

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

www.townofstgermain.org

MINUTES TOWN BOARD MEETING: MARCH 9, 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, Marion Janssen, town treasurer, Tom Martens, town clerk. There were also 16 other people in attendance. Brian Cooper arrived at 7:12 P.M.
4. **Open Meeting Verification:** Mr. Christensen noted that he had posted the meeting agenda at three locations in town on Saturday, March 7, 2020 before 6:30 P.M.
5. **Read and Approve Minutes of Past Meetings:** Motion Ritter seconded Swenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes and that the minutes of the January 22, 2020, and February 27, 2020, town board meetings are approved as written. By a voice vote, motion carried unanimously 4 – 0. Mr. Ritter said that he had not received the minutes from the February 10, 2020 regular town board meeting. The minutes would be approved at the next meeting.
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:** Paul Novorolsky complimented the committee on the candlelight event at the Awassa Trail. He also asked about the rumors about Golden Pines becoming a gentleman's club. Brian Siekierzynski. said that he had done some research and that there were things that the town board could do to curtail such a business.
7. **Report of the Standing Committees:**
 - a. **Independence Day Celebration Committee:** Mr. Ritter had nothing to report.
 - b. **Lakes Committee:** Mr. Ritter had nothing to report.
 - c. **Non-Motorized Recreational Trails Committee:** Mr. Swenson noted that around 240 people had attended the candlelight event at the Awassa Trail.
 - d. **Parks and Recreation Committee:** Mr. Clark said that the committee had met. The committee will be meeting with irrigation people when the snow melts.
 - e. **Zoning:** Mr. Ritter had nothing to report.
8. **Report from Lake Districts and Other Organizations:** There were no reports.
9. **Discussion /Action Items:**
 - a. **Payment of Bills:** Motion Swenson seconded Cooper that general account checks 26788-26832 (with the exception of #26820 to Milton Propane & the additional bills from the fire department), golf course checks 16432– 16447 and payroll checks DD20-99 – DD20-147 be paid. By a voice vote: Yes – 4; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously.
 - b. **Chairman's Report:**
 1. **Public Works:** Mr. Christensen said that most of what he had to say would be discussed later in the agenda.
 2. **Golf Course:** Mr. Christensen again said that most of what he had to say would be discussed later in the agenda.
 - c. **Treasurer's Report:**
 1. **Bank Account Balances:** Balance General Account as of 02-29-2020: \$16,081.55; Room Tax Account \$20,910.57; Lakes Committee Account \$21,750.40; Skateboard Park Fund \$2,849.03; Bike & Hike Trail \$59,347.60; mBank Money Market \$251,532.90; Playground Equipment Fund \$1,502.21; Public Works Equipment Fund \$60,070.30; Fire Department Restricted Account \$37,119.35; Fireworks Donation Account \$1,687.27; Hometown Bank

Ambulance Acct \$11,172.43; Fern Ridge Trail Savings \$5,036.98; Road Work Savings \$236,879.69; Community Development Account \$49,294.94; Golf Course General Account \$130,605.51; St. Germain Ambulance Fund \$547.27; Awassa Trail Fund Savings \$11,738.53; Fire Dept. Donation Account \$41,781.14.

- d. **Approve for adoption Chapter 18 – Cemetery, Code of Ordinances:** Motion Ritter seconded Cooper that Chapter 18-Cemetery, of the St. Germain Code of Ordinances be approved for adoption and to initiate the public comment process. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously.
- e. **Review draft Chapter 19 – Boating on Town Lakes prior to WDNR review for approval:** Mr. Ritter explained that neither the WDNR nor Vilas County would enforce a local ordinance. However, both could issue warning tickets. Mr. Ritter added that he had talked to Sheriff Fath about the town paying for a deputy who would only patrol the lakes in St. Germain. The funds would come from the various lake districts and associations. Sheriff Fath is interested and will provide a projected cost. Motion Ritter seconded Swenson to approve Chapter 19-Boating on Town Lakes, of the St. Germain Code of Ordinances for adoption pending review by the WDNR. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously.
- f. **Review Fourth Quarter Chamber Room Tax Report:** Mr. Christensen handed out the fourth quarter chamber room tax report. There were no questions or comments.
- g. **Approve the appointment of Cookie Lough to the St. Germain Housing Authority to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Francine Byrnes. Her appointment will expire September 1, 2024:** Motion Christensen seconded Clark to appoint Cookie Lough to the St. Germain Housing Authority to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Francine Byrnes for a term that will expire on September 1, 2024. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously.
- h. **Approve new contract with the ADRC of Vilas County replacing the expired contract with the Vilas County Commission on Aging for usage of our Community Center:** Motion Cooper seconded Swenson to approve the contract with the ADRC of Vilas County as presented. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously.
- i. **Discussion concerning our Town Comprehensive Plan Maps:** Mr. Ritter noted that there were some questions concerning maps #3, #4, and #6. The board decided to remove Rearing Pond Road and Creek Road from the map. Sixteen Road in its entirety should remain on the map. Awassa Trail, Forest Drive, past the boat landing, Hemlock Lane, after the right -angle turn, Crosscut Road, and Trailhead Way should be added to the map. A non-metallic mine should be added at the end of Hermanson Road.
- j. **Discussion concerning cemetery sexton compensation:** Motion Ritter seconded Clark that effective May 1, 2020, the compensation for the sexton will be \$100 per month. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously.
- k. **Review draft letter informing electors of the April 7, 2020 election referendum questions:** Ms. Janssen stated that if the town treasurer becomes an appointed position, she will not seek another term. The statement concerning her position in the draft letter needed to be changes. Motion Ritter seconded Swenson to approve the referendum information letter with the changes, with the cost to be paid from line 101 of the town budget, town board, and that the letter be distributed to all qualified electors in the Town of St. Germain. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously.
- l. **Approve Room Tax Budget for calendar year 2020:** Ms. Janssen had prepared the room tax budget for 2020. Mr. Swenson asked that \$2,850 be allocated to the Independence Day Celebration.
 - 1. **Lake Committee request for funds:** Mr. Ritter requested that \$15,000 from the room tax proceeds be allocated to the Lakes Committee.
 - 2. **BoBoen Snowmobile Club request for funds:** Mr. Christensen noted that the Bo-Boen Snowmobile Club had requested that \$10,000 from the room tax proceeds be allocated to the club. The reason was the “erosion” of funds from funding raising events. Mr. Christensen told the board that most of the room tax collections during the winter are a result of the work of the

snowmobile club. Phil Monday questioned whether the Prime Timers would receive money from the town if their dance was a failure. Mr. Christensen stated that the Prime Timers don't contribute to the room tax collections. Mr. Ritter questioned what the money was going to be used for. The request letter did not specify any use. Motion Christensen seconded Swenson that the following additions be made to the room tax budget: \$10,000 be allocated to the Bo-Boen Snowmobile Club; \$2,850 be allocated to the Independence Day Celebration; \$15,000 be allocated to the Lakes Committee; and that the Community Development amount be lowered to \$29,495.24. By a voice vote: Yes – 4; No – 0. Mr. Cooper abstained. He arrived at the meeting during the middle of the discussion.

- m. Discussion concerning the Treasurer's Annual Newsletter included in the Property Tax Bill:** Ms. Janssen started the discussion by saying that she would not comment until she heard what complaints the board had. Mr. Clark stated that the response time for the ambulance listed in the newsletter as 20 minutes was incorrect. Mr. Christensen had comments, but stated that a solution to the problem would be for Ms. Janssen to have the board proof the letter before it was put into the tax envelopes. The board also asked that the cost be approved prior to the letters being printed.
- n. Approval of bartender and liquor licenses:** Mr. Martens noted that he was going to be refunding the money for the class B combination license that had been approved for Pub n Prime at the last meeting. Sue Wagner had informed Mr. Martens that the deal had not yet closed. Motion Cooper seconded Swenson that operator licenses be approved for Jonnathan King & Debra Brown at Pub n Prime and that an operator's license be approved for Jacqueline Jarvais at Wild Bear. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously
- o. Potential violation of the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12: Accommodations Tax, property owner John Williams:** Motion Christensen seconded Cooper item 9o of the agenda be tabled until the next regular meeting, waiting for a response from John Williams' attorney. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously
- p. Continuing discussion concerning the purchase of the Whitetail Inn located at the St. Germain Golf Course.:** Mr. Christensen noted that Carl Ruedebusch had told him that he would purchase the Whitetail Inn, if the town would enter into a long term lease with him with the intent that the town purchase the Whitetail Inn at the end of the lease. Mr. Christensen added that it would be cheaper for the town to purchase the Whitetail Inn on its own. Mr. Christensen also noted that when the town board had viewed the Whitetail Inn last year, numerous questions concerning the building had come up. Mr. Clark noted that many of the restaurants in town have had trouble staffing their businesses. Mr. Christensen added that golf pro, Margo Rogers Anderson, feels that the purchase of the Whitetail Inn would be necessary to move the golf course to the next level. Motion Cooper seconded Swenson to authorize Mr. Christensen to contact MSA engineering to get an estimate of the cost of doing due diligence on the condition of the building and the equipment. By a voice vote: Yes – 5; No – 0. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Martens asked if the due diligence would include the operation of the restaurant business. Mr. Christensen stated that it would not.
- q. Discussion concerning the installation of fiber optic cables in town to provide broad band service to town residents:** Mr. Christensen stated that he had talked to Carl Ruedebusch concerning the installation of fiber optic cables in town. Mr. Ruedebusch told Mr. Christensen that fiber optic cable had already been run to the elementary school. By connecting to that cable, the entire town could be serviced. Frontier has run fiber optic cable to the intersection of the Juve Road and Four Corner Lane, but from there to homes, the line goes back to copper. The new fiber optic cable from Choice Tel in Eagle River would run fiber optic cable into all of the customers homes or businesses in town. There would be a 50%-50% grant available. Mr. Christensen will tell Mr. Ruedebusch to proceed with cost estimates.
- r. Continuing discussion concerning the maintenance needs of our Town facilities and projected costs:** Agenda item 9r will be discussed at a later meeting.
- s. Consider a second regularly scheduled monthly Board meeting:** Mr. Christensen suggested that a second regular monthly town board meeting be scheduled for the fourth Monday of each month. Mr. Martens noted that if the meeting is a regular meeting, that if it is canceled, the

cancelation would need to be posted. Mr. Cooper and Mr. Clark stated that the fourth Monday would not work for them, at least for now. Mr. Christensen stated that, at least for now, the board will continue with special meetings.

10. Next Regular Town Board Meeting Date – Monday, April 13, 2020, 6:30 PM, Community Center.

11. Adjourn: Mr. Christensen adjourned the meeting at 9:53 P.M.

Town Clerk

Chairman Supervisor Supervisor

Supervisor Supervisor