

IF WE BUILD IT THEY WILL COME

Please find below a correspondence letter from the largest Sport Fishing Tournament organization in America:

Peter,

It was great to talk to you about your plans to increase the size and scope of the marina. As we discussed having a venue that is fisherman friendly is a huge step in bringing large national tournaments to your community.

As I stated in our conversation I work for Federation Angler based in Ponca City, Oklahoma. The Federation Angler brand represents the largest collection of fishing, youth and conservation organizations under one roof in North America today, including two National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame companies and some of the oldest and largest tournament organizations in existence.

The Federation Angler network includes; The Bass Federation(TBF), Student Angler Federation High School Fishing(SAF), The Walleye Federation(TWF), Cabela's Masters Walleye Circuit(MWC), Cabela's North American Bass Circuit(NABC) and National Bass Anglers Association(NBAA) and more.

As Tournament Director for both the Cabela's Masters Walleye Circuit (MWC is the longest running walleye circuit in America) and Cabela's North American Bass Circuit (NABC) I look for tournament sites everyday that have a quality fishery and can handle hundreds of boats. It is a tough combination to find and you definitely have my attention.

Please keep me updated on the progress you are making in expanding the marina and getting the community set to host large events.

Thank you for your efforts and contacting me. If I can help don't hesitate to call.

Jack Baker

Tournament Director MWC, NABC

Personal contact information was redacted for obvious reasons

As you can see Sturgeon Point Marina could draw tournaments and revenue like our area has never seen before, but we are missing one thing. SEWERS. Nobody and I mean nobody is going to spend a penny to develop our marina uplands and bluffs to build a resort style hotel, restaurants etc., etc. without sewers. I personally brought a 1 million dollar offer to the Town of Evans for a piece of land, not the marina but the upland portion. My investor was willing to wait for the sewers before he would start construction. I told the town to give me a yes, a no or a counteroffer. We never got to the negotiating table because I never got a response from the town. Nothing. The cost to extend the sewers to the marina is 1 million dollars for a 1-mile extension down Sturgeon Point Road. If sewers were at the marina countless builders and developers would approach the Town of Evans with checkbooks in hand. Builders and developers want to see a commitment by the town and locality in which they are going to develop. They want to see some skin in the game from the local region. They do not want to take the risk of spending their own money for public services and come up against opposition and bureaucratic red tape that could delay or halt their development. That is just the way it is. At a Town Board meeting over two years ago, I hand delivered a sewer application to Mary Hosler and 2 Town Board members that are no longer there. I informed them that no sewer project can be started without the application completed, delivered, and filed with the Erie County Sewer Board. Our Erie County Legislator John Mills who sits on the Sewer Board was in the audience and told the Town Board he would help them fill it out if needed. It is only a few pages. It has been over two years and I just checked and Mr. Matt Salah who is the senior person of new construction projects for the County told me they have never received an application. I asked him if a sewer extension could ever be acted on or moved forward without a formal written request (application) received and filed with the County. His answer was no. The marina is a virtual gold mine yet to be discovered. The Town of Evans has owned this marina for about 40 years and the only thing we have to show for it is a hot dog stand. What a shame after all these years there is still nothing there. Every economic study I have ever seen for this town the number one recommendation is expand the marina and uplands, but nobody seems to listen to the studies that we paid to have done. My own recommendation to the town would be to get out of the marina business. Turn the marina section over to the State. They have the deep pockets to maintain and expand the marina itself. The town should negotiate to keep the uplands and bluff area. It seems like every year our town is begging every agency in existence for a lifeline. And our Evans Town taxpayers are on the hook for most of the cost. There is no money in 16- and 18-foot boat slips anymore. The call today is for boats over 22 feet. The marina is outdated. Boats are bigger and wider than ever before. Town of Evans simply cannot afford to update and maintain that marina for the 21 Century. Give it back to the State. Let them shoulder the burden not the Town of Evans taxpayers. This would be better for everyone involved including the town residents and the existing and future slip holders. We are now in a battle to dredge the harbor entrance to open the marina

for the 2021 season. The town signed a written contract with the State and the DEC to keep the marina open and operating. As I write this the town is in default. They are not fulfilling their obligations. By not dredging the harbor and opening the marina the town puts itself and its residents in a very precarious position. The marina is classified as a safe harbor. We are an international boundary waterway. It must be open so vessels can seek shelter in storms and emergency refueling situations. If our police search and rescue vessel is not in the water ready to go our town could be held liable if someone dies on that lake in our vicinity. This could end in a huge lawsuit and a runaway jury verdict for many tens of millions of dollars against our town. Needless to say, our town would have to seek bankruptcy protection. If this town falls into bankruptcy property owners in this town will suffer. It is a trickledown situation. Banks could actually hold up mortgages and home equity loans. Banks do not want to lend to an area that is on the verge of collapse. Property values in this town could drop because who wants to live in a bankrupt community. This may sound very bleak because it is meant to be. These are the ugly facts this town will not make you aware of. Last weekend a marina cleanup organized by the residents of this town took place. Many residents showed up with shovels, rakes, and chainsaws in hand to clean up the area. Several of our fire departments were present to wash down the launch area. John Stock from Stock Services showed up with millions of dollars of equipment. He volunteered his employees, machinery, fuel, dumpster, and his own time to answer the call for help. One thing I did not see there. I did not see one piece of Town of Evans equipment that the town taxpayers paid millions to purchase. Not one. I couldn't help but think why the town did not call for an all-hands-on deck approach and use our own equipment and our own employees that are on the payroll from the highway department to the recreation department etc. The residents did the flower gardens and the general clean up and they did a wonderful job. But why no town paid employee participation? To be fair I did see Counsel member Mike Schraft and Supervisor Hosler lending a hand. I am sorry if I missed some other town officials. I simply did not see them or recognize them. An article was written in the Sunday Buffalo News about the marina which quoted our Supervisor - Mary Hosler saying, "the marina needs to be ready for next year, that is my goal." I am sure I am not the only one in this town that feels this statement is completely unacceptable. Not only does the marina need to be open this year, it needs to be open now. Several companies offered their help to dredge the marina and get it ready. In particular John Stock said he will open a 100-foot swath for a cost under the \$35,000 bid limit. Which means the town can act without putting it out for a bid that would take needless time. One phone call would get Stock or others on the job and the marina open now, not weeks, months, or years down the road. If Supervisor Hosler does not act immediately the Evans residents may have to take the situation in their own hands and lobby the State to act and approve the dredging. The State can bypass the Town Board and order the dredging and charge the town. They have the legal right to do this (per contract). Hopefully at the next town board meeting the town will relent and get the job done. Just to give you a few examples how our State spends our money. Frank Llyod Wright properties have received over 50 million dollars in State and Federal funding since 1993. Recently the Buffalo Billion Program gave 3.7 million to rehab an outbuilding. Also, recently the State gave approximately 11.4 million to promote the Lake Erie Wine Trail in Chautauqua County. Where is the Town of Evans grant money to start our economic engine the Sturgeon Point Marina that serves countless thousands of town and county residents?

Thank you,
Peter J Bogulski

P.S. If you have any comments, I would like to hear them. Good, bad, or indifferent. Email me: showpro665@aol.com

Paid for by Peter J Bogulski