

**TOWN OF GIBRALTAR
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022
GIBRALTAR TOWN CENTER
4097 HIGHWAY 42, FISH CREEK WI 54212
7:00 PM**

Approved: March 2, 2022

Call to order: Steve Sohns called the regular meeting to order at 7: 00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call/quorum:

Board members present: Steve Sohns, Bill Johnson, Tim Luetzgen, Brian Merkel, and Jayson Merkel.

Board member(s) absent: None

Agenda/proper notice/adopt agenda: Sohns confirmed the agenda had been properly noticed. *Motion: (Johnson, J. Merkel) to adopt the agenda as posted. Carried*

Approve minutes of previous meeting(s): *Motion: (Johnson, Luetzgen) to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2022, as amended. Carried*

Motion: (Johnson, J. Merkel) to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2022, special closed meeting, as written. Carried.

Committee/Commission Reports

Parks & Lands: Buske reported the committee starting to put items together that have been budgeted for in 2022. Received 2 donations for a bench and tree.

Fire Department/EMR: Chief Bertges provided a written report: 15 calls in January, loss of a community member, working on grants and strategic planning. January classes were postponed due to Covid. Winterfest this weekend with an Ice Rescue Demo.

Law Enforcement: Chief Roesch reported 48 contacts for the month.

VFC: Karlie reported 237 points of contact in January. Winterfest is this weekend. Working on 2022 brochure updates and community messaging.

Noble House: Buske reported there will not be all things chocolate. Would like people to consider contacting the GHA when disposing of old documents.

Airport: No report

Watershed: No report

Plan Commission: No report

Harbor Commission: Letters were sent out to the Holiday Harbor Slip holders. 3 slips were relinquished.

Room Tax: Weddig reported the Commission reviewed November. Still strong compared to last year. Zone was up 51.5% over 2020 and 40.9% over 2019.

Building Committee: Stubenvoll reported the committee toured the Kinsey cottages.

Door County Coastal Byways Council: No report

Clerk: Murre reported there will be a February primary for Gibraltar School Board. Absentee ballots and early in-person voting is available.

Treasurer: Working with auditors and on business licenses. About 60 business licenses and 35 short term rentals licenses have been issued.

Administrator: Thyssen reported he was in Madison today and assembly bill for the TID passed. Met with Senator Andres Jacques and they will have the bill introduced. Noble House foundation work will start in about 2-3 weeks. Will be hiring an independent building inspector for the Kinsey property. Maintenance has been working on cold weather inside jobs. He congratulated Kelly Murre on 10 years of service with the Town.

Chairman: Sohns reported the Town may be eligible for addition grants for fish passage to replace the culvert/bridge over the Creek.

Public Comment:

Andrea Jauquet – presented an idea regarding village transportation and electric vehicles.

Nancy Sargent – gave a comment to the Town Board regarding the HNR parking lot. See attached.

1 Judith Kalb – also gave concerns regarding the dock parking lot. Would prefer the lot be referred to as the
2 temporary dock parking lot.
3 Bob MacDonald – reiterates that the lot be considered as part of the Waterfront Master Plan.
4 Andrea Esau – hopes that voters will be able to review any redevelopment for the Town.
5 Thyssen stated Staff will be having informational meetings very soon. The plans are in the initial phases.
6 Community will be included in the discussions.
7 Andy Coulson – the White Gull inn has been in the family for 50 years. Wants to be involved with the future
8 planning of Sunset Beach. Need to be careful not to destroy the charm. Happy to participate in ongoing
9 discussions.
10 Vinnie Chomeau – asks not to remove trees until plans are in place.

11
12 **Agenda Items:**

13
14 **Josh VanLieshout DCTZC Update:** VanLieshout reported the room tax increase has been approved for
15 8%. Online platform algorithms have been updated to reflect. The commission is restating the entity
16 agreement with Destination Door County, hoping to have complete this month. The commission approved a
17 \$300,000 operating budget with another part-time employee. The commission is set up on a reimbursement
18 plan.
19 Bill Johnson asked if the tourism zone is working to use funds for employee housing. The zone will look at
20 issues county-wide and will try to address.
21 30% of the lodging tax collected goes back to the municipality. Destination Door County will take 11% and
22 direct back to community marketing entities.
23 Administrative costs will be prorated amongst the communities. Gibraltar’s percent will be about 19% based
24 on the total lodging tax revenues.

25
26 **Special Event Request: Tracy Alpert, “Explosions of Fun”, July 2, 2022, Fireworks, Cedar to Spruce**
27 **Street Private Block Party:** Similar request to last year. Not sure how involved VFC would want to get
28 involved. Some conversations about the use of Clark Park for other fundraising activities.
29 *Motion: (Johnson, J. Merkel) to approve. Carried.*

30
31 **Special Event Request: Northern Sky Theater, “Tailgate Tuesdays”:** Holly Feldmann from Northern
32 Sky Theater is requesting to allow theater goers to arrive prior to showtime for a picnic on the patio. 10 total
33 weeks during “Dad’s Season Tickets” performance. Would like to partner with local restaurants or food
34 trucks. Do not plan to have amplified or live music.
35 Johnson stated their Conditional Use limit outdoor activities.
36 *Motion: (B. Merkel, J. Merkel) to support the request as presented. Carried. Sobns opposed.*

37
38 **Special Event Request: Northern Sky Theater, “Raise the Curtain 2022”, May 28, 2022, Temporary**
39 **Picnic License:** Holly Feldmann from Northern Sky Theater is requesting a temporary picnic license to
40 serve wine during their season opening event. *Motion: (Johnson, B. Merkel) to approve. Carried.*

41
42 **Special Event Request: Another Century LLC, Sept. 11, 2022:** *Motion: (Johnson, Luetzgen) to approve. Carried.*

43
44 **DNR Request to Cut and Cross Road ROW of Quarterline Rd East:** The DNR owns the south east lot
45 at the end of Quaterline Rd. East. The towns right of way extends to the lot line and the town has allowed
46 trees to grow on town right of way property. Off the end of the towns right of way there is approximately
47 33’ that the DNR has to access their property.

48 The DNR is asking to have the right of way opened to allow access by vehicle to have trucks enter and exit
49 off the property for logging.

50 The DNR has agreed to pay driveway permitting and assist however they can.

51 *Motion: (Johnson, J. Merkel) to approve. Carried. Sobns opposed.*

52
53 **Consider Plan Commission Recommendation regarding Conditional Use Permit: Johnson Miniature**
54 **Golf:** The Plan Commission recommends support of the conditional use with the following conditions: to

1 have a buffer between all residential neighbors especially the neighbor to west that is village commercial but
2 has a residence. Downcast lighting on the property including the parking lot. To include the stormwater
3 retention pond and that it be retained, and to ask that no golf carts or batting cages be included in the deed.
4 *Motion: (Johnson, Sobns) to approve the planning commission's recommendation as presented. Carried, B. Merkel opposed.*
5

6 **Consider Building Committee Recommendation to Hire Building Inspections for McKesson**

7 **Property:** The building committee toured the lower cottages of the McKesson property. They are requesting
8 a 3rd party independent inspection. Thyssen contacted inspection companies and received an estimate of
9 \$1500. *Motion: (Johnson, B. Merkel) to approve. Carried*
10

11 **Consider Harbor Commission Recommendation Regarding Dock Parking Lot:** Harris reported the
12 Harbor Commission is recommending the HNR lot be permit parking for mooring and slip holders. This is
13 not a long-term recommendation, but the lot needs to be cleaned up and will help with enforcement.

14 *Motion: (Johnson, J. Merkel) to accept the Harbor Commission's recommendation regarding the temporary parking lot for permit
15 holders. Carried.*
16

17 **Accept Slaby Land Donations:** *Motion: (Johnson, Sobns) to accept the Slaby land donation. Carried.*
18

19 **Consideration of Increase to Capital Asset Audit Amount:** Currently any expenditure over \$1500 must
20 be investigated if it is a capital asset expenditure. The audit team suggested that we increase the asset amount
21 threshold to simplify the audit.

22 *Motion: (Johnson, B. Merkle) to increase the capital asset amount to \$5000. Carried*
23


24 **Approval of Fish Passage Grant Application:** Previously the Town Board approved acquiring grant
25 funding for a fish passage. This grant is a matching grant and the amount remaining for the town is
26 approximately 100,000, with the current bids. Most of our current grant funding has or will be spent on
27 consulting, design and engineering. A second grant would allow for funds to pay for the install bringing
28 down the total amount required from the town.
29

30 *Motion: (Johnson, Luetgen) to approve the continued effort to with the DNR on the Fish Passage grant application. Carried.*
31

32 **Approve the Payment of Bills:** *Motion: (B. Merkel, Johnson) to approve the payment of bills as
33 presented. Carried.*
34

35 **Adjourn to closed session according to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85(1) (c)(e)**

36 *Motion: (J. Merkel, Johnson) to adjourn to closed session at 9:17 PM. Carried by roll call vote: Sobns, J. Merkel, B. Merkel,
37 Johnson, Luetgen.*

38  **Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, investing of public
39 funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or
40 bargaining reasons require a closed session. Consideration of property acquisition**
41

42 **Reconvene to open session pursuant to State Statute 19.85(2) to take any action(s) or adopt
43 resolution on issues discussed in closed session** *Motion: (Johnson, Luetgen) to reconvene to open session at 9:50
44 PM Carried.*

45 *Motion: (Johnson, B. Merkel) to approve actions taken in closed. Carried*
46

47 **Adjourn:** *Motion: (Johnson, B. Merkel) to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. Carried*
48

49 Respectfully submitted,
50

51 Kelly Murre, Clerk