

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ON APRIL 19, 2022

John Lowry called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. There were 29 electors present.

Clerk/Treasurer Anastasia Bell swore in the newly elected Town Board Supervisors Janet Johnson, and Dan Watts.

Cathy Ward moved, David Studebaker second to approve the minutes of the Annual meeting held on April 20, 2021. Carried by voice vote, no nays heard.

Dale Stewart moved, Cathy Ward second to approve the minutes of the Special Town meeting held on November 29, 2021. Carried by voice vote, no nays heard.

2021 Annual Audit Report – Amber Drewieske from CliftonLarsonAllen LLP presented the annual audit. She highlighted several items within the report and indicated the Town is in good financial condition. She advised segregation of duties is quite common for municipalities such as Liberty Grove. Megan Hovell, from CliftonLarsonAllen LLP reported on the items which were estimated in the reports. **Dave Westen moved, Janet Johnson second** to approve the 2021 audit as presented by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP. Carried by voice vote, no nays heard.

Business from Town Electors – Larry Thoreson, 12020 Lakeview Road, stated the building at the top of the hill is an eyesore, he requested consideration for an additional crosswalk in downtown Ellison Bay, and for the speed limit of Lakeview Road to be reviewed. Beth Coleman, 1581 Ranch Lane, expressed her concern and requested an additional crosswalk in Ellison Bay.

Chairman Comments – John Lowry thanked the community, administrative staff, committee members, and the Town Crew for their continued service.

Committee Reports – *David Studebaker, Technology Committee Chair*, reported that office computer system safety and security has been reviewed, UW-law students presented information related to utility cooperatives and educating people on the importance of broadband. The importance of broadband was quickly realized during the pandemic, and cooperatives are not an option primarily due to the initial capital needs. DCEDC completed a broadband study which determined that 2/3 of the County is underserved. A Town representative was part of the DCEDC steering committee. The Town is partnering with Nsight for a PSC Grant to bring service to a pilot area near Northport. Nsight is also working to create an RFP for an engineering design which would gather the information needed to implement Town-wide broadband. It is anticipated that the Town will need to borrow for the full project and supplement the payments with grants as they are made available. *Dale Stewart, Highway Committee Chair*, reported that Mink River Road was the only road paved in 2021, but it was made wider and has a thicker layer of pavement. There is currently approximately 4 miles planned for 2022 with the width of Woodcrest being increased. The County Bike plan hasn't been implemented by many municipalities due to costs and the speed board data often shows that motorists are travelling below the posted speed limits.

Town-wide Broadband – Bobb Webb, Nsight, reported that the PSC Grant pilot project is scheduled for construction after WPS provides the pole documentation, construction will occur in 2022 or 2023. The engineering design is necessary to determine the material costs and create a bid for Town-wide broadband and there is an expected increase from the original estimate due to supply-chain issues and the availability of people. Nsight offers service expertise, grant writers and will likely contribute capital based on the households to be served. Their goal is to request 40% – 45% of the total cost in the next PSC grant cycle. The Town will need to decide if the currently served areas will be included in the Nsight build even though they will likely need to be excluded from any grant application. He confirmed that the start of service will be staggered throughout the construction season as drops are completed in neighborhoods/areas.

Committee Reports (continued) – *Nancy Goss, Plan Commission Chair*, reported that the Commission has worked to create and implement a Short-Term Rental Ordinance which would keep rentals below the POWTS limits. Several CUP requests have been received which has sparked a review of the future zoning maps. They are working to draw people to the current commercial areas and increase the potential uses of other areas as they are currently zoned. CUPs allow conditions to be set prior to approval of the use. She also noted that there is a vacancy on the Commission at this time. *Cathy Ward, Parks and Property Committee Chair*, reported that the committee continues in their attempts to create a community for the locals while welcoming the tourists, she asked for quality photos of the parks to be submitted to the office for possible inclusion in the brochure. Progress is being made to remove the buildings and install a sign at Mariners Park, a 9-hole disc golf course is planned for Gills Rock Park, and new pickleball courts may be added to the current tennis courts. Beth Coleman requested consideration be made that the Mariner Park survey was completed after the property was purchased. Janet Johnson requested adult fitness equipment be considered as organizations may be willing to donate funds. *Anne Miller, Door County Coastal Byways Council Chair*, reported that Door County is considered economically disadvantaged due to geography and tourism-based economy and the national designation of the byway both increases grant opportunities for building infrastructure such as sidewalks, bike paths, and/or broadband. The grants help to create a better place for residents and visitors alike and bring organizations together for completing the application. The Council continues to work on billboard and nuisance properties along the byway and their new website is being developed.

Beth Coleman moved, Cheryl Culver second to set the 2023 Annual Meeting to be held on April 18, 2023. Carried by voice vote, no nays heard.

Anne Miller moved, Nancy Goss second to adjourn the 2022 Annual Meeting at 9:09 pm. Carried by voice vote, no nays heard.

Respectfully submitted

Anastasia Bell, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the 04/18/2023 Annual Meeting