

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

MINUTES REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING: September 15, 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:** Kalisa Mortag, Ted Ritter, Tom Christensen, Brian Cooper, Jim Swenson along with Jeanna Vogel town treasurer and June Vogel town clerk are in Community Center room 4 with 14 community members. 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 Tuesday, September 14, 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.**

James Klopotic – Moon Road resident. Would like to see rescinding the blanket ban on steel storage containers, there are ways to make them look nice. He would like a shipping container to facilitate moving up here, use for business and would not be in site. Would like to see protocols in place and site inspection prior to allowing shipping containers on properties.

Jack Klotz – Lumberjack Tree Service on Hwy 70, there for over 30 years. Business was a recipient of the shipping container letter. Already has 2 shipping containers on business property on the back, there about 2 years; using for everyday operation. Asking for help to resolve this issue vs him having to get rid of shipping container; he would like to see a solution for this.
6. **Cemetery Sexton's Report** No update from Greg Maines on estimate for survey/estimates; have sent an email to followup. One cremation and one full size burial. Shout out to Aaron Becker for stepping in when DPW was not available to dig grave. Will be adding to the agenda at another meeting how to handle opening/closing graves in the future with the goal to avoid last minute changes in DPW staffing. The pinecones in the cemetery make it difficult for older people walking around and looking at plots. Asking for fall clean up this year.
7. **Discussion /Action Items:**
 - a. **Payment of the bills.** Motion by Swenson to approve bills as presented with exception of 27964; second Cooper. Discussion none. By voice vote; all in favor. Motion by Swenson to approve check 27964 as presented; second Mortag. Discussion none. By voice vote; 4 in favor, 1 abstain.
 - b. **Approve Alcohol Related Licenses.** Motion by Cooper to approve operator's license as presented; second Mortag. Discussion none. By voice vote; all in favor.
 - c. **Approval of past meeting minutes.** Motion by Cooper to approve minutes of August 26th as presented; second Swenson. Discussion none. By voice vote; 4 in favor, 1 abstain. Motion by Cooper to approve minutes of September 2nd as presented; second Cooper. By voice vote; all in favor.
 - d. **Peterson Road Update.** Checked with MSA on Monday, September 13th. Numerous employee changes, behind in work and they are still working on it. MSA is scheduled to work on the project next week, will keep it moving forward. Video shown of water wash out from Vonasek property. Pictures shown from Peterson garage of continuous water running from a hose; this was turned off. Is it an option to have Peterson road graded? DPW will do what they are able to help with the ruts/erosion.
 - e. **Compensation for Golf Course employees performing DPW duties as a matter of last resort.** Discussion on what to pay golf course employee for opening a grave. Sexton suggested \$200.00 for services of stepping in and going above and beyond. Cooper suggested same price as what is transferred to DPW for opening a grave which is \$90.00. Motion by Christensen to pay Aaron Becker a \$200.00 stipend for opening up a grave from cemetery funds; second Swenson. Discussion: Controversy of DPW budget line as they are reimbursed \$90.00. Discussed whether this should be paid out of cemetery funds or DPW funds. By voice vote; all in favor.

- f. **Adopt revised Code of Ordinances – Chapter 30, ATV/UTV Routes.** Noticed and posted appropriately. Phil Monday spoke – ATV/UTV should not be allowed on establish state highway. Stated the town board pushes through special interests that groups have. Phil gave 5 facts from DNR about ATV/UTV. He feels public safety is not a high priority in this town. Anne Seidl, agrees with Phil. She feels speed limit should be lowered in town but not for ATV/UTV. Clerk received email from Ronald Puetz – he is in favor of this change. Have we received communication back from DOT stating we have not met requirements? Mr Cooper has not received anything back from DOT stating recommendations are not met. Terry Duke – asked with response from the DOT, was lowering the speed the only thing asked of the town or were there other recommendations from DOT? Recent speed study done by DOT and town board members did not make this request. Terry asked for DOT for pedestrian signage at Cathy's/Red Canoe/gas station to alert motorists that pedestrians use that section to cross Hwy 70. Bob Schell – this will eliminate shared trail with ATV/UTV and hike/bike trail. He feels this is a great alternative rather than having combined trails. ATVs currently using bike path because they cannot get through town. Motion by Ritter that Code of Ordinances - Chapter 30 ATV/UTV Routes amendment be adopted as presented; second Cooper. Discussion: Will there be pedestrian signage? DOT will not put pedestrian signs up because there is not a legal crossing there. Many factors to meet and this section of road does not meet those; line of site, sidewalk. By voice vote; all in favor.
- g. **Consider Zoning Committees recommendation to change Code of Ordinances - Chapter 1, Zoning Section 1.409 pertaining to shipping containers.** Upon adopting prohibition of shipping containers, zoning committee informed board of 2 property owners who have shipping containers and letters were sent; one to Klotz and one to Ahlborn. Mr Ahlborn responded to clerk and then Mr Ritter spoke with him. Ahlborn uses shipping containers for international import/export business, keeps on hand for business needs to ship. Provision to be made for containers to be used as intended. Zoning committee approved motion to ask town to approve an amendment to ordinance section 1.409 stating containers used as intended are not subject to this section, provided they are stored in a manner that minimizes public visibility. Motion by Ritter that 1.409 be amended and adopted following public review and comments; second Cooper. Discussion none. By voice vote; all in favor.
- h. **Approve sending a letter to Ahlborn Land Holdings withdrawing a previous requirement to remove shipping containers from their property.** Draft letter read to Ahlborn Land Holdings making him aware of withdrawing request to withdraw shipping containers. Will revise letter to state intent of section 1.409 to be sent to Ahlborn Land Holdings. Motion by Ritter to table approval of this letter when it will be revised; second Swenson. Discussion none. By voice vote; all in favor.
- i. **Update on the status of the letter to the St. Germain Chamber concerning the Accommodations Tax Contract.** This has not been sent yet. Nothing received back from Chamber. Christensen to send letter September 16, 2021.
- j. **Update on the potential placement of portable toilets at Little Saint Germain and Lost Lake boat landings.** Lost Lake does not want to proceed, sign says to use Vandervort Park. Little Saint wants to proceed. Ritter will send letter to DNR stating only one lake district wants to proceed. Does land use agreement need to be between town or just between DNR and lake district? Waiting for response from DNR. Lost Lake feels porta potty Vandervort meets their needs. NPT was picking up porta potties from an event at Vandervort Park and asked if town porta potty should be picked up and they were instructed to do so.
- k. **Second review of chapter 6 draft – Off Premise Sign Ordinance.**
- l. **Approval of Service proposal from MSA Professional Services to do the WISLR report and to work with the Town Board to create a long-term plan for Town roads and facilities.** Biannual report to turn into DOT. Have hired MSA to do it in the past and update report with DOT online. Town board members have indicated wanting a long-term plan. Tom initiated a plan for MSA to help us do this. Shared potential contract with MSA to have this completed by November 30, 2021. Motion by Cooper to sign contract with MSA to do the WISLR report and to work with the town board to create a long-term plan for town roads and facilities; second Mortag. Discussion: None. By voice vote; all in favor. Community development funding for now.
- m. **Sledding hill plan at Fern Ridge.** Visuals handed out. Using metal posts from old street signs if available to put up plastic snow fencing. Use wooden snow fencing on downward part of town supported by old telephone poles that are in town. Will add new gate on old snowmobile trail. Purchasing both wooden and plastic fences, additional posts and gate. Figure is \$1000.00 needed for expenses. Installation done by volunteers. Continue to think about moving yard waste facility. Filling lumps and bumps by compost pile using town loader. Plan to be in operation this winter. Parks and Rec would love to see a sledding hill. Motion by

Cooper that nonmotorized committee be authorized to use up to \$2000 from community development to develop a sledding hill at Fern Ridge; second Swenson. Discussion none. By voice vote; all in favor.

- n. **Installation of banner posts on the corner of Hwy 70 & Hwy 155.** Add posts on 155 and over along Hwy 70 away from Veteran’s Memorial to be able to hang banners for events. Discussion on removable vs permanent posts; removable posts not conducive to winter months. Will provide location for town events in an organized way. Swenson to come up with design and present at another meeting.
- o. **Determine future meeting dates for several meetings.** Levy meeting Wednesday, November 17, electors meeting at 7:00 pm. Budget meeting October 14 at 6:30 pm; will discuss/approve the golf course budget at the regular meeting on October 28. The second town board meeting of November moved from November 25, Thanksgiving, to November 18 at 6:30 pm.

8. Department of Public Works – The Board will hear a report from Brian Cooper, the assigned to oversee the Public Works Department, that may include current projects, proposed new projects, daily workload, purchasing of equipment, concerns about present equipment and future equipment needs.

Motion by Christensen to table 7K, 8, 9 and 10 to September 23; second Cooper. Discussion none. By voice vote; all in favor.

- 9. Report of the Standing Committees**
- a. **Independence Day Celebration Committee**
 - b. **Lakes Committee**
 - c. **Non-Motorized Recreational Trails Committee**
 - d. **Parks and Recreation Committee**
 - e. **Zoning Committee**
 - f. **Sexually Oriented Business Committee**

10. Reports from Lake Districts and Other Organizations

11. Closed Session – Adjourn to closed session in accordance with Section 19.85 (1) (c) of the Wisconsin Statutes to discuss the purchase of the Whitetail Inn by the St Germain Golf Course. (e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.

Motion by Christensen to adjourn at 8:46 pm to closed session in accordance with Section 19.85 (1) (c) of the Wisconsin Statutes to discuss the purchase of the Whitetail Inn by the St Germain Golf Course. (e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session; second Mortag. By roll call vote: Mortag – yes, Ritter -yes, Christensen – yes, Cooper – yes, Swenson yes.

12. Reconvene to Open Session – Reconvene to open session to take such action as the Board deems appropriate, following consideration given in closed session. Motion by Cooper to reconvene to open session at 10:04 pm to take such action as the board deems appropriate, following consideration given in closed session; second Mortag. By voice vote; all in favor.

Motion by Christensen to hold an elector’s meeting for the purpose of the St Germain Golf Course purchasing Whitetail Inn with elector’s date to be determined; second Cooper. Discussion none. By voice vote; all in favor.

13. Adjourn: Mr Christensen adjourned the meeting at 10:05 pm

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Chairman	Supervisor	Supervisor
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