

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: March 8, 2021

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Tom Christensen called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 13 community members. Marion Janssen town treasurer in attendance via Zoom.us with 16 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 Saturday, March 6, 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.** Verified that agenda item 6i is about Hwy 70.
Terry Duke – regarding the presentation the week prior by the ATV club for expansion on shared usage from Holiday Drive east to Parkway Road. Concern – potential safety risk to visually impaired pedestrians or other commuters. Should have detectable warning systems at Holiday Drive east to Parkway Road; ADA detectable warnings. Without safety device, leaving pedestrians vulnerable to traffic and themselves. Showed a demonstration on tactile stimulation. Very important to understand the safety features.

Marv Anderson – Wisconsin County Assoc had a zoom meeting about legislation action re COVID law and money allocated on bill (state \$3 billion). Vilas County would be allowed over \$4 million. Broadband discussion came up at Marv's meeting. These funds would likely not be able to be applied to broadband as St Germain is applying for grant money, based upon review of allocation.
6. **Discussion /Action Items:**
 - a. **Consider amending Chapter 29 - Attending Meetings from A Remote Location** Discussion by board and there were no questions. Motion by Ritter that Chapter 29 Town Procedures, 29.06 Attending Meetings from Remote Location be adopted as presented; second Clark. Discussion none. Swenson – yes, Cooper – yes, Christensen – yes, Ritter – yes, Clark - yes.
 - b. **Consider applying for a grant to fund a 50' corridor for bike trail expansion to Half Mile Rd.** Consider applying for Stewardship 50/50 grant, deadline May 1, 2021, to expand to Half Mile Road; would serve Half Mile Road and Indian Woods neighborhoods. Figures are \$160,000 to \$200,000 for expansion. Would need a resolution to go forward. If grant awarded, would town funds be available to offset it. Discussion on safety of bike trail with ATV trail, town road work, loans needing payment, Fern Ridge project. If committee applies now and gets grant, not sure where matching funds would come from. Will look at this again in a year to see if town board wants to proceed.
 - c. **Zoom Room Scheduling.** Creating a calendar for zoom room is quite a project. Easiest solution is the town board shares the same log on to schedule meeting. Everyone will sign in with the same account.
 - d. **2021 Budget review and any necessary changes.** Marion will check property tax refunds. Expense side will be off due to the amounts less than \$1.00 not be refunded. Town and Golf Course have carry over amounts to be allocated. Discussion: Carry over, all or some. 1) Earmark for ordinance enforcement; having someone to enforce ordinances with responsibility for looking at noncompliance issues and violator working to resolve. Attorney Garbowicz is supportive of this process. 2) Basketball courts. Potential of removing old pavillion and using concrete as court. A master plan was going to be developed. 3) Vandervort Park. 4) Insurance money for spouses, later discussion on agenda.

- e. **Fire Chief's Report.** Fire Chief not available.
- f. **Pending Fiber Optic Project to bring Fiber Optic Internet Service to all Residences and Businesses in Town.** Main installation to take place in spring is the cable, scheduled to be delivered May 13, 2021. Now over 150 users signed up.
- g. **Fiber Optic installation to property on the south side of Hwy 70 in Newbold.** Tammy Schmidt and staff of Pier of d'Nort (town of Newbold), International headquarters in St Germain are excited about opportunity to join in on the fiber optic installation and internet opportunity, sooner than later. Discussion on order town will be completed with ChoiceTel to come up with progression of installation. Town board to present prioritization of areas. Formula for cost to properties on the South side of Hwy 70 to be at a future meeting.
- h. **Insurance coverage for spouses of Town Employees.** Employees looking for spousal coverage. No town employee here to discuss. Motion by Cooper to table until future meeting; second Swenson. Discussion none. Swenson – yes, Cooper – yes, Christensen – yes, Ritter – yes, Clark - yes.
- i. **ATV/UTV Trail across from Cathy's Ice Cream and the Mobile Station.** Nonmotorized met with ATV to discuss proposal. Proposal to have ATVs using 950' section. Christensen spoke with Attorney Garbowicz regarding easements. Will forward to him to sort out and make recommendation. Leslie Hiller asking about properties in bottle neck area, which properties will require easements; across Jim Austin's (30' piece of property), widen easement across John Vojta north property, widen easement across John Vojta's south property and 29 September property. Jim will give easement and John and Adam will allow them to widen easement. Will there be signs to allow vehicles to know ATVs will be crossing at the south side of Bruce's property? Speed limit for ATVs is 35 mph, making this a 10 mph corridor. Easements will be in the name of the town. Town insurance agent is already aware of this topic. If there were an incident the town is held responsible, the town will be covered by the insurance. The insurance company may well not be comfortable with the multipurpose bottle neck, if there were multiple incidents the town would have to deal with it. As it stands, the insurance company says to do the best you can do keep that safe. There is great concern how unsafe this bottleneck area will become. ATV/UTV route ordinance adopted in 2016, 30.06f. If this is not safe, town has authority to shut the trail off. Need to work together to make this work, with the understanding that if it cannot work, the town can shut it off. Nothing discussed about how it will be detrimental to some businesses; noise and dust. Need to keep a balance for businesses on both sides of town.
- j. **Approval of past meeting minutes.** Motion by Clark to approve minutes of Town Board Meeting of 02/25/2021 as presented; second Swenson. Discussion none. Swenson – yes, Cooper – yes, Christensen – yes, Ritter – yes, Clark - yes.
- k. **Cemetery Sexton's Report** Two inquiries about burials in spring and one inquiry about plot sales when snow melts.
- l. **Treasurer's Report** General Fund \$49,949.89; Room Tax Account \$16,930.83; Lakes Committee Account \$6207.25; Skateboard Park Fund \$2850.36; Bike & Hike Trail \$55,437.82; mBank Money Market \$313,749.23; Playground Equipment Fund \$1502.90; Public Works Equipment Fund \$17.25; Fire Department Restricted Account \$800.74; Fireworks Donation Account \$1788.25; Hometown Bank Ambulance Acct \$11,998.94; Fern Ridge Trail Savings \$11,291.16; Road Work Savings \$249,315.30; Cemetery Savings Account \$75,137.36; Community Development Account \$78,942.08; Golf Course General Account \$248,010.22; St. Germain Ambulance Fund \$7468.26; Awassa Trail Fund Savings \$3523.91; Fire Dept Donation Account \$838.35.
- m. **Payment of Bills** Motion by Cooper to approve the bills as presented except for check 27596 to Coopers Dam Lake Auto and Cycle ; second Swenson. Discussion none. Swenson – yes, Cooper – yes, Christensen – yes, Ritter – yes, Clark - yes. Motion by Swenson to pay check 27596 to Coopers Dam Lake Auto and Cycle; second Clark. Discussion none. Swenson – yes, Cooper – abstain, Christensen – yes, Ritter – yes, Clark - yes.

7. **Report of the Standing Committees**
- a. **Independence Day Celebration Committee** Meeting on a monthly basis.
 - b. **Lakes Committee** Nothing new to report. Meeting later in March.
 - c. **Non-Motorized Recreational Trails Committee** Nothing new to report since last report. Meeting on March 10, 2021.
 - d. **Parks and Recreation Committee** Scheduling a meeting for next week.
 - e. **Zoning Committee** Very productive meeting last week. March 25, 2021 to review updated Land Division platting condominium ordinance.
 - f. **Sexually Oriented Business Committee** Meeting March 11, 2021. Close to recommending to town board draft off premises sign ordinance.
8. **Reports from Lake Districts and Other Organizations** Update on Little Saint aerator in South Bay. Big Saint has not met.
9. **Adjourn:** Mr Christensen adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm

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<hr/> Chairman	<hr/> Supervisor	<hr/> Supervisor
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