

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Town of Washington

Door County

The Town Board of the Town of Washington, Door County, Wisconsin, hereby provides its written notice and agenda for the **ANNUAL MEETING of the ELECTORS** of the Town of Washington for **Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.** in the **Community Center Gym**. Board Members will be present at the Gym, and seating will be on a first-come first-serve basis. The town chairperson, or a designee has provided communication of this public meeting to the requisite news media, if any. The public may provide comments to the town board if a period for public comment is noted on the agenda and upon recognition by the presiding officer.

MINUTES

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ELECTORS

1. Chairman Hans Lux called the Annual Meeting of the Electors to order at 6PM.
2. Chairman Lux led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Oath of Office for Town Officers
 - a. Clerk/Treasurer Alexandria McDonald administered the Oath of Office to Lawrence Kahlscheuer and Peter Sownie.
 - b. Chairman Lux thanked Supervisor Loren Roznai for her two years of dedicated service to the Town of Washington on the Board.
4. Motion by Doug Huffman seconded by Keith Mann to approve the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.
5. Update of Financial Statement by Clerk/Treasurer Alexandria McDonald
 - a. McDonald explained that the audit for 2023 was not yet completed, but that the Town Board was able to financially honor all capital and fund accrual commitments, as well as contributing to the unassigned fund. She also noted that the assigned funds, the fund equity accounts, have increased over the course of 2023. This reflected the philosophy of the board – that the town must intentionally save to invest in the future of the town. The board no longer wanted to contribute to the dangerous cycle of unrestricted spending and debt that contributed to the town falling close to bankruptcy. The board is being more meaningful with how they are spending and saving taxpayer dollars. She also noted that Huntington Loan will be paid off in 2024, which leaves only the Nicolet Loan and the BCPL Loan, which at least had a positive aspect where the interest the state collects is reinvested into the state.
6. Setting date for 2025 Annual Town Meeting according to Wis. Stat. 60.11(2)(b)
 - a. Motion by Cindra Hokkanen seconded by Keith Mann to set the date for the 2025 Annual Town Meeting to be Tuesday, April 15, 2025. Motion carried.

7. Public Input

- i. Chairman Lux opened the Public Input portion by thanking the Washington Island Electric Co-op, the Department of Public Works, the Fire Department, and the many volunteers for all their work helping support the island community during the recent April storm. He noted that it was a community wide effort, and they were lucky the temperatures were not colder creating a more dangerous situation. Chairman Lux vowed to work on supplying power from the Community Center's emergency generators to the shared well pump between the Community Center and the Washington Island School, so that the Community Center may function as a shelter. He also thanked WIZAP for their hard work on drafting the Comprehensive Plan with Bay-Lake Regional Planning. He spoke proudly of the 50% survey return rate. He also noted some important events that occurred since the last annual meeting, including a visit from the Governor associated with the grant award to the co-op, chip sealing town roads, reduced dental services, and a review of town ordinances. He thanked the newly formed Washington Island Radio for their excellent work on programming and getting information out to the public. He thanked the Community Center Committee for bringing back the swim lessons program hosted at the Rec Center and indicated that repair and improvement work is being planned for the Red Barn. Chairman Lux ended with highlighting the work done by the Washington Island Fire and Rescue, Inc regarding fundraising for a new rescue boat. He remarked that this was very important especially because the US Coast Guard has abandoned their station on Washington Island.
 1. Jackie Rader added that WICHP helped as well, and Lux thanked her for reminding him.
- ii. Jackie Rader suggested that the Board consider creating a dog park on the island and added that the park could be staffed by volunteers.
 1. Supervisor Foss agreed to bring the matter to the Parks Committee.
- iii. Ardin Hanson thanked all the people serving on town committees and hoped that people would continue to lend their support and expertise to the work the committees are doing.
 1. Chairman Lux agreed and added that there still opening for more members on almost all committees.
- iv. Motion by Keith Mann seconded by Emily Small to award the board with a 10% raise. Motion carried by majority vote, all ayes.
 1. Mann thanked the board for their hard work and dedication.
 2. Chairman Lux noted that it had been many years since the board last received a raise.
- v. Kathleen Morris asked if the Board knew what happened to funds donated to build a new gym in 2005. Clerk/Treasurer McDonald indicated that the town had no record of funds dedicated to a new gym, and Keith Mann clarified that he

had been involved in that fundraising, and that it had been handled by a separate foundation and that the funds were returned to the donors when the project was unsuccessful.

8. Board Member Comments

- a. Peter Sownie thanked the community for the honor to serve on the board and stated that he was looking forward to meeting upcoming challenges and cooperating with others to solve them.
- b. Margaret Foss noted that the past year serving was interesting, challenging, and rewarding, and that she has learned a lot. She stated that the Parks Committee now has 3 members, but that there are 4 more open spots. She hoped that the committee would be able to find a way to collect revenue from visitors that the community and the board would support. She said that the work serving on committees was interesting and it feels good to help the community. She also added that the Economic Development Committee had 3 members and had 4 openings.
- c. Martin Andersen recapped that he had headed projects to repair the Mountain Tower and the Fire House. He had been successful with Mountain Tower, but not with the Fire Department. He stated that forming an Infrastructure Committee was vital to planning. He also stated that improvements to island infrastructure such as the large storage building at the airport and the helipad were very beneficial to the community.
- d. Larry Kahlscheuer began by stating that this was his 5-year serving on the board. Seeing the community come together made it an honor to serve his community. He stated that the committees are where the work gets done. He encouraged the public to engage with the committees, especially WIZAP and their work on the very important Comprehensive Plan. He also suggested that the TPAC be considered as a meeting place, especially because the acoustics in the Community Center Gym made noise levels difficult for those with hearing difficulties.

9. Town Chairman Comments

- a. Chairman Lux noted that this would be his 50th year in government and community service. He has tried to make conscious financial decisions and stated that the Board is a team that works together. He thanked Keith Mann for honoring the board for their hard work. He ended by stating that he was looking forward to another great year.

10. Motion by Keith Mann seconded by Jackie Rader to Adjourn. Motion carried. Adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alexandria McDonald, Clerk/Treasurer

Hans Lux, Chairman