

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

www.townofstgermain.org

MINUTES TOWN BOARD MEETING: FEBRUARY 10, 2020

1. **Call to Order:** The chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 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, Tom Martens, town clerk. There were also 11 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, February 8, 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 January 13, 2020, and January 15, 2020, town board meetings are approved as written. By a voice vote, motion carried unanimously 5 – 0.
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:** Mr. Martens asked the board if he should forward the notice from Personnel Concepts concerning labor law posters for the town shop to Tim Ebert. The board agreed that Mr. Ebert should order the forms.
7. **Report of the Standing Committees:**
 - a. **Independence Day Celebration Committee:** Mr. Ritter noted that the committee had met, but it did not have a quorum. Roll was taken and the meeting was closed.
 - b. **Lakes Committee:** Mr. Ritter had nothing to report.
 - c. **Non-Motorized Recreational Trails Committee:** Mr. Swenson noted that over 100 people attended the snowshoe event. The candlelight event will be held this weekend at the Awassa Trail.
 - d. **Parks and Recreation Committee:** Mr. Clark said that the committee would be meeting next month.
 - e. **Zoning:** Mr. Ritter stated that the committee was working on the Comprehensive Plan (formerly Land Use Plan). In March they will be looking at the maps. Once completed, there will need to be a public hearing on the plan.
8. **Report from Lake Districts and Other Organizations:** Mr. Christensen stated that the Little St. Germain District had met and discussed normal business. One of the aeration pipes has been hit by a boat twice in the past three years. The district is applying for a permit to put one more buoy near the pipe. The district is also preparing for chemical treatment and possibly hand pulling of invasive weeds. The lake will be drained several inches to help with the phosphorus issue. The district is looking for a new treasurer. Mr. Ritter reported that the Lost Lake District is preparing for chemical treatment for curly pond leaf and that the milfoil is advancing rapidly. There will be a second treatment for milfoil.
9. **Discussion /Action Items:**
 - a. **Payment of Bills:** Motion Swenson seconded Cooper that general account checks 26730-26787 (with \$711.11 for Mid-State Trucking to come from the insurance proceeds), golf course checks 16411 – 16431 and payroll checks DD20-46 – DD20-93 be paid. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously.
 - b. **Chairman's Report:**
 1. **Public Works:** Mr. Christensen stated that MSA would be publishing bid notices for the pavilion roof on February 19, 2020. The bids are due by March 5, 2020 to be reviewed by MSA. The town board will approve the final bid at the regular meeting on March 9, 2020. The interior of the pavilion roof will be refinished after Labor Day so that the wood has a

chance to dry out. The fire department roof will be done in May or June. The salt shed will be repaired at the same time, unless it interferes with the flea market, when it would be done in the fall. Mr. Christensen also reported that the International Truck had been fixed and that the crew has been pushing back snowbanks.

2. **Golf Course:** Mr. Christensen reported that the committee had met and talked about the upcoming repairs on the six greens. Ms. Rogers Anderson said that the work would have to be done after September 20, 2020.

c. Treasurer's Report:

1. Bank Account Balances: Balance General Account as of 01-31-2020: \$111,843.88; Room Tax Account \$47,348.68; Lakes Committee Account \$21,749.57; Skateboard Park Fund \$2,848.92; Bike & Hike Trail \$59,345.32; mBank Money Market \$2,174,322.75; Playground Equipment Fund \$1,502.15; Public Works Equipment Fund \$60,068.00; Fire Department Restricted Account \$37,117.93; Fireworks Donation Account \$1,687.21; Hometown Bank Ambulance Acct \$9,414.59; Fern Ridge Trail Savings \$4,808.79; Road Work Savings \$243,870.50; Community Development Account \$48,333.05; Golf Course General Account \$139,017.43; St. Germain Ambulance Fund \$300.00; Awassa Trail Fund Savings \$11,120.09; Fire Dept. Donation Account \$41,729.54.

- d. **Consider Adopting Revisions to Chapter 12 – Accommodations Tax, Code of Ordinances:** Mr. Ritter questioned the board if there had been any outside comments concerning the revisions to Chapter 12. There had not, but Ms. Janssen had brought up legislative changes that had been made. Motion Ritter seconded Cooper not to adopt the revisions to Chapter 12 at this time, but to look at the legislative changes and how they would affect the ordinance. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously.
- e. **Consider a Draft Resolution Seeking Elector Approval to Transfer Ownership of the Lost Creek Dam Land Parcel from the Town to the Lost Lake District:** Mr. Ritter reported that Vilas County had transferred the dam to the Lost Lake District. The district had paid for a survey of the property around the dam. It currently is owned by the town. The survey determined that the parcel is 1650 sq. ft. Mr. Ritter had drafted a resolution for transferring the property to be presented at the April 21, 2020 elector meeting. Motion Ritter seconded Clark that Resolution SG20-04-2, a resolution asking for Elector Approval of Lost Creek Land Parcel Transfer from Town to Lost Lake District, be approved to be put on the agenda of the April 21, 2020 elector meeting. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously. The clerk is to post and publish the resolution prior to the elector meeting.
- f. **Renewal of the Beaver Removal Program administered by Vilas County for Calendar Year 2020:** Motion Christensen seconded Cooper to participate in the Vilas County Highway Department's beaver removal program for 2020 at a cost of \$400. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously.
- g. **Renewal of the Deer Removal Program administered by Vilas County for Calendar Year 2020:** Motion Christensen seconded Cooper to participate in the Vilas County Highway Department's deer removal (from town roads) program at a cost of \$250. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously.
- h. **Consider a Request from the Non-Motorized Recreational Trails Committee to File a Grant Request for a New Mountain Bike Trail on the Fern Ridge Property:** Motion Clark seconded Cooper that the town board support the request from the non-motorized trails committee to file a grant request with the DNR for a 50%-50% grant, for a new mountain bike trail on the Fern Ridge property, at a cost of up to \$25,000 to the town. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously.
- i. **Consider Board Member Concerns over the Content of the Town of St. Germain Newsletter that is published by the Town Treasurer and Delivered with the Property Tax Bill:** Motion Cooper seconded Swenson to table item 9i until such time when Ms. Janssen is present. By a voice vote: Yes – 4; No – 1. Motion carried.
- j. **Consider Input from the Town Lake Districts and Association concerning the Vilas County Shoreland Zoning Change that Allows for Larger Boat Houses:** Marv Anderson stated that Vilas County Zoning had received a proposal for increasing the size of a boathouse from a

maximum of 300 Sq. ft. to 720 sq. ft. The boathouse could be built a minimum of 35 feet from the highwater mark. The lake lot had to be 150 ft. wide. The side of the boathouse facing the lake could be a maximum of 24 feet wide. There would have to be a 20-foot side yard setback. There must be a principle dwelling on the lot. A mitigation permit would be required. The slope to the lake could be no more than 20%. Mr. Anderson added that so far, six of the fourteen towns in the county have sent letters in opposition. Mr. Ritter said that Vilas County held a public hearing on December 5, 2019. Other than by the two supervisors from St. Germain, St. Germain was not represented. Don Baumann said that the Big St. Germain Lake District drafted a letter to Vilas County on December 29, 2019 against the boathouse proposal. Bob Schell stated that the Found Lake Association did the same thing on January 17, 2020. Milt Klingsporn said that the Alma-Moon Lake District sent a letter to the Vilas County Board opposed to the proposal adding that once something like that gains momentum, it can't be stopped. Len Larson a property owner on Moon Lake stated that the boathouses would hinder the line of sight of neighbors and that he couldn't see anything positive with it. Motion Cooper seconded Ritter that Mr. Ritter draft a letter for Mr. Christensen's signature to Vilas County opposing any boathouse amendment. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously. Marv Anderson suggested that the letter be sent to the two county board supervisors from St. Germain and also to the Vilas County Clerk so that he could distribute them to the county board. Mr. Ritter said that it probably be an email with a letter attached.

- k. Review the Recent Decision-Making Process Concerning Town Resolutions that Would Require an Elector Referendum:** Paul Novorolsky had sent an email to Mr. Christensen stating that he was disappointed that at the January 13, 2020 regular town board meeting, the town board had made a decision to include referendum questions on the April 7, 2020 ballot concerning the 2nd Amendment Sanctuary and Redistricting by a non-political entity, but then at the January 22, 2020 special town board meeting a decision was made to not place the questions on the ballot. Mr. Novorolsky thought that the board should have given notice that the January 13, 2020 decision was going to be overturned so that the public could give its opinion. Mr. Ritter stated that he thought that the board needed to make a decision as to what items it should stay away from. Mr. Christensen noted that he didn't feel that it was his place to determine whether or not a request for an agenda item should be killed or not. Fred Williston from the Lakeland Times said that the St. Germain town board is one of the most open town boards that he has seen.
- l. Consider who pays for the Replacement of Damaged Fire Number Signs and Requests for Additional Fire Number Signs:** Motion Cooper seconded Swenson that the town will pay for replacing a fire number sign that is damaged by the town, but that signs damaged by the snow or a request for a second sign are to be paid for by the property owner. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously
- m. Consider the Verbal Request to re-open the Suspended Zoning Map Revision Application of January 18, 2019:** Mr. Ritter noted that a zoning map revision application dated 1/18/2019, reviewed by the zoning committee on 1/23/2019, posted and published on 1/26/2019, and suspended by the applicant on 2/5/2019 had been requested to be reopened by the applicant on 1/28/2020. Mr. Christensen said that in his opinion it is new application requiring new fees. It was the consensus of the board that the matter should be forwarded to Attorney Steve Garbowicz. Motion Ritter seconded Christensen to inform the applicant that the process needs to be started over with new application fees. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously
- n. Continuing Discussion Concerning the Town Financial Audit:** Mr. Swenson handed out audit proposals from Anderson-Metz in Minocqua and KerberRose in Shawano. Both proposals were in the range of \$8,000. Motion Cooper seconded Swenson to engage with Peterson Metz for an audit of the town's 2019 financial records. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously
- o. Consider Liquor and Bartender Application Approvals:** Motion Cooper seconded Swenson to approve an operator's license for Pamela Miller. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously
- p. Consider Bid Results for the First Phase of Found Lake and Dean Road Repair/Reconstruction:** Motion Cooper seconded Swenson to accept the bid from Pitlik & Wick

for the first phase of Found Lake and Dean Road repair/reconstruction for \$469,649.20. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously

10. Next Regular Town Board Meeting Date – Monday, March 9, 2020, 6:30 PM, Community Center. There will be a special town board meeting held on Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. in the Community Center.

11. Adjourn: Mr. Christensen adjourned the meeting at 9:37 P.M.

Town Clerk

Chairman Supervisor Supervisor

Supervisor Supervisor