

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

MINUTES TOWN BOARD MEETING: February 12, 2024

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Tom Christensen called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call to Establish a Quorum:** Jim Swenson, Brian Cooper, Tom Christensen, Ted Ritter and Kalisa Mortag along June Vogel town clerk, Jeanna Vogel town treasurer and Jenn Jones deputy clerk/treasurer are in Community Center in room 4 with 31 community members. There were 14 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, February 10, 2024 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.**

Tim Clark – Indicated there was a fire in Sayner and St Germain has an automatic aid agreement and no one showed up on call. Did not appreciate one of the SGFD texting him stating if he didn't like it to move out of town.

Jim and Val Rybarczyk – Does the town have a noise ordinance? Neighborhood upset with one neighbor causing noise with backpack blower at 1:00 am. What can be done with this? Suggested to talk to neighbor or call sheriff.
6. **Discussion /Action Items:**
 - a. **Approval of town bills for payment.** Motion by Swenson to approve town bills for payment as presented with additional; second by Mortag. Discussion: None. Motion passed by voice vote unanimously.
 - b. **Approval of past meeting minutes.** Motion by Cooper to approve the meeting minutes of January 25, 2024; second Mortag. Discussion: None. Motion passed by voice vote unanimously.
 - c. **Discuss public input concerning a possible Outdoor Lighting Ordinance** Discussion by the board. Heard comments from the residence.

Renee Hyrczyk – Can see where it would be different for different residential areas.
Dave Johnson – Is this commercial or residential control? Favors commercial control.
Roger Bauer – Crime rates going up with everyone moving up here. Need to allow lights.
Pat Niggemeier – Is the town going to compensate residents for having to change bulbs?
Draft ordinance grandfathers existing lights until they needed to be changed.
Paul Novorolsky – Agreement to have some type of ordinance. Have a fallback plan for those who are not able to resolve a dispute between neighbor.
Brian Siekierzynski – Discussed businesses with lighting. How will this be enforced if put into place? Can lighting issue be resolved without an ordinance.
Dana Dorner – Nuisance ordinance, would lighting pollution be classified in this ordinance?
Chris Marion – Concerns about residential vs commercial. Lighting for security.
Frank Reinhardt – Lights are a safety factor.
Jim Rybarczyk – Solve some lighting issues with motion detection lighting.
John Vojta – Caution board prior to creating an ordinance – enforce all the way or if not going to enforce then scratch. Easier on EMS/FD to have lighting.
Brian Cooper – Broke down responses; most favorable from water front property owners. Disseminate ways to control lighting through Lakes Committee and Lake Districts rather than an ordinance.
Joanne Bauer – Safety issues if renting on the water, want properties lit.

Motion by Ritter to table this topic until March 11, 2024; second Swenson. Discussion: None. Motion passed by voice vote with four affirmatives votes and one negative vote by Cooper.
 - d. **Chamber 2023 Fourth Quarter Tax Report** Discussion by the board.
 - e. **Status of ChoiceTel contract.** Wisconsin Public Service Commission is scheduling a meeting next week to include ChoiceTel and Tom Christensen to come to a settlement.
 - f. **Determine how to spend the remaining ARPA and fiberoptic funds.** Discussion by the board.
 - g. **Non-Motorized Trail Committee recommendation for the Forestry Stewardship Plan for Awassa & Fern Ridge properties.** Discussion by the board. Would like to take action on this with

Awassa and Fern Ridge properties, removing the Golf Course property. Would follow addendum that was presented in 2022. Motion by Cooper to adopt Forestry Stewardship Plan and two maps; second Mortag. Discussion: Will be put on town website. Motion passed by voice vote unanimously.

- h. Non-Motorized Trail Committee recommendation for a temporary chairperson replacement.** Discussion by the board. Motion by Christensen to appoint Jim Swenson as the acting chairperson for Nonmotorized Trail Committee in Anne’s absence; second Cooper. Discussion: None. Motion passed by voice vote unanimously.
- i. Adopt resolution providing temporary amendment of Chapter 30 ATV/UTV Routes.** Discussion by board to open sections of shared ATV/snowmobile trails given lack of snow and trying to enhance bringing people to town. Motion by Christensen that the board approve temporary amendment of chapter 30 - ATV/UTV Routes presented to open trails to ATV/UTV usage until there is 4 or more inches of snow; second Cooper. Discussion: None. Motion passed by voice vote unanimously.
- j. Future plans of Parks and Recreation Committee with DPW.** Discussion by board. Working towards coming up with plans of what needs to be done building by building, park by park with DPW. Chamber may be interested in taking over events for kids. Motion by Christesen to disband the Parks and Rec Committee effective February 12, 2024; second Cooper. Discussion: Not sure if this is the right thing to do. Will be looking at Christensen and Mortag to make this work with DPW. Motion passed by voice vote with four affirmatives votes and one negative vote by Swenson.
- k. Adopt Board of Review Confidentiality and Alternate Ordinance.** Discussion by board. Motion by Ritter that section 29.25 of chapter 29 be adopted as presented; second Swenson. Discussion: None. Motion passed by voice vote unanimously.
- l. Review availability of Class B liquor licenses.** Discussion by board. Quota of town’s full class B liquor licenses totals 22 with 3 available; 1 since 2017. Could transfer to another municipality in Vilas County for a fee no less than \$10,000. Motion by Christensen to table until March 11, 2024; second Swenson. Discussion: None. Motion passed by voice vote unanimously.
- m. Consider draft letter(s) concerning alleged Chapter 1 – Zoning Violation.** Discussion by the board. Motion by Swenson to authorize chairman to sign violation letter; second Cooper. Discussion: None. Motion passed by voice vote unanimously.
- n. Change/add Board meeting dates for 2024.** Discussion by the board. Motion by Ritter amend meeting schedule as presented; second Cooper. Discussion: None. Motion passed by voice vote unanimously.

7. Adjourn to closed session in accordance with Section 19.85 (1) (c) of the Wisconsin Statutes to discuss employee wages and benefits for the upcoming year 2024. (c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. (e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchase 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 at 8:53 to adjourn to closed session in accordance with Section 19.85 (1) (c) of the Wisconsin Statutes to discuss employee wages and benefits for the upcoming year 2024 and (e) deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties; Second Ritter. Discussion: None. By roll call vote: Swenson – yes, Cooper – yes, Christensen – yes, Ritter – yes, Mortag – yes.

8. Reconvene to open session to take such action as the Board deems appropriate, following consideration given in closed session. Motion by Ritter at 10:14 to reconvene to open session; second Swenson. Discussion: None. Motion passed by voice vote unanimously.

Motion by Christensen to reissue credit card to Gary Peters with Margo monitoring; second Ritter. Discussion: None. Motion passed by voice vote unanimously.

9. Adjourn Mr Christensen adjourned the meeting at 10:15 pm.

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Town Clerk		
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Chairman	Supervisor #1	Supervisor #2
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Supervisor #3	Supervisor #4	