

**TOWN OF GIBRALTAR
SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 2, 2016**

Approved: June 1, 2016

Call to order: Dick Skare called the special meeting of the town board to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Dick Skare, Steve Sohns, Brian Hackbarth, Barb McKesson and Brian Merkel

Absent: None

Also present: City of Sturgeon Bay Fire Chief Tim Dietman, Assistant Fire Chief Kalin Montevideo, Josh Van Lieshout Administrator, Thad Birmingham Mayor, Door County Emergency Services Director Dan Williams and Deputy Director Anthony Luchini

Agenda: *Motion: (Hackbarth, McKesson) to adopt the agenda as amended. Carried*

Consideration of CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team) program: Fire Chief Jerrad Anderson stated that in researching the “Fire Corp” concept it did not meet the needs of the Chambers Island department. Al Matzke, through his researching efforts, found the CERT program; it allows citizens to be trained to a certain level (determined by the local fire department) to respond before the responders.

Al Matzke stated the largest issue with the island is the 45 minute response time. The CERT volunteers can be the eyes and ears of the responders in route. The program has rigid training and policy manual; work has been started the work of assembling the teaching points, approximately 6. The curriculum would be repeated annually and is based on the authority of fire chief or his designee. The CERT program model fits the profile for the authority of the fire chief. The liability issue is under the Good Samaritan Law and the Volunteer Act which are very clear up to a certain level. The liability protection is the rigid training, policies, attendance and that responders are in route. Chief Anderson stated that Matzke is a certified trainer for the state. Training would begin with minimum levels of competency. Additional communication equipment is not needed.

Long term (5 years) goal is to have set procedures that Matzke would not necessarily needed. In the short term as the island residents return training can begin. Chief Anderson stated there can be a mirror image on the mainland. The department should come back with a formal presentation and then have the program forwarded to the attorney for review. *Motion: (Hackbarth, Sohns) to move forward with this and have on the first agenda that the details and presentation are ready. Carried unanimously.*

Consideration of Emergency Services (Fire, EMR, Law Enforcement, and Public Works) operational structure: Skare gave an overview of the administrative tasks that were becoming onerous on the volunteers. Possibilities to consider and some that have been considered, in general terms, are a public safety position, contracting for services, fire district and paid staff. Mid Door and mutual aid agreements have worked through the ebbs and flows of volunteers. The purpose of this discussion is to gather information, not to make any decisions this evening. There are currently 10 volunteers on the roster.

Josh Van Leishout suggested Skare have a conversation with Fire Chief Dietman about possibilities. Currently Sevastopol contracts for fire/EMR services and Jacksonport contracts for inspections with the city. Fire Chief Deitman stated their department is able and willing to assist in any way they can. One suggestion would be an administrative oversight; another would be to add 1-2 firefighters from 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. 365 days per year that would respond to all fire and EMR calls. Seasonal and “reserve” for prime weekend contracts may not be feasible. ISO ratings are significantly improve the municipality’s rating. Contracts would be in the form of an intergovernmental agreement. Structurally nothing would be taken away from the local department what is being offered is a supplement and to be a resource.

Board and public responses included:

- true dedication of the volunteer firefighters and EMR's
- strengthen what we have
- no job is too small
- need to have department discussion on needs, possibilities and potential solutions
- struggling with the lack of previous discussion
- willingness to explore options
- in-house paid fire chief and 2 paid firefighters
- strengthen ties with mutual aid and Mid Door
- the long term benefits to having services in-house
- having contract firefighters may/would be a disincentive to volunteers
- it is always about numbers on the fire scene
- need to have paid on-calls
- Matzke to bring the island contingent
- improving ISO ratings

Skare will work toward a joint board meeting with the Village of Ephraim and the Town of Baileys Harbor. Anderson recommended updating the mutual aid agreement as well. Anderson will meet with the department volunteers for their thoughts, concerns and potential solutions. A town board meeting will be scheduled after hearing back from Anderson.

Adjourn: *Motion: (Sohns, Hackbarth) to adjourn at 9:01 p.m. Carried*

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hagen, Clerk