that she is not representing Vilas County. She added that after each census, the voting districts are established based on population. Iowa has been using a non-partisan group to define its voting districts at a far less cost. Ms. Ritter suggested that a referendum question be placed on the April 7, 2020 ballot concerning a non-partisan group defining the voting districts in the State of Wisconsin. Motion Ritter seconded Clark to put a question on the April 7, 2020 ballot pertaining to a non-partisan group defining the voting districts. By a voice vote: Yes -4; No – 1. Motion carried..

h. 2019 Animal Control Report. Guest Speaker, St. Germain Animal Control Officer, Don Baumann: Don Baumann reported that there were 23 citation warnings issued. All complied after the warnings. There was one dog bite at the flea market. Mr. Baumann stated that there were more large dogs at the flea market last summer than in the past. Mr. Baumann also added that the bulk of his calls were for barking dogs. Most of those dogs belonged to renters.

- i. **Continuing Discussion Concerning the Town Financial Audit for Calendar Year 2019:** Mr. Christensen said that Mr. Swenson is helping him contact the other towns to see what firms could conduct the audit. Ms. Janssen noted that in towns where the clerk and treasurer are combined, the audit has cost up to \$17,000.
- j. **New patrol Truck for the Department of Public Works:** Mr. Christensen stated that the quote from Monroe Truck is \$123,127. Monroe is suggesting approximately \$5,300 in additions. Mr. Ebert added that from Monroe, it would take at least eight month to get the truck. Motion Clark seconded Christensen to authorize Tim Ebert to contact International, Monroe, Freightliner, and Western Star to get to us firm bid numbers for the proposed new patrol truck. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously.
- k. **Relocation of the Plow Wing on the International Patrol Truck:** Mr. Christensen stated that when it was built, the wing plow was mounted in front of the belly blade. It leaves a pile of snow. Also, the loader doesn't do a very good job of plowing in the subdivisions. It would take two weeks to make the changes. Motion Clark seconded Swenson to go ahead and schedule the International Truck for the changes for \$16,925 at Monroe. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously.
- l. **Reappoint Commissioners to the Housing Authority:** Motion Christensen seconded Ritter to appoint Marv Anderson to a five year term to the Housing Authority ending on September 1, 2024. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously.
- m. **Extra Principle Payments to Town Loans:** Ms. Janssen noted that there was \$8,532.72 left from the 2018 road loan and \$7,566.22 left from the Star Lane portion of the 2019 road loan. Mr. Ritter stated that the intent had been to repay any excess funds to the loan balances. Motion Christensen seconded Ritter that the \$16,098.94 be used to pay down the principle on the 2018 road loan and 2019 road loan. Mr. Christensen withdrew his motion. Mr. Ritter withdrew his second. Motion Christensen seconded Swenson to pay off the remaining unapplied amount of \$8,532.72, applied to the principle, of the 2018 road loan. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously. Motion Christensen seconded Cooper that \$10,725 from the 2019 project loan proceeds be used to pay back the general account for the yard waste chipping charges that were over the estimated cost. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously.
- n. **Sanction the Necessary Snowmobile Trails for the Upcoming Radar Run on Little St. Germain Lake, January 31 & February 1, 2020:** Motion Christensen seconded Ritter to sanction the necessary areas for the upcoming radar run on Little St. Germain Lake on January 31, 2020 and February 1, 2020. That the town sanction: (1) the radar run including the snowmobile trail from Hearthside to Thunderbird Pass including the lake access spur from said trail to Little St. Germain Lake through Little St. Germain Express and Cathy's Ice Cream property; (2) the snowmobile trail from St. Germain Rentals to Arrowhead Groomers including the lake access spur from said trail through Elberts Resort' (3) the west half of West Bay on Little St. Germain Lake; (4) the marked trails crossing Little St. Germain within 100 feet of the barrel lake markers used to cross the lake. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously.
- o. **Old Christmas Pole Decorations; Donate, Sell or Dispose of:** Motion Clark seconded Cooper to put the old Christmas decorations up for sale and if they don't sell in two months to dispose of them. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously.
- p. **Draft Amendments to our Room Tax Ordinance and Room Tax Town Procedures:** Mr. Ritter explained that there were two changes. The rental owner should apply for the room tax permit, not the rental manager. Secondly, the rental owner can collect the room tax, or the rental manager can collect the room tax, but the rental owner is ultimately responsible for the collection of the room tax. If the tax isn't paid, the town would go after the rental owner and not the rental manager. Finally," property manager" is being changed to "rental manager". Ms. Janssen said that it would be very time consuming changing the system. Motion Clark seconded Cooper to approve the changes Code of Ordinances Chapter 12 for adoption subject to public review and final adoption. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously. The ordinance requires that the treasurer notify the permittee of a delinquency within 10 days of the delinquency.

Mr. Ritter handed out a form for the property owner to apply for a permit and a form for the room tax payment to be made.

- q. Continuing Discussion on the Cleaning of the Community Center:** Mr. Ritter and Lois Ruediger have come up with a schedule for cleaning the community center. Mr. Christensen thought that the board could find a cleaning service.
- r. Reorganization of Room 5, Community Center:** Ms. Janssen suggested cleaning room #5. Mr. Christensen thought that the board should wait until after the meeting on Wednesday to see what is decided about the building.
- s. Board Members Attending upcoming Wisconsin Towns Association District Meeting:** Mr. Christensen noted that money is in the budget if any board member who wants to attend WTA meetings.

10. Next Regular Town Board Meeting Date – Monday, February 10, 2020, 6:30 PM, Community Center

11. Adjourn: Mr. Christensen adjourned the meeting at 10:10 P.M.

Town Clerk

Chairman Supervisor Supervisor

Supervisor Supervisor