

## Special Meeting of Electors – May 24, 2017

Donald Sitte called the Special Meeting of the Electors to order at 7:00PM in the meeting room at the Town Hall. Present were Donald Sitte, Robert Schultz, Peter Jacobs, Roberta Thelen, Barbara Anschutz, Haley Adams, Ray Einhorn and 29 visitors.

Clerk verified posting. Motion made/second Bill Becker/Gordon Rowley to accept the agenda. Carried.

Donald Sitte addresses those present explaining that the Town Board of Baileys Harbor is considering the purchase of a property, parcel number 002-220614D, located at 2397 CTH F. Sitte cites the location in the downtown core and the ability to mend current and future issues for the town, the surrounding residents and businesses of the property. He explains that Bill Becker would be acting as the Town Agent in any dealings with the property and associated home. The asking price was \$194,900, the property was assessed at \$188,600. The original offer put in by the town was \$200,000 which was countered and then accepted by both parties at \$205,000. The agreement stated that the offer would remain valid for 30 days. Sitte explained that at this point in time there were no definite plans for the property however there were various ideas being discussed including a parking lot, park space and widening the roadway next to the property. The voters in attendance were then asked for their input and given the opportunity to ask questions and have discussion.

Lucy Klug suggested the house be made available for affordable housing and be sold for the cost of \$1 and the buyer would incur the cost of moving the home off the property.

Joe Parent, a developer, suggested that house may not be movable and that town should have more direction and explanation concerning the costs of moving the house, where it would be moved and other costs associated with purchase of this property.

Jean Ehmke asks if road next the property is the only access for delivery to the new Door County Brewery Building – followed by discussion about the other access points and the fact that this road would be a main access point for parking and deliveries.

Voter Mariah Goode expresses that she would be in favor of the town purchasing the property but not for a parking lot. She explains that widening the associated roadway would be a very beneficial point to the town owning the property, not only for road access but for safety issues.

Henry Saperstein questions the need for more parking in Baileys Harbor. He also expresses maybe there could be better options for property to purchase by the town and suggests Nelsons Hardware.

Donald Sitte reiterates the point that the Town Board plans on purchasing the property for long term planning and that there are many possibilities for the property. He stresses that without owning the property first nothing can change in regards to the road access, park space, parking or any future concerns for the area.

Robert Schultz explains that Nelsons Hardware is not for sale and the town has had closed session meetings with the Nelsons and there is no further discussions at this time.

Dave Elliot suggests purchasing the lot to widen the road and then reselling the property. Discussion about the road widening, road safety and access by delivery trucks for the Door County Brewery.

Jane Pluff brings up that the road associated with the property is a public access right of way and that if the town were to purchase the property and make it into a parking lot or public bathrooms that they should consider leaving it open for public festivals in which usually all access roads would be blocked.

Max Laird addresses the audience and explains how he is a property owner for one of the two homes that abut the access road that is only 12 foot wide and deemed a two-way street by Wisconsin statute. He questions where Bill Becker came to be involved as the agent. He also expresses that this area has a high concentration of school age children and road safety and access should be of concern.

Bill Becker the Town's agent for the property in question addresses the audience. He recalls that he brought the property up at the Annual Town Meeting when he first became aware of the property coming up for sale. His idea in bringing the property up was its location in the downtown core and the safety issues that could be resolved for the future of the area and expansion of Baileys Harbor.

Gordon Rowley expresses his concerns about the area and that the town's purchase of the property would offer more options than fewer for the future. He states that there are currently no plans or any associated activities with the plan commission for the property at this time.

Paul Kordon says it would be in his opinion a mistake to take this property off the tax roll and that it would be taking away from the opportunity for affordable housing for a family.

Discussion ensues with other voting members in the on the pros and cons of the purchase of the property. Terry Connelly, Henry Saperstein, Dave Elliot and Carl Klug spoke as well as board members Roberta Thelen and Donald Sitte. Pros being the road access and safety concerns being eliminated and possibilities for the future. Cons being the fact that many of the citizens believe this purchase is to support the parking situation for local businesses and that there are no definite plans or financial considerations in place. At this point Donald Sitte asked the voters is they would like to vote with a show of hands or by ballot. By a show of hands in the audience, it was an overwhelming vote to continue the process by a ballot vote. The meeting then entered a 5 minute recess to allow for the vote. The ballots were collected by two of the audience members and tallied. The vote read as follows:

Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Special Meeting of the Electors

BALLOT QUESTION #1

1. Do you grant the Town Board of Baileys Harbor the authority to purchase the parcel (# 002 220614D) of property located at 2397 County Road F?

YES - 15

NO – 20

BALLOT QUESTION #2

2. Do you authorize the Town Board of Baileys Harbor to sell any structures located on or associated with the aforementioned property?

YES - 15

NO - 20

The voting at the Special Meeting of the Electors on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 decided that the town will not go forward with the purchase of the property located at 2397 CTH F in Baileys Harbor.

Motion made/second Barbara Anschutz/Max Laird to adjourn at 7:26PM. Carried.

These minutes are subject to correction at the next regular monthly Town Board meeting.

Haley Adams, Town Clerk

Raymond Einhorn, Deputy Clerk

