

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ON APRIL 16, 2024

Janet Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. There were 20 electors present.

Clerk/Treasurer Pamela Donart-Welcome swore in the newly elected Town Board Supervisors William Appel and Dan Watts.

Dave Westen moved, Billy Appel seconded to approve the minutes of the Annual meeting held on April 18, 2023. Carried by voice vote, no nays heard.

Rick Kingsbury moved, Nancy Goss seconded to approve the minutes of the Special Town meeting held on November 15, 2023. Carried by voice vote, no nays heard.

2023 Annual Audit Report – Megan Hovell, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, presented the annual audit. She referenced items on the following pages for clarification: p. 4 (CLA issued a clean un-modified opinion of the Town of Liberty Grove, which is the best opinion that they can offer), p. 8 (contains all the Town’s long-term activities), p. 11 (CLA noted the Town had a healthy cash balance at the end of the year, and a good “rainy day fund” of \$1,127,092.00), p. 13 (CLA noted the Town’s revenues and expenses are similar, indicating we are tracking and budgeting wisely), p. 16 (CLA noted the mid-year accounting software transition changed the way water & sewer funds appear vs previous year reports), p. 19 (CLA noted this cash balance is the Town “custodial fund,” for the other jurisdictions that the Town collects taxes for, and has paid out since Dec of 2023), pp 47-51 (CLA noted the *deficiency in internal control* is very common for municipalities of our size, because the duties of clerk and treasurer are combined and performed by one person, so are not segregated; CLA prepares the financial report documents). In summary, Meghan Hovell indicated the Town is in good financial condition.

Ann Miller moved, Cheryl Culver seconded to approve the 2023 audit as presented by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP. Carried by voice vote, no nays heard.

Updates from Town non-profit organizations:

Ann Miller of the **DC Coastal Byways** reported that their coloring books and crayons have been distributed throughout the Town and reminded of the importance and benefits of having the “Scenic Byway” designation on our roads, and remaining a member of Scenic America, which is a national nonprofit advocacy group that helps safeguard the scenic qualities of our roads. She noted how our DC Coastal Byways organization has a small budget and relies heavily on fundraising. She also shared how the famous “winding road” to Northport won in The National Scenic Byway Contest.

Stephanie Burke of the **Liberty Grove Historical Society** shared what a great group of people that are on the LGHS Board. She shared that there are now 12 historical buildings on the 15 acre site which are open to the public from dawn until dusk between June 22 and Aug 12, 2024, and otherwise by appointment. They have an up to date website <https://libertygrovehistorical.org/> , as well as a Facebook presence with a reach of 31,000.

Maryanne O’Dowd of the **Greater Escarpment Organization (GEO-DC)** gave an update on the “Escarpment Park” project that will be starting near the corner of Hwy 42 and Humbug

Road, now that the property has been cleared of hazards. It will be a natural interpretive park containing educational panels focusing on the geological beauty and history of the Niagara Escarpment we live on. She also shared the organization's release of their "Rockin' Recipes" cookbook.

Maureen Mercier of the **Ellison Bay Service Club** announced some details of the Ellison Bay Day in the Park which will bring back some of the traditions of the Olde Ellison Bay Days, including a parade, and beach activities for children. The event will be held at Ellison Bay Park on June 22, 2024 from 12pm-7pm.

Town Elector Business – John Wall asked who owns Gus Kleinke's Garage property. Administrator Kalms confirmed the Town owns it. Bud Kalms shared a couple of stories. Paul Schwengel asked about the ability to view future meetings through YouTube as we did during the pandemic. Johnson noted the Town has audio recordings of all our meetings, and we are working on making Teams meetings available.

Chairman Comments – Janet Johnson extended a thank you to Bud Kalms, Julie Kingsbury, and Pam Donart-Welcome for handling the day-to-day activities in the Town office. She also thanked the members of the Board, all the committees, and the Town highway crew in their tasks to run and operate the largest & most valuable Town in all of Door County. She also noted the Town is making progress with Frontier with a recent non-disclosure agreement in the works, and thanked the six volunteers who helped narrow down the actual number of properties that will qualify for grants we hope to get, so we won't have to pay for connections to vacant land. She finished by reminding folks that if they want to make a difference in the way their Town is governed, they should run for a Town office or serve on a committee. Bud Kalms added to Janet's "...the largest & most valuable Town in all of Door County" comment confirming that our assessed value is currently in the lead at nearly \$1.5 billion, which is the highest in the county, including the city of Sturgeon Bay.

Billy Appel moved, Nancy Goss seconded to set the 2025 Annual Meeting to be held on April 15, 2025. Carried by voice vote, no nays heard.

Ann Miller moved, Chery Culver seconded to adjourn the 2024 Annual Meeting at 8:10pm. Carried by voice vote, no nays heard.

Respectfully submitted
Pamela Donart-Welcome, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved 4/15/25