

**TOWN OF GIBRALTAR
ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 23, 2020
GIBRALTAR FIRE DEPARTMENT
3476 CTH F FISH CREEK WI 54212**

Approved: April 20, 2021

Call to Order: Chairman Steve Sohns called the annual town meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Steve Sohns welcomed the audience to the annual meeting. He asked that electors identify themselves for the record when speaking. Only qualified electors are able to vote, anyone can speak.

Board members present: Steve Sohns, Bill Johnson, Tim Luetzgen, Brian Merkel and Jayson Merkel
Board members absent: None

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion (Bill Johnson, Ron Merkel) to approve the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting held on April 16, 2019 as presented. Carried

Motion: (Bill Johnson, Karl Stubenvoll) to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Electors on October 16, 2019 as presented. Carried

Motion: (Bill Johnson, Ron Merkel) to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Electors on November 20, 2019 as presented. Carried

Carried

Motion (Bill Johnson, Ron Merkel) to approve the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting held on April 21, 2020 as presented. Carried

Chair Comments: Steve Sohns recognized Barb McKesson and Richard Skare for their many years of service on the town board. 2019 was a busy year preparing for the Hwy 42 reconstruction and town facelift. Phase 1 of the beach property was completed. In October, the board presented a land purchase proposal that was many years in the making of meetings and ideas. In the end the electors decided it was not something they wanted to pursue, at least in the form it was presented; that project has been tabled. Another big project was working with a financial advisor to go through the steps to take out a bond to fund the projects started and coming in 2020 and 2021. The Town secured an excellent interest rate due to sound financial practices.

In January 2020, Dick Skare stepped down as chairman due to health reasons; followed by Steve Sohns appointment. In March COVID-19 prompted an Emergency Order for our town. Happily, the HWY 42 project was done three weeks ahead of schedule. The new railing for the Noble property is being fabricated and will be installed soon. This project was 14 years of planning with DOT. Branches and bushes will be trimmed in crosswalk and sidewalk along the project. Working on building a new storage facility on Chambers Island for fire equipment. Boat Trailer Parking lot and the Town Center asphalt is to be done by July 10th.

Annual Report: Beth Hagen read the 2019 Annual Report actuals as presented by the auditor.

Standing Reports:

✚ Copies of the standing reports as well as the Annual Financial Report can be obtained at the Town Office.

Building Committee: Karl Stubenvoll, chairman stated the committee annually reviews town properties for any needs. 2019 repairs included painting the Noble House, adding eaves troughs to the Town Hall, and replacing a furnace at the Town Center. Annual reviews allow the town to be proactive in maintenance and longer term planning.

Town Shop: A written report was submitted.

Fire Department/First Responders: Fire Chief Andy Bertges stated the department's mission is to provide Deployment of Fire Suppression, Emergency Medical Operations and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Departments. Total members: 21 of which 17 are Entry Fire Fighters and 13 are EMR (Emergency Medical

Responder) Certified. Gibraltar Fire & Rescue, as many of our surrounding departments, depend on automatic aid, the Mid-Door Agreement and MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) to help provide the necessary coverage. This seems to be working with success. The overall goal is to be self-sufficient. The department would encourage anyone to join us as there is a place in the department for everyone!

Significant events in 2019 include: a house fire in January, safety officers class, participation in numerous events, establishing an Emergency Manager with Bertges being the designee, creation of a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) of 700 volunteers for COVID-19. Additionally, two firefighters received their national firefighter certification, there was an ATV accident on Chambers Island, the Open House saw 325 attendees, continue to work on grants for a UTV for Chambers Island, and a separate DNR grant was received for \$15,737 at a 50% match. The new 05-50 boat, specifically designed for our needs, was entirely funded through donations. It includes a fully enclosed pilot house to warm patients while being transported to an awaiting ambulance. While being at 28', we are still able to trailer it to any one of our launches making it a very versatile piece of equipment to add to our arsenal of Fire and Rescue equipment.

Jayson "Ward" Merkel speaking for the Gibraltar Fire 501c-3 thanked everyone for their support and generosity.

Harbor: Chairman Dave Harris reported last year was a good year with a couple of docks being replaced; now the dock season begins again. The dock opened May 15 with limited hours until last week. Due to the unique conditions this year, there will be no transient overnight guests or pump outs. Safety of dock staff is paramount and precautions are being taken from installing plexi glass at the dock house to how the sale of ice is handled. Shortly stamped concrete abutments will be placed on the last 180 feet of the dock to help mitigate the high water. Dave thanked the town office staff – Kelly, Sara and Beth for their continued assistance.

- o Bill Weddig questioned why there will be no pump outs. Dave Harris stated that it puts the dock staff at risk and there have been previous incidents that are cause for concern. Harris also stated other marina locations have pump out stations.

Law Enforcement: Officer Ryan Roesch stated that June 17, 2019 was his starting date for the department and was quickly immersed in learning the area, businesses and busyness of the season. During those six months department operating programs were updated and put back online as well. Building strong relationships with the Door County Sheriff and other first responding agencies has been a priority, 156 calls for service were answered from June 17 – the end of the year; this does not include any traffic enforcement or property inspections. Thank you to former Chief Crowell for his numerous years of service, dedication to the community and his assistance in my transition. Officer Roesch said his door is always open.

Parks & Lands: Kelly Murre reported for Brian Hackbath. This past year general maintenance was the theme for the committee in our parks. Focus was put on Fish Creek Park to remove invasive species and dying ash trees. A reforestation plan was created with a fundraising campaign. Trees that were ordered last fall to be planted this spring have been postponed to spring 2021.

The committee also worked on lighthouse caretaker responsibilities. Joel and MaryAnn Blahnik assisted with creating a list of opening and closing procedures for the property. Many thanks were given to the Blahniks and Leon and Sharon Zellner for their continued efforts and hard work at the lighthouse.

Thanks go out to the maintenance staff for their hard work keeping the Gibraltar Parks & Lands looking great and Laurie Buske who (as always) does a great job taking care of our gardens. The committee also thanks Bonnie Ansley and Tom Thurman for their time on the committee.

Plan Commission: A written report was submitted.

Watershed: A written report was submitted.

Ephraim-Gibraltar Airport Commission: A written report was submitted.

- o Bill Wolff was concerned over what appeared to be aircraft “dog fighting” maneuvers this spring. Officer Roesch had spoken to the pilots.

Door County Tourism Commission: Bill Weddig stated there is an extensive report included in the meeting packet. April 2020 numbers are down by 91% and he does not expect May to be any better due to COVID-19.

Door County Coastal Byways Council: Beth Hagen stated visitor activity continues to grow on the byway. The children’s coloring book remained successful and an electronic version was created. The council has applied for federal byway and All American Road status and should hear the application outcome by fall.

Fish Creek Civic Association: Meredith Coulson of the FCCA thanked the town and citizens for their support. 124 members in Fish Creek, 6 associate members and 5 complimentary members. The town has given 34% of room tax dollars as funding. The associations purpose is to attract tourism, promote the destination and support a healthy business community by implementing a sustainable marketing and operating plan. Marketing is done online, in print, at the visitor’s center, social media channels, and in the Peninsula Park paper. Winterfest and the Inside/Outside Sale were successful events. The town and FCCA working together to assist local businesses in this time of uncertainty by relaxing, as much as possible and practicable, town restrictions and, as well as expanding amenities.

Gibraltar Historical Association: Laurie Buske thanked everyone in the community for their support. Memorable events in 2019: All Things Chocolate was the best ever!, Annual Fundraising Dinner, Model A’s History, Gibraltar Talks, wreath sale, holiday tree lighting and busy museum both day and night. It may not look busy but behind the scenes items are being donated, cataloged and history recorded. Buske encouraged the use of the free audio tours. Memberships are important but do not feel it is appropriate so send out forms at this time with pressures of the coronavirus. GHA thanked the town for their investment in the house.

FCSD#1: Bill Weddig stated the district is finishing up the upgrades to the plant. High water and garbage continue to be the greatest education issues for users.

Old Business: Steve Sohns opened the floor for old business.

Ron Merkel asked that on the bond issue specifics be listed on what was bonded for. He would also like to see a bond schedule included in a newsletter for taxpayer information and planning. Also requested even though the purchase of the beach property was under a separate note that was rolled into the bond including it in the total project cost listing in the bond. Ron Merkel asked about the status of the Beach bathrooms. Sohns responded that the restrooms are now open after a rough start with the grinder pump plugging then burning out. Being under warranty a replacement pump was ordered and installed in 2-day from shipping. Originally the grinder pump was forgotten in the plans and was added by a change order. The equipment will need to be evaluated by an engineer for recommendations.

Bill Weddig asked if a schedule of assessment for lighting has been determined. Sohns stated it is coming yet this summer for light poles and sidewalks.

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

Karl Stubenvoll stated at the 2020 budget approval meeting he brought up a resolution that was defeated and would like to bring it up again. Sohns stated that he could.

Motion: (Karl Stubenvoll, Ron Merkel) to require:

- A. Any and all contingency funds from Township contracts not specifically required to complete said contracts must be used to pay back principal on Township bonds or notes depending on interest rates. Any such payback funds must be in addition to and cannot be substituted for regularly scheduled Township interest and/or principal payments.*
- B. Excess funds remaining from Township budgeted projects whether used or unused for said projects cannot be redirected for new usage without Elector approval. Without such approval, these funds must be used to pay back existing Township bonds or notes as directed in Section A, above.*
- C. Township income in excess of budgeted estimates must be assigned to the Township's Capital Improvement Fund. Any disbursements from the Capital Improvement Fund will require a supermajority vote by the Township Board.*

Beth Hagen asked if it had been reviewed by an attorney and if municipalities could in fact do what is stated in the resolution. Sohns stated it could be taken under advisement and looked at further by the board.

Bill Johnson stated he hated to have more restriction on the board and recommended to vote no and table for review.

Sohns stated there would be a vote by raise of hands on the motion.

Number of town electors voting aye 10
Number of town electors voting nay 6
Number abstaining or not voting - undetermined
Motion carried.

Motion: (Bill Johnson, Karl Stubenvoll) to set next annual meeting date for Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Gibraltar Old Town Hall. Carried

Adjourn: *Motion: (Bill Johnson, Ron Merkel) to adjourn at 8:42 p.m. Carried*

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Hagen, Clerk

Posted: June 25, 2020
Nicolet National Bank – Fish Creek Branch
Fish Creek BP
Gibraltar Town Center

Gibraltar Town Hall
Fish Creek Post Office