

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
P.O. BOX 7
ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558
www.townofstgermain.org

MINUTES REGULAR SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING: February 25, 2021

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Tom Christensen called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call, Establish a Quorum:** Tim Clark, Ted Ritter, Tom Christensen, Brian Cooper, Jim Swenson and June Vogel town clerk are in Community Center room 4 with 2 community members. Marion Janssen town treasurer in attendance via Zoom.us with 5 community members attending via Zoom.us.
4. **Open Meeting Verification:** Mr Christensen noted that he had posted the meeting agenda at three locations in town on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 before 6:30 pm.
5. **Citizen's Comments – Citizens are encouraged to share their concerns and ideas with the Board. Please limit your comments to five minutes or less.**
6. **Discussion /Action Items:**
 - a. **Update on the cost of the new street signs approved at the February 8, 2021 Town Board Meeting.** Previous estimate of \$10,400.00 to get all the street signs in town the same. It was brought to Brian's attention that we need less signs and at a different size. The estimate now reflects a change to less signs and smaller signs to match the signs on the interior of town to \$6500.00. Money was coming from Community Development. Motion by Cooper to update adjusted cost for street signs to \$6500.00 from \$10,400.00 to come from Community Development; second Swenson. Discussion none. Clark – yes, Ritter – yes, Christensen – yes, Cooper – yes, Swenson – yes. Per Tom Stoltman, reflective tape is used only on poles on the highway and county roads.
 - b. **Consider adding approximately 10 new outlets to power poles and purchasing approximately 10 new Christmas lights.** Looking at adding 10 new outlets on 5 poles going towards ER on 70 ending at Northwoods Rest Motel and west on 70 towards Arbor Vitae ending right before Christmas Tree Lane. WPS charges \$200.00 each to put outlets on the poles, \$2000.00. Cost of 10 more Christmas lights is about \$4000.00. Total is \$6000.00 for 10 more 10 more outlets and 10 more Christmas lights. There is \$1500.00 in Christmas Decoration/Flag fund. Motion by Cooper that \$6000.00 for Christmas lights and accompanying outlets on 10 poles with entirety of funds coming from Room Tax; second Swenson. Discussion none. Clark – yes, Ritter – yes, Christensen – yes, Cooper – yes, Swenson – yes
 - c. **Adopt amended policy concerning the use of rooms 4 & 5.** Mr Ritter read the amended policy. Motion that this be held until after election of April 6, 2021; second Clark. Discussion: Why the delay? Want the policy to read elected officials only. Clark – yes, Ritter – yes, Christensen – yes, Cooper – yes, Swenson – yes
 - d. **Consider amending Chapter 29 - Attending Meetings from A Remote Location.** Revisions presented and discussed. Discussion on town board or its committee member may participate remotely and rooms 4 and 5 not available to community members without an elected official. Could the meeting take place in room 2 and 3. Motion by Ritter to table this until a future town board meeting; second Clark. Discussion: Can we discuss what needs to be changed tonight with changes presented at next meeting? Will be on next meeting to discuss changes. Clark – yes, Ritter – yes, Christensen – yes, Cooper – yes, Swenson – yes
 - e. **Zoom Room Scheduling.** Conflicts with using Zoom room with two meetings at the same time. Zoom room can have its own calendar. Zoom room management is handled through the log in. Have to figure out how all board members can schedule and keep calendar.

Motion by Ritter that this be tabled until more information is available; second Clark.
Discussion none. Clark – yes, Ritter – yes, Christensen – yes, Cooper – yes, Swenson – yes

- f. Approve mountain bike trail contract for Fern Ridge Recreational Area.** There were 3 responses for bids, one emailed stating would not bid; received 2 bids. Flowtrack bid for 5 miles of trail includes design, building and mapping out \$228,150.00. Travis Bellman Home and Trail bid for 4-5 miles of trail includes design, building and mapping of \$66,177.00 and able to build, starting in August 2021. Committee will clear corridor, which helps with the cost. Both provided latest project information. Certificate of insurance in hand for Travis Bellman, Flowtrack will provide if requested. Length of miles can be adjusted to make budget with Travis Bellman bid. Recommendation from Hike and Bike trail to go with Travis Bellman Home and Trail bid. Motion by Cooper to approve Travis Bellman Home and Trail Fern Ridge mountain bike trail estimate of \$66,177.00 as presented with the knowledge that the Hike and Bike committee is working on fundraising to make up the \$16,000.00 difference; second Swenson. Discussion none. Clark – yes, Ritter – yes, Christensen – yes, Cooper – yes, Swenson – yes
- g. Review Poll Workers wages and filing requirements.** Poll workers will now complete W4 per town accountant. Mr Martens was paying poll workers in lump sums; \$50.00, \$100.00 and \$200.00. Surrounding towns currently paying \$9.00-\$15.50. Some towns pay chief inspector more. Plum Lakes pays them 14 hours to work 12 hours. Arbor Vitae provides lunch and dinner. Suggest to pay poll workers \$14.00-\$15.00 with no differentiating fee for chief inspector, continue to provide lunch and dinner. Motion by Cooper that poll workers wages be set at \$15.00 per hour, retroactive February 16, 2021; second Swenson. Discussion none. Clark – yes, Ritter – yes, Christensen – yes, Cooper – yes, Swenson – yes
- h. 2021 Budget review and any necessary changes.** 2021 budget presented. No budget adjustments that need to be discussed and/or approved.
- i. Approve alcohol related licenses.** Motion by Cooper to approve bartender license for Stephanie Chapman as presented; second Swenson. Discussion none. Clark – yes, Ritter – yes, Christensen – yes, Cooper – yes, Swenson – yes.
- j. Update on the Pending Fiber Optic Project to bring Fiber Optic Internet Service to all Residences and Businesses in Town.** Ted from ChoiceTel believes we should hear about grant approval in 3-4 weeks, decision was delayed due to objection and response period being extended. Currently 99 users have signed up for the service. Tom spoke with Denise from Peoples State Bank on how to structure loan with leaving the levy along. She mentioned a draw loan, Tom to do research on it. It can be a 3-year draw loan and then structured over a longer period of time once we get to the end of 3 years. Interest is paid as money is drawn, not for the full amount. Vilas County supervisor indicated that the Vilas County Economic Development Corporation submitted a proposal for \$1 to \$10 million over 5 years as a Broadband Expansion Grant Fund to Vilas County to designate money for broadband expansion throughout the county. Possibility if the town received the grant the amount of money could be \$250,000.00 less than what St Germain is needing.
- k. Fiber Optic installation to property on the south side of Hwy 70 in Newbold.** Residents on the south side of Hwy 70 are not included in ChoiceTel fiber optic project for the town (Walker Equipment, Rustic Manor, David Weber, Bruce Weber, Spangs etc). Looking at ways to make it accessible and to include them since they are so close to the fiberoptic line going in. Base it on assessed value (on \$1.2 million) and charge accordingly; owed to St Germain residents that they see the grant benefits if that comes to fruition. Proceeds of these residents needs to go back against the project. Installation of fiberoptic would be on the St Germain side of Hwy 70 and then run secondary across 70 and then along south side to connect properties. The Town of Newbold residents should not take precedent to Town of St Germain residents. Tom will present proposal to each of properties with letter stating details to these property owners.
- l. Financial Reports for the Website.** No requirement to put financials on website other than for levy. Some towns put up proposed budget or final approved budget. Discussion on what to include on our website for financials. Budget and year to date, update monthly. Tom will put together projection of what reports will look like on website. Motion to table Ritter to the next meeting; second Cooper. Discussion none. Clark – yes, Ritter – yes, Christensen – yes, Cooper – yes, Swenson – yes.

- m. **Approval of past meeting minutes.** Motion by Swenson to approve minutes of Town Board Meeting of 02/08/2021; second Cooper. Discussion none. Clark – yes, Ritter – yes, Christensen – yes, Cooper – yes, Swenson – yes.
- n. **Payment of Bills** Motion by Clark to pay bills as presented; second Cooper. Discussion none. Clark – yes, Ritter – yes, Christensen – yes, Cooper – yes, Swenson – yes.

7. **Report of the Standing Committees**

- a. **Independence Day Celebration Committee** The committee selected Women’s Service Club to sponsor the craft fair. Fire Dept is not having water fights. Committee is attempting to work with Northland Pines High School and the clubs that are in need of providing community service hours to walk parade route to help provide safety. Meeting monthly with plans are underway for 2021 event.
- b. **Lakes Committee** Have begun meeting again. Pleased with virtual attendance. Committee in final stages of 2-year grant management project. Goals: 1) Town Lakes Committee help Lake Organizations explore idea of developing fishery management plans of primary lakes. 2) Committee to increase the enforcement of boating and shoreline protection laws.
- c. **Non-Motorized Recreational Trails Committee** Trails at Fern Ridge and Awassa have been getting used. Groomed Awassa last Friday. Given current conditions, will see if they get groomed again. Added feeding birds at Awassa. The school had a day out on Awassa trail. Library will introduce a new book on the walk. Bike trail has a spot along Lost Creek near C and Big St Germain drive, washed out area. That is on radar to repair in spring. Grant has been signed, sent and recorded for Fern Ridge, waiting for first half of check. Joint meeting on Tuesday, March 2 at 6:45 pm between ATV club and nonmotorized committee regarding section of trail down by Cathy’s Ice Cream.
- d. **Parks and Recreation Committee** Will start meeting again in March.
- e. **Zoning Committee** 2020 income/expenses presented. Total permit income was \$19,921.00, expenses total \$11,174.00, profit of \$8747.00 to be in the general account. Responded to request by Bruce Weber for two parcels, currently each zoned differently. Scheduled to begin reviewing draft of revision of land ordinance. Discussion on possible restrictions on cargo containers; should they be regulated or not.
- f. **Sexually Oriented Business Committee** The committee will likely recommend to town that they adopt an off-premises sign ordinance.

8. **Reports from Lake Districts and Other Organizations** Update on Little St Germain aerators. Request to those who serve as commissioners to remember that the town has a lake committee and the lake organizations have identified who represents lakes committee; have them report what is going on.

9. **Adjourn:** Mr Christensen adjourned the meeting at 8:56 pm

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