

**TOWN OF GIBRALTAR
ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 20, 2021
GIBRALTAR FIRE DEPARTMENT
3476 CTH F FISH CREEK WI 54212**

Approved:

Call to Order: Chairman Steve Sohns called the annual town meeting to order at 7:05 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: (Kathleen Harris, Bill Johnson) to approve the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting held on June 23, 2020 as presented. Carried Motion: (Bill Johnson, Lynn Krause-Weddig) to approve the minutes of the Meeting of the electors of November 30, 2020 as presented. Carried*

Chair Comments: Steve Sohns beach project is moving forward, COVID created its own set of challenges, and a new administrator will start in the next month or 2. Carole Vande Walle asked when electors get a chance to ask questions they are concerned about. Sohns responded under specific reports, any old business and under new business discussion. All elector questions are welcomed as the annual meeting is a meeting of the electors.

Annual Report: Beth Hagen read the 2020 Annual Report actuals as presented by the auditor.

Standing Reports:

- ✚ Copies of the full reports as well as the Annual Financial Report are posted on the town website and can be obtained at the Town Office.

Building Committee: Karl Stubenvoll, chairman stated the committee annually reviews town properties for any needs but due to COVID 19 concerns did not carry them out this past year. The rebuilding of the Noble House kitchen and summer kitchen foundation remains a frustrating project. No known problems were brought to the committee's attention.

Andrea Kinsey-Jauquet mentioned the need for upgrading the Town Hall kitchen.

Gibraltar Fire and Rescue: Fire Chief Andy Bertges stated in 2020 the department members went above and beyond supporting our people. The members helped start and support the Door County Fire Chiefs Association's Door County Emergency Support Coalition. This group helped by providing information, personal protective equipment, and deliver meals and supplies to those at risk throughout Door County. With the help of all the fire departments in Door County we were able to organize and task nearly 1,000 volunteers. To this day volunteers help with immunization and efforts such as Farm to Table. We still had fires and medical emergencies. We continued normal operations by adjusting out trainings to virtual when possible and working closely with Door County Public Health.

The 501c3 procured funding for new extraction equipment. It replaces our outdated tools which may not be able to penetrate the new materials built into newer vehicles. Captain Merkel spearheaded the endeavor and collected approximately \$60K in donations from our generous community members.

Harbor Commission: 2020 was a tough year, down about 50% in revenue and no transients per Dave Harris. The dock will be opening on May 15th, following all recommended COVID 19 guidelines. Dockmaster Chase Austin will be returning this again this year. Water is down about a foot and the ramps are in. Harris thanked the commission, town board and office for their assistance and support. As an aside the fireworks display on July 3rd are a private event.

Law Enforcement: Officer Ryan Roesch stated that law enforcement has been remarkably busy this year with 709 calls. The mobile data computer was updated in the squad. All mandatory training is completed and logged with the State Department of Justice. Our department participated again this year in the Shop with a Cop program; the program changed due to COVID restrictions. Officers were given information on a child and family in need and did the Christmas shopping without the child. Officers then delivered the gifts and a food basket to the families. Hopefully 2021 will see the event return to normal. M.E.R.T. (Missing/Endangered Response Team) The MERT is in the process of being created and involves all law enforcement agencies in Door County. This joint team will allow all agencies to pool together resources in case of a missing or endangered person.

Lynn Krause-Weddig expressed concern on traffic speed and enforcement near the school.

Parks & Lands: No report.

Plan Commission: Linda Merline, chairman stated that most projects were stalled in 2020. Fish Ladder project is ready to inch forward now that there has been movement by DOT. There were 2 informational hearings for variances and 3 conditional uses in 2020. Annually the commission meets with the town board and sets goals for the year. Little progress was made in 2020 due to COVID restrictions. The annual joint meeting with Parks & Lands will be held on the 27th at 6 p.m. Len Adent was thanked for his service on the commission. New member Paul Pillat was welcomed to the commission; his term began in January. Citizen input is an important component of the commission's work. Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7p.m.

Watershed: Linda Merline, volunteer stated that WAV (Water Action Volunteers) have been monitoring the creek since 1999. The data has been entered onto the DNR SWIMS site. A Sucker watch has been going on in the creek since Sunday. The program is through the Shedd aquarium with cooperation from UW Madison. Anyone interested in volunteering with the watershed group should contact Linda Merline. Big thanks go out to our loyal members: Judith Kalb, Tony Fiorato, Dave Lea and Bob Merline for both their expertise and willingness to work on behalf of clean water.

Ephraim-Gibraltar Airport Commission: Myrv Somerhalder reported that last summer the Bureau of Aeronautics inspected the airport. Keith Kourcek and Justin McDonald were thanked for the excellent job of brushing and mowing. New cones will be placed on the grass runway. The fuel system was upgraded with donated funds. The EAA Young Eagles program will be held on June 5th this year, spread the word about this excellent program for youth in our area.

Door County Tourism Commission: Bill Weddig stated there are short-term rental concerns that need to be addressed throughout the zone; some municipalities may be considering ordinances. Revenues are increasing and appear to be returning to near normal. An increase of the tax rate to 8% is being discussed among member municipalities and the commission.

Carole Vande Walle questioned restrictions on B&B rental licensing and if it is different from other forms of rentals.

Fish Creek Civic Association: Karlie Schultz, Marketing and Outreach Manager, stated the town and FCCA are 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. The FCCA is the marketing entity representing member businesses within the Town of Gibraltar. The purpose is to attract tourism, promote the destination and support a healthy business community by implementing a sustainable marketing and operating plan. Activities, branding, Winterfest, Inside/Outside sale, and a virtual community Jack O Lantern contest are just a few of the things FCCA does in the town.

Coming in 2021! Community Block Party, August 22nd at the beach. This will be an opportunity to celebrate projects completed in our community – Fish Creek Beach, new parking lot, Hwy 42 project, Diggers Gazebo, holiday lighting and more!

Gibraltar Historical Association: Laurie Buske thanked everyone in the community for their support. 2020 started out with lots of enthusiasm and lots of chocolate then COVID. The museum did not open as the sanitary protocol would risk our historic items on display. We assisted FCCA in their Winter Walking Tour by providing historic information for several of their stops. Fundraising by sale of wood street signs, All Things Chocolate and a successful wreath sale pulled GHA through. Today is National Volunteer Day. We want to thank you and celebrate you all.

Fish Creek Sanitary District #1: Bill Weddig stated the district is finishing up the 3-year upgrade to the plant. High water and garbage continue to be the greatest education issues for users. Joe Burrell has retired after 30 years of service. Dave Alberts has replaced him.

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

Carole Vande Walle asked the status of PRAT tax. Sara Lancaster responded that the town did not meet the Department of Revenue percentages needed. The only option at this time would be to ask the state legislature. Carole asked if more is known on the administrator search. Steve Sohns stated a firm had been hired for the search. There were 6-8 short listed candidates of which narrowed to 3 for interviews. The board anticipates a final candidate in the next 30-60 days.

Bill Wolff asked for an update on the grant for expanding the internet service. Steve Sohns responded that Charter came to us last year for a build out grant opportunity by the Public Service Commission (PSC). The grant was not successful but a strong candidate. Charter is hoping that the State will allow us to reapply for the grant funding under the new stimulus funds. If so, everyone is strongly encouraged to send a letter of support or call to their legislators and the PSC. Starlink is a viable solution for some individuals. DCEDC is working on solutions as well.

New Business: Steve Sohns opened the floor for new business.

Resolution Authorizing Zoning Authority: A resolution was brought forward for elector consideration. See attached. Resolution carried Ayes 34, Nays 0.

Bill Weddig expressed disapproval of the town filing suit against the Alibi Marina.

Mitch Larson stated the town should be embracing the Alibi Marina not fighting them.

Carole Vande Walle thanked the board for having the meeting at the fire department.

Motion: (Karl Stubenvoll, Denise Stillmann) to set next annual meeting date for Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Gibraltar Fire Department. Carried

Adjourn: *Motion: (Holly Somerhalder, Dave Harris) to adjourn at 8:57 p.m. Carried*

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Hagen, Clerk

Posted: April 27, 2021
Nicolet National Bank – Fish Creek Branch
Fish Creek BP
Fish Creek Post Office
Gibraltar Town Center