

**TOWN OF GIBRALTAR
ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 15, 2014
GIBRALTAR TOWN HALL
4176 MAPLE STREET FISH CREEK WI 54212**

Call to Order: Dick Skare, Town Supervisor called the annual town meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board members present: Dick Skare, Karl Stubenvoll, Brian Hackbarth and Steve Sohns
Board members absent: Brian Merkel

Approval of the Minutes: MOTION: (John Young, Jon Neville) to approve the minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting as presented. Carried

Chair Comments: Mr. Skare stated that at this meeting the electors determine the agenda. He asked that electors identify themselves for the record.

Approval of the Annual Report: Beth Hagen read the 2013 Annual Report as presented by the auditor. MOTION: (Tom Thurman, Bob Spielman) to approve the Annual Report as amended. Carried

Standing Reports:

Building Committee: Karl Stubenvoll stated newly installed LED lighting at the Town Center and Fire Department was already yielding savings. Repairs on the Noble House chimneys were completed with matching brick and architectural style.

Fire Department/First Responders: Fire Chief Caleb Whitney reported there were a total of 108 fire calls to the Automatic Mid Door and North Mutual Aid areas. There were 159 responses by the Emergency Medical Responders. Fundraising in 2013 purchased 10 defibrillators, 4 cold water/ice rescue suits and 2 snowmobiles. The Department thanked the Town and Donors for their continued support.

Harbor: Beth Hagen reported for David Harris that the Army Corp of Engineers estimates that Lakes Michigan and Huron will be up 14 inches over 2013 levels. The profit of 2012 and 2013 are very close \$89,700 and \$85,000 respectively.

Law Enforcement: Beth Hagen reported for Officer Crowell that the Department partnered with the YMCA during Kid Safety Week and had its first annual Bike Rodeo. Sponsored events continue to grow; the Department continues to review and modify its participation to keep events safe and enjoyable for both residents and participants alike.

Parks & Lands: Brian Hackbarth stated accomplishments in 2013 include: park sign repainting, tree planting and wall restoration at Sunset Park. Fish Creek Park has been re-mapped and is ready for new signage. The Committee encourages all to check out Sunset and Fish Creek Parks to see the improvements.

Plan Commission: Linda Merline reported the Comprehensive Plan maps were updated. Educational materials are available for the public at the Town Center. Numerous petitions for variances, conditional uses and zoning text/map amendments were reviewed and recommendations made to the Town Board.

Watershed: Linda Merline stated the DNR's Water Action Volunteers (WAV) stream monitoring group has been joined by the Watershed group. This information will add to a larger information pool to support the environmental and economic interest of the community. This information can be found on the DNR's WAV

website. The volunteers thanked the Gibraltar Town Board for the continued support of the Watershed Study group.

Ephraim-Gibraltar Airport Commission: Jon Neville reported a loss of \$1,465. The Commission's emphasis is on profitability and increasing income-controlling expenses. In an effort to being good neighbors an information breakfast was held; 14 neighboring property owners attended. The purpose was to discuss airport operations and answer the questions that arise from the operations. Several local Fire Departments held training sessions at the airport to be ready in the event of an emergency.

Door County Tourism Commission: Dick Skare stated that he and Bill Weddig are the representatives for the town. Gibraltar Township collects the most room tax in the county, even surpassing Sturgeon Bay. Thirty percent of the room tax collected is returned to the municipality. The annual meeting is held in June at which time the annual report will be available.

Door County Coastal Byways Council: Beth Hagen stated the Interpretive Master Plan has been completed by Schmeckle Reserve Interpreters from UW-Stevens Point. A copy of the Master Plan can be seen at the Fish Creek Library, Gibraltar Historic Association, the Town Office and the Coastal Byways website www.doorcountycoastalbyway.org.

Fish Creek Civic Association: Bob Spielman, President of Fish Creek Civic Association (FCCA) reported the Visitor Center served over 26,400 visitors. Room tax funds received from the town have gone to market Fish Creek and Gibraltar as a destination. The Milwaukee and Chicago metropolitan areas will be specifically targeted in this year's marketing campaign.

Gibraltar Historical Association: Barb McKesson, President of Gibraltar Historical Association (GHA) stated the Heritage Days celebration was not held in 2013. Rotating theme specific shows will take its place; shows will include but are not limited to funeral, weddings, and holidays. The Noble House continued to stay open 7 days a week. A special thank you goes to Doug Blahnik who served as program director for nearly 20 years.

Old Business: Dick Skare stated opened the floor for old business.

- Barb McKesson thanked the town for the new holiday trimming.
- Bob Spielman asked what the follow-up had been on the requested extra recycling day in April. It was discussed at budget and not implemented.

New Business: Dick Skare reminded the audience that this discussion was strictly advisory to the Town Board.

John Young raised the issue of Town chairman and supervisors current and future pay levels. *MOTION: (Tom Young, Gerry Schwaller) to increase Town Board salaries 3% across the board including 2016 (if allowable).* Carried Hagen will check with the Wisconsin Towns Association regarding the 2016 election inclusion.

- Renny Lea said she heard the Redmann property was for sale and asked the Town Board to consider purchase of the property given its beauty, uses, hiking and biking, and on part of the watershed.
- Corina Lea stated the Redmann property would be an asset to the town, a tourist destination and is adjacent to Fish Creek Park.
- Bob Spielman, questioned the boundaries of the property. Dick Skare added the property also touches the town boat trailer parking lot and there are 200 acres for sale.
- Dick Skare, wanting to make everyone aware, that if a town wishes to purchase a property there are specific requirements that include a meeting of the electors and town board closed session meetings

for negotiations. Skip Kaeske stated that a method be explored on how qualified electors are determined for a meeting of that type.

- Linda Merline added the Comprehensive Plan states that the Town will work to preserve the Niagara Escarpment and wetlands. She agreed the purchase should be explored.

MOTION: (Tom Thurman, Marne Kaeske) that the Plan Commission make a recommendation to the Town Board regarding the possibility of purchasing a portion of the Redmann property that would represent an extension to the Fish Creek municipal park and preserve the unique natural features, that are inherent in that property. Dick Skare called for a show of hands. A majority of hands were in favor, none were opposed.

- Tom Thurman thanked the town board on modifying the road brushing activities. Will the guidelines be published this year. The annual road review is scheduled for April 23rd. Roads that individuals wish to bring to the town board's attention should be submitted in writing (formality not required) prior to the road review.
- David Lea recommended that chemical-free lawncare be looked into for the town parks. Brian Hackbarth, chairman of the Parks & Lands Committee stated that the subject was discussed at that morning's committee meeting. Further investigation into the option will be done prior to the 2015 budget preparation.
- Beth Hagen stated the municipality is working towards being noted as a "sustainable municipality." Currently there are none in the county. Public support for this is needed. Funding sources are available to further the effort. Dick Skare added, he is proud to be a resident in our municipality that has been on the leading edge of comprehensive plans and now will be on green communities.

MOTION: (Gerry Schwaller, Holly Somerhalder) to set next annual meeting date for Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Gibraltar Old Town Hall. Carried

Adjourn: *MOTION: (John Young, Kathy Cecil) the meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m. Carried*

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Hagen, Clerk