

Physical Address: Fayette Townhall 11065 Second Street Darlington, WI 53530

# **Town Board Interview Questions**

It's what you've all been waiting for. An interview with chairman, Bob Hermanson! We learned a LOT about Bob during these questions. Check out his answers below.

#### 1.) Tell us a little about yourself.

I have three children; Corey (29), Chayse (26) and Cashton (22). I work for Red Rock View Dairy, Steve and Lisa Carpenter, as a feeder and herdsman.

# **2.)** How long have you served on the Fayette town board?

I've served on Fayette's board since 2003. The first 12 years I served as supervisor and the last four I've been chairman. Throughout the last 16 years, I've had the pleasure to serve with current board members Jean, Duke, Tom and Irene. I've also been lucky enough to serve with John Ruf, Lavern Hardyman and Diane Bredeson. I could not ask for a better group to serve with; it has made the last 16 years fly by!

# 3.) Why did you choose to serve?

I first decided to run for town board when my dad

decided to retire from the board at the end of his term in 2003. He asked if I would run and take his place. It was a proud moment in my life because it showed Dad's confidence in me after he served for 28 years. My grandfather, Howard Hale, served for 18 years on the Fayette town board prior to that. It's definitely a family tradition.

Fayette township has always been a special place to me. It's where I grew up, and where I raised my three children. Fayette has a lot to offer everyone, whether you live here or are just visiting for a day, week, or longer. I want to be sure it always stays "a township for everyone."





# 4.) What is your favorite memory while serving?

My favorite memory will always be the first Fayette Township reunion and every reunion since. It was amazing to see the amount of people that showed up and the enthusiasm and fun we had that day. When we plan for that day, we always wonder who is going to show. And, each year we are amazed at the turnout. I think it was Deana Soper that said it best, "You can take the person out of Fayette, but you can't take the Fayette out of a person."

# 5.) What are some of your hobbies?

I like to hunt and watch old movies and documentaries. I enjoy following all Wisconsin sports; Badger, Packers, Brewers and Bucks. One of my real passions is following the happenings of everything in the Darlington School district and surrounding districts. You will see him at almost every ball game for the Redbirds sitting in the top row!

# 6.) Tell us something most people wouldn't know about you.

Something a lot of people may not know about me is back in 1996, I was diagnosed with Chiari Malformation. It deals with the tissue around the back of the brain and neck. I had my first surgery in late 1996, and wound up having some complications. I had three more surgeries, with my last being late April. Then they had to cut a small portion of my brain to make room for the fluid to pass through.

# 7.) Name one of your favorites (favorite quote, book, food, etc).

My favorite food is spaghetti!

Thank you, Bob, for loving Fayette as much as we do, and serving our community for 16 years! What an accomplishment. We're sure your father and grandfather are very proud of you. And, we'll make sure to have some spaghetti ready for Bob at the next reunion – It would make his favorite day even better!



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# **Town Board Interview Questions**

An interview with town clerk, Jean VanMatre. We all know her friendly face around town, but check out the questions below to learn something new from one of our favorites!

# 1.) Tell us a little about yourself.

I've been married to Ray VanMatre for 50 years this May 17th. I retired a few years ago from Mineral Point School District after teaching for 28 years.

# 2.) How long have you served on the Fayette town board?

I was elected clerk in 1991!

# 3.) Why did you choose to serve?

I LOVE serving others. Fayette residents are really great neighbors and community members.

# 4.) What is your favorite memory while serving?

Helping coordinate the picnic/reunion. They really bring the residents, past and present, together.

# 5.) What are some of your hobbies?

I like gardening and yard work. I love all animals. Ray and I four wheel/ATV quite a bit too.

# 6.) Tell us something most people wouldn't know about you.

As public as I may appear, I am really quite a private person. I love peace and quiet! (Side note: Fayette is the PERFECT place for this, wouldn't you say?!)

# 7.) Name one of your favorites (favorite quote, book, food, etc).

Live, Love, Laughter!

We think Jean's favorite quote suites her just perfect. Next time you see her out in her yard, at the town hall or floating around Fayette, give her a big wave and smile! Thanks Jean for your nearly 30 years of service to this great community!





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#### **Town Board Interview Questions**

An interview with treasurer, Irene Burris. You may know her from paying your taxes, helping out at various Fayette events and businesses or sitting/standing next to her husband Tom, our township supervisor! They are a committed couple to "Our Fayette"!

#### 1.) Tell us a little about yourself.

I'm married to Tom and we have four boys; Nick, Amos, Andy and Jesse. We now have eight grandchildren. I work at Rut Roh's Fayette Saloon, cut hair and help on our family farm.

#### 2.) How long have you served on the Fayette town board?

I'm currently serving my sixth year on the town board.

#### 3.) Why did you choose to serve?

I like getting to know everyone in Fayette township. The financial help is a nice supplement to helping out my community as well.

# 4.) What is your favorite memory while serving?

I enjoy the hayrides we have in Fayette each fall.

#### 5.) What are some of your hobbies?

I enjoy riding in our convertible, seeing or experiencing something for the first time, traveling, bicycling and spending time with my family.

#### 6.) Tell us something most people wouldn't know about you.

I love to bicycle and travel. Decorating is something I thoroughly enjoy too!

# 7.) Name one of your favorites (favorite quote, book, food, etc).

Favorite Quote: Work hard. Play harder!

We know Irene works hard, and definitely plays harder! She's always helping out, smiling or helping budget our township! Thank you, Irene Burris, for serving the residents of Fayette township!



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#### **Town Board Interview Questions**

An interview with supervisor, Tom Burris. Tom makes everyone smile when you talk to him. This interview was quite entertaining to say the least! It's nice to have a little humor in politics these days. Thanks, Tom for your "insightful" comments.

#### 1.) Tell us a little about yourself.

I'm married to Irene and we have four boys; Nick, Amos, Andy and Jesse. We have eight grandkids! I now beef farm and do a little bit of hobby farming as well.

# 2.) How long have you served on the Fayette town board?

I've been on the town board for 13 years now.

# 3.) Why did you choose to serve?

To put it simple: I LIKE FAYETTE! If I can help keep the residents in line, that makes me happy too (all kidding aside... we think...).

# 4.) What is your favorite memory while serving?

Serving with longtime chairman, John Ruf! Some of the things he did baffled me. (He was always keeping everyone on their toes; Tom sometimes does too. But, both these wonderful guys have done great things for Fayette).

# 5.) What are some of your hobbies?

I like to hunt, ride horses and drink a few "tasty" beverages.

# 6.) Tell us something most people wouldn't know about you.

I have no secretes! I tell them all!

# 7.) Name one of your favorites (favorite quote, book, food, etc).

Most great men are dead, and I'm not feeling well.

\*Side note: While this quote is very true about great men, we're happy to have Tom serve another term on the town board for the next few years. He's not going anywhere any time soon!

If you know Tom at all, you know he's full of jokes, laughter and a good time. Can you tell by this interview?! We're sure he'll have a drink (or two or three) with you the next time you see him! Thank you, Tom Burris, for serving Fayette!





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# **Town Board Interview Questions**

An interview with supervisor, Duke Ruf. As a lifelong resident of the township, he has some great thoughts and reasons for serving his beloved Fayette!

# 1.) Tell us a little about yourself.

I am married to Jody, and we have two kids; Kari (Brad) and Christen (Kristen). I also have two grandchildren, Sadie (2 years) and Cason (6 months).

# 2.) How long have you served on the Fayette town board?

I have been on the board for four years now.

#### 3.) Why did you choose to serve?

I was born and raised in Fayette township. I want to see the residents we have, stay here and hopefully gain more great people to our little town.

# 4.) What is your favorite memory while serving?

I thoroughly enjoy giving rides to people through Boise during the annual reunion.

#### 5.) What are some of your hobbies?

I have always been a motorhead. I love to snowmobile, UTV and hunt!

# 6.) Tell us something most people wouldn't know about you.

My real name is John, after Dad. Most people just call me Duke.

# 7.) Name one of your favorites (favorite quote, book, food, etc).

My lovely wife, Jody. Hahaha!

"Sit down, shut up and hang on!" A quote from the original John Ruf.

Thank you, Duke for serving the great Fayette. You're following in your Dad's footsteps and making him proud! Fayette is something to be proud of, and Duke certainly is. Next time you see him driving around checking roads and seeing what's going on in the township, make sure to give him a big wave. You'll know him by his white, Ford, Ruf's Farm Service truck.

