

**TOWN OF GIBRALTAR
ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 21, 2015
GIBRALTAR TOWN HALL
4176 MAPLE STREET FISH CREEK WI 54212**

Approved:

Call to Order: Chairman Brian Merkel called the annual town meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board members present: Brian Merkel, Dick Skare, Karl Stubenvoll, Brian Hackbarth and Steve Sohns
Board members absent: None

Approval of the Minutes: MOTION: (John Young, Dave Bultman) to approve the minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting as presented. *Carried* MOTION: (Sarah Sohns, John Young) to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Electors from November 19, 2014 as presented. *Carried* MOTION: (Barb McKesson, Linda Merline) to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Electors from December 3, 2014 as presented. *Carried*

Chair Comments: Brian Merkel welcomed the audience to the annual meeting. He asked that electors identify themselves for the record when speaking.

Annual Report: Beth Hagen read the 2014 Annual Report as presented by the auditor. MOTION: (John Young, Wayne Kudick) to approve the Annual Report as presented. *Carried* Colleen Riley expressed concern about the difference between income and expenses. The dock is the only profit center for the town and is self-supporting. Wayne Kudick asked what the capital outlay was for the fire department; it was the new truck.

Standing Reports:

Building Committee: Karl Stubenvoll stated the committee continues to monitor the Town's properties and makes recommendations as necessary. A design recommendation for construction of a Town Shop will be addressed under new business.

Fire Department/First Responders: Fire Chief Caleb Whitney reported the 501c3 raised \$61,000 and spent \$51,000 on UTV's, a trailer and modifications. Rope rescue equipment was also purchased for \$5,000. Call statistics and charting were shown reflecting the seasonality of responses. Thanks were given to the community for their support. The 2015 goals were listed in the written report. Wayne Kudick asked what impact the levy limits had on the department. Fire Chief Whitney responded the ever increasing need for donations.

Harbor: Brian Merkel reported for David Harris that the water has risen above the long-term averages which are a welcome relief from the recent record lows. Slip reservations can now be made on the dock website, www.fishcreektowndock.com. Joel Blahnik was recognized for his 25 plus years of service on the Harbor Commission.

Law Enforcement: Officer Crowell reported that the Department partnered with the YMCA during Kid Safety Week and had its third 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 the Chambers Island Lighthouse tower is open to visitors again. A new code compliant railing has been installed. The landscaping project at Sunset Park which began in 2013 has been completed. Judith Kalb questioned the rationale for not having picnic tables in the parks and

encouraged the installation. Nancy Sargent encouraged additional tree planting. Linda Merline recommended the town move to low or no chemical use on its properties.

Plan Commission: Linda Merline reported the Comprehensive Plan text continues to be 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. The Commission made a recommendation to the Town Board to pursue the purchase of the Redmann property that abuts municipal property. The recommendation was in response to the advisory motion from the 2014 Annual Meeting. The 2015 goals were listed in the written report. Wayne Kudick suggested publishing the County Board results of variance and conditional use petitions. The county board decisions can be found on the County website.

Watershed: Linda Merline stated the watershed study is designed to establish physical, chemical and biological baselines. Monthly field testing and periodic sampling results are then compared to the body of baseline data for the purpose of detecting changes in water quality over time. Three sites are monitored. The data can be used not only to improve the creek and its waters but the quality of the ground water beneath the watershed and the surface waters of Fish Creek Harbor. Wayne Kudick asked what trends are being noticed with the data gathered. Linda Merline responded that the numbers appear to be down.

Ephraim-Gibraltar Airport Commission: Jon Neville reported the airport had another good and profitable year. An Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) was installed in 2014. The system provides up to the minute weather information at the airport. The information can be accessed by phone, computer or by a plane in the air. Volunteers continue to assist the airport in reducing costs by any means available to them. The Friends of the Airport continue to sponsor the EAA Young Eagles event each May. Judith Kalb expressed concern about any helicopter business operating at the airport.

Door County Tourism Commission: Dick Skare stated that he and Bill Weddig are the representatives for the town and are on the executive committee as well. Room tax applies to anyone that rents for less than a month at a time. There was an increase of 4.8% in 2014. Thirty percent comes back to the town, 4% is kept by the tourism zone and 66% is given to the Door County Visitor Center. Nancy Sargent asked if there is a plan for the tax revenue. A stipend is given to the Civic Association and the balance is put into the town's general fund.

Door County Coastal Byways Council: Beth Hagen stated visitor activity continues to grow on the website and is being updated and enhanced for mobile devices. 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) thanked the citizens of Gibraltar and the Town Board for their support in 2014. Over 26,000 visitors came to the Visitor Center and 35,000 brochures were distributed throughout the state. Marketing efforts to the Milwaukee and Madison areas have been very successful. Fish Creek's Summerfest, Winter Festival and Jack-O-Lantern Days are signature events.

Gibraltar Historical Association: Barb McKesson, President of Gibraltar Historical Association (GHA) stated that two grants were applied for and awarded. Grant funds were used to purchase software to research Juddville Cemetery and the storage and preservation of vintage clothing. GHA has determined that simplifying and evaluating all aspects of the association and programming will reap financial benefits moving forward. Thanks were expressed to the town board and residents for their support.

Old Business: Brian Merkel opened the floor for old business.

- Wayne Kudick asked if there were plans for the former Retreat parking lot. No specific short term plans have been made for the property.
- John Young stated the alley at the parking lot property is in disrepair and is a safety hazard. Brian Merkel stated the town only has an interest in a portion the length of the lot; the balance of the “alley” belongs to other property owners. This is not a municipal road, it is private property.

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

Karl Stubenvoll, Steve Sohns and Tom Birmingham are the Building Committee. Karl Stubenvoll detailed the Building Committee’s design plan for the Town Shop being considered. Estimated cost for a 3 bay building is \$728,230 a 4th bay would add \$121,262 for a total of \$849,492 which includes a 10% contingency. The building would be located immediately to the north of the existing cold storage building. This would be financed by a note from Baylake Bank. The anticipated completion date would be September 2015.

MOTION: (Allen Kopischke, Bob Spielman) that the Town Board move forward with the construction of a 4 bay Town Shop as shown on the design drawings from Peninsula Building Systems with an estimated cost of \$849,492.96.

Brian Merkel called for a show of hands. *A majority of hands were in favor, none were opposed. Aye 37, Nay 0, Abstain 0*

Colleen Riley suggested the town website include additional information and earlier posting of agendas, draft minutes, approved minutes. Beth Hagen responded the office will work to that end.

MOTION: (Linda Merline, John Young) to set next annual meeting date for Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Gibraltar Old Town Hall. Carried

Brian Merkel was thanked for his years of service.

Adjourn: *MOTION: (Mary Ann Blabnik, Holly Somerhalder) the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Carried*

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Hagen, Clerk

Posted: April 22, 2015
Baylake Bank
Fish Creek BP
Gibraltar Town Center
Gibraltar Town Hall
Fish Creek Post Office