

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ryan Heise
(920) 868-3334
rheise@villageofeggharbor.org

Village of Egg Harbor approves \$5 million Library Community Center

(Egg Harbor, Wisconsin – January 12, 2017) During their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, January 9th, the Village of Egg Harbor approved a construction contract with the low-bid contractor the [Boldt Company](#) based out of Appleton, Wisconsin to build a \$5 million Library Community Center. The meeting marked the 32nd time the community center has been discussed at their public meetings.

“It’s a historical moment,” explained Ryan Heise, Egg Harbor Village Administrator. “The building will serve the Village and the greater Door County community for generations to come.” With the help of the community the building has been designed by nationally recognized and award-winning architectural and engineering firm [HGA](#) based in Milwaukee. HGA maintains a large portfolio of highly acclaimed [projects](#) around the country.

“We are extremely fortunate to have HGA as a partner, their professionalism is contagious,” said Heise. The building, which will stand at nearly 35 feet high includes a historical center, business center, children’s space, makers’ space, lounge, catering kitchen, great hall, and a second story wraparound porch with views of Green Bay. The design also allows for the building to remain open while the library is closed. Transparent roll-down screens will protect the library collection while leaving the large community space available to the public.

Village president Joe Smith notes that it is exciting to see the community take action on a project that has been discussed for nearly five years, and emphasized that not enough has been said about the building location. “This fits brilliantly into the Village’s master plan, which calls for the development of Church Street and adds much needed dimension to the Village.”

Design committee chairman and longtime Trustee Bob Dickson has played a dual role of leading community input on the design while keeping a close eye on the tax impact to the residents. “Perhaps the most significant testament to the support of and desire for this building is the overwhelming number of private donations to the project, for which we owe a great deal of gratitude,” said Dickson. “Nearly \$4.3 million of the estimated total cost of \$6 million is from private contributions, of which \$2.3 million comes from the [Door County Community Foundation](#).” Soft costs of approximately \$1 million will be used for architectural, engineering, administrative, fixtures, furniture and minimal moving costs.

Bart Ahern, a member of the fundraising leadership team, said they are extremely appreciative the community has contributed more than 250 donations to date. According to Ahern, “The fundraising team is excited to break ground, and we recognize that our work is not yet complete.

There are still essential project needs including furniture, equipment and art that are not yet funded. We look forward to interacting with the community to enhance and complete the new Library Community Center."

Heise mentioned that it's important not to minimize the contributions of the taxpayer dollar, which will be \$1.6 million over 10 years, but emphasizes that overall private donations are nearly three times that of what is being contributed by the Village of Egg Harbor. "Libraries and community centers are buildings that are traditionally funded through public revenue. At times, there may be some modest private donations toward these types of public buildings. However, this speaks to Door County's philanthropic spirit. When it's all said and done the Village will have invested 30 cents to the dollar."

Next steps include moving an existing building on the site to a new location with site work to occur in late February. "The signing of the contract with Boldt is a major milestone. In a way the work is just beginning," said Heise.

Completion of the building is slated for fall of 2017. For more information watch the Village of Egg Harbor [website](#) for updates.