

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE
PUBLIC HEARING AND
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 8, 2016

COUNCIL PRESENT: Fred Janci, Mayor, Bonnie Munn, Vice Mayor, Susie Atkinson, Stuart Bell, Aileen Joeckel, John Joeckel and Jeanette Sturgis
TOWN CLERK: Lynn Weeks

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

I. Call to Order – Mayor Janci called to Order the Town Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on March 8, 2016 in the Wachapreague Town hall.

II. Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Janci lead the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Public Comments – Chris Wardius, a resident and local business owner, requested council take no vote on any New Business presented and wait the month for it to be placed under unfinished business allowing residents an opportunity to become aware and educated on the subject.

1. Vice Mayor Munn made a presentation of a “Resolution of Recognition – Volunteers of the Year” award, to Vernon and Catherine Bell for their outstanding volunteerism to the Town of Wachapreague and its residents.

2. Mayor Janci made a presentation of a Resolution of Recognition to Catherine Janci for her extraordinary act of community in making the beautiful Independence Quilt for raffle to benefit Seaside Park and, made a Christmas ornament, with another member of Town, which depicted the Town of Wachapreague for placing on the Governors 2015 Christmas tree.

3. Kerry Allison of the Eastern Shore Tourism Commission spoke of the strides that have taken place where the Eastern Shore of Virginia is the fastest growing region for the last two years. One of the ways to calculate is website hits such as “stay”, “events”, “Map”, and “Eat”. Discussed was the Town and Tourism websites that are in the works with links to make it easy for tourists to find what they are looking for.

IV. Approval of Minutes – Vice Mayor Munn indicated she could not approve the February 9, 2016 Minutes because a vote on the Agenda, whether legal or not legal still is part of the Minutes and it needs to match the recorded minutes. John Joeckel and Aileen Joeckel, concurred. Lynn Weeks is to change the February 9, 2016 Public Hearing and Town Council Meeting Minutes incorporating the vote taken on Agendas under New Business.

V. Review of Financial Report – John Joeckel reported

TOWN

- Savings is \$40,000 less than last year, due to the property purchase.
- Mr. Joeckel noted there is still \$154,000 in SunTrust checking at the end of February and he hopes these funds will be transferred soon to PNC Bank.
- After this is accomplished \$75,000 needs to be placed in the VML Investment Pool for these fund’s to start accruing interest.
- Total assets are about the same this year as last year.
- Total Income is down by \$2,000 due to the Fire Company pass through.
- Expenses are up by \$10,000 which is attributable to the lack of revenue from grass cutting, the survey for the spoil site and the Town audit.

MARINA

- Boat slip rentals are up this year by \$10,000 over last year but Mr. Joeckel is unsure why and needs to do some research.
- Expenses are down by \$12,000.
- Ordinary Income is up substantially over last year.
- Assets are down by \$4,000.
- Total funds for the Marina are up by \$6,000 over last year.

Susie Atkinson made a Motion to approve the Financials and Bonnie Munn seconded the Motion. There being no further discussion at vote was taken and passed unanimously.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. MARINA – John Joeckel attended the VPA Grant meeting where he presented the Town’s request for monies to dredge the marina and all costs associated therein with possible need of excavating the Town spoil site and needed repairs to the bulkhead, floating dock, office walkway and general maintenance and repairs. The total request was for \$85,000 of which the Town would be responsible for \$22,500. Many Counties, Cities and Towns were present requesting money for improvements to their marinas, as opposed maintenance and repairs. The Board of the Virginia Port Authority will be meeting on May 24th to make their decisions.

- Mr. Joeckel suggested a crabbing and fishing pier just south of the Wachapreague Marina. He has spoken with the Nature Conservancy and they seemed willing to discuss it. The cost would be around \$460,000 and with some Grants he may be able to get \$430,000 of which the Town would pay approximately \$30,000. If the Town could get the property directly across the street, which is assessed at \$60,000, donated to the Town they could put in a parking lot. Council are interested so Mr. Joeckel will bring in some information for the next meeting.

B. Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan – Mr. Joeckel attended the March 2nd meeting and has furnished council with a copy of the meeting notes. This project will not be completed for another year. The committee is at the stage of determining flooding. There are several models of hurricanes on the bayside and some on the seaside. What they will show is storm surge and flooding heights. Eventually this information will be online and you can click on your Town to access the path of the storm and its possible impact on you. In the future the models will show wind, rain, flooding damage and the resources needed to respond.

C. Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterways Committee – Mr. Joeckel recently attended his first meeting of the Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterways Committee with the Army Corps of Engineers where he was elected Chairman. The areas involved are under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers and the Coast Guard and will cover both counties. There are two supervisors from each County and three citizen representatives from each county. The first determination will be the dredging priorities for 2018.

Mr. Joeckel advised the Committee will be preparing a long-term strategic plan that will cover the next 5 to 7 years on navigational and non-navigational projects. The non-navigational projects will consist of restoring Cedar Island, restoring the marsh and protecting the mainland from coastal erosion.

Mr. Joeckel also advised the Cedar Island Federal Interest Project is now completed and should become public within the next month or two. This project was done due to the loss of Cedar Island and what can be done to protect Wachapreague.

D. Approval of Agenda – Mayor Janci addressed council as to the category of “New Business” where the practice has always been that no votes could be taken until New Business became Old Business. Since Mayor Janci has been in this position, with Diana Brown as the Town Clerk to the present that has always been the case. Mayor Janci is aware the Town can enact their own procedures as long as they do not break any of the Virginia Codes. Placing or removing a matter from the agenda at the time of the

meeting can give the element of “surprise” and lack of knowledge on the subject matter being presented.

- John Joeckel agrees in concept for a Town Ordinance or Fund but feels this is mostly an internal procedural issue and should be made a part of the Agenda.
- Bonnie Munn discussed Roberts Rules which has been followed by the Town Council ever since Debbie Moon was Mayor, and before.

Stuart Bell made a Motion to Adopt Roberts Rules and Bonnie Munn seconded the Motion which passed unanimously.

John Joeckel made a Motion to Rescind the Order incorporating the Approval of Agenda and Bonnie Munn seconded the Motion which passed unanimously.

Bonnie Munn made a Motion that no vote be taken under New Business and Jeanette Sturgis seconded the Motion which passed unanimously.

E. TOWN MAINTENANCE/GARBAGE – Bonnie Munn spoke with J.D. Bradshaw who advised the pickup truck has passed inspection but needed a muffler tail pipe, headlights assembled and rear brakes which totaled \$759.

- The two grass cutters have been serviced in preparation for lawn maintenance. Ms. Munn has again spoken with the Mayor of Melfa about the trash truck.
- The Melfa Mayor would be willing to loan their trash truck to the Town of Wachapreague when ours is in the shop and the Town of Wachapreague will do the same for Melfa, but she needs to address this with Melfa Town Council first. Melfa has used Colonna for many years but is now using someone in Exmore for their Town vehicle repairs. She is to notify Ms. Munn who they use.

F. POWELL MEMORIAL PARK - Ms. Munn advised Mr. and Mrs. Coleman have purchased the Diamond property and will be closing and moving in within the next month. They must have seen the notice in the Post Office that the Town was in need of a refrigerator for Powell Park and have offered theirs. They are to contact Ms. Munn when they will be moving in. The refrigerator that Kay Lewis is offering through Parks and Recreation is still being considered but Ms. Munn did not want to miss out in case that one does not come through.

- Ms. Munn has spoken with Wayne Burton of Parks & Rec who advised they will be clearing out the dugout that has blown over. Ms. Munn has offered the Town truck be placed next to the dugout so that the debris can be placed directly into it. Mr. Burton will advise the landfill not to charge the Town for this load.
- Wayne Burton has indicated the chain link fence will be replaced, but Ms. Munn is unsure when.
- The lock the Town purchased for the Park was broken and had to be replaced on several occasions. Ms. Munn locks and unlocks the Park on the days when J.D. Bradshaw and John Burton are not working.
- A church group is interested in reserving the Park for baseball games on either Saturdays or Sundays during the day. The group was advised they would need to speak with Wayne Burton who will in turn have them meet with Bonnie too.

G. Town Hall Beautification/Maintenance – Was not discussed.

H. Streets and Drainage – Stuart Bell advised of a bad dip in the road at the corner of Main and Atlantic and Chris Wardius mentioned the pot holes in that same area. Mr. Bell is to speak with Chris Isdell of VDOT to see if these can be repaired. Jeanette Sturgis advised of standing water on Pearl Street by the telephone pole which does not drain. She is not sure if it is clogged up or what the problem is. Mr. Bell will also address this with Mr. Isdell.

I. Safety/Security – Stuart Bell advised lights were out at the Town Marina office where there are two lights; one directed toward to the Office and the other toward the Marina. Mr. Bell spoke with ANEC who responded the next day and they put a yellow light in that is directed toward the Marina which will probably be better for any boats coming in after dark.

J. 911 System – Ms. Weeks advised Bonnie Munn has furnished additional information on Church Street. Ms. Weeks has sent out letters to those residents who live out of town or are not always available. There are still a few more streets and Ms. Munn will get together with Ms. Weeks to ascertain the remaining ones.

K. Seaside Park – Mayor Janci has nothing new to report at this time.

L. Delinquent Town Real Estate Taxes, Vehicle & Golf Cart Tags – Ms. Weeks advised letters have been sent to delinquent taxpayers and some people have responded. Mary Jo Tatum, the Town Bookkeeper continues to accrue interest on the delinquent accounts.

M. Floodplain Administrator/CRS Coordinator – Aileen Joeckel advised

- Attending a work shop presented by the Virginia Eastern Shore Coastal Resilience Mapping & Decision Support Tool where she received a training manual. Ms. Joeckel stated with this manual it is easy to access online mapping that will show regional vulnerability to storm surge, sea-level rise and changes in coastal habitats. A color copy of the training manual will be available for review in the Wachapreague Town Hall.
- Ms. Joeckel is scheduled to attend the NFIP Community Rating Service course in Poquoson, Virginia for one week in the month of June.

N. Planning Commission – Ms. Joeckel advised Lisa (MiMi) Sedjat will replace Jackie Zang on the Board. David Van de Graaf is away so meetings are being held until his return. Ms. Weeks is working on the request for five copies of the existing Town Ordinances to hand out to the Planning Commission for their review and updating.

O. Tourism/Business – Aileen Joeckel asked council if they wished to continue the Town's membership with the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$283 for the period January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

Bonnie Munn made a Motion to continue the annual membership with the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce for \$283 and Susie Atkinson seconded the Motion. There being no further discussion a vote was taken and passed unanimously.

- Meriwether Payne attended the last Tourism meeting where she discussed birding, such as Cape May has. It is believed it would benefit the Town to invite influential people here where they could stay at the motel, eat at the Island House and show them what a great location this is. They are looking to do some hosting in the months of April/May on weekends to promote the birding here. Discussed was providing a link on the Town website for anyone interested in birding. Two birding events were discussed for possibly the Fall and again in the Spring.
- Ms. Joeckel was able to reach out to a field guide illustrator who was kind enough to provide digital copies, with consent, for the Town to use on the Way Station Sign. The one sign will read Off-Shore and In-Shore fishing with pictures of fish caught and the other sign will be an aerial view of the Atlantic Ocean and Cedar Island.
- Ms. Joeckel has not heard back from anyone at the Crop Production Services about utilizing a portion of their property for our sign. In Painter Chris Wardius has a sign he may be giving up that the Town could use. Ms. Joeckel indicated the Grant the Town received could be used for this sign as long as the wording Wachapreague, "Little City by the Sea, "A Playground for your Passions" is made a part thereof.

P. Appointments – Aileen Joeckel asked Mayor Janci if Bill Blaine was still interested in being on the Board and was advised he no longer lives in Wachapreague. Also discussed was Joe Tormos who may

also be moving out of Town. Ms. Joeckel will check with him and advise council. Charles Fair, Tameka Watkinson and Patricia Bragg are all interested in being on the Board. It may turn out that two more people are needed to fill the five person requirement. Ms. Joeckel will follow up on this.

Q. Tag/Decals Sales – Council have again agreed to cover Saturday mornings between March 15th and April 15th. John Joeckel will cover March 19th and April 9th, Bonnie Munn will cover March 26th and Mayor Janci April 2nd.

R. Easter Egg Hunt – It was discussed the Easter Egg Hunt will start at 11:00 a.m. at Powell Memorial Park. The Easter Bunny will appear again this year. Bonnie Munn, Aileen Joeckel and Mayor Janci have offered to bring drinks, food, brownies, chips, candy and fill plastic Easter Eggs.

VII. New Business -

1. 4th of July Celebration – Committees need to be set up for prepping the float with designated times for set up and take down; Park set up and take down; organization of food, which Mayor Janci indicated Cathy Janci will organize and make the arrangements with the Health Department; Bonnie Munn offered to obtain the Permit to close Main Street off for the parade. This will be discussed at next month's meeting.

2. Mosquito Control – The Town will be in contact with Ehrlich Pest Control for continuing with the Town's mosquito needs for summer 2016.

3. Spoil Site – John Joeckel brought up council's discussion to charge dredge users a fee, the Town included, for the use of the spoil site. Mr. Joeckel estimates a three year dredge at \$8,000 for a 21 year payback. The subject of VIMS came up and Mr. Joeckel advised they would be amenable to pay a surcharge. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

4. Donation of property to the Town for recreational use puts a liability issue into play. A private individual who does not allow access to their property is not liable if someone should get hurt. It was suggested a holding company, such as the "Friends of Wachapreague" who would have no assets if sued, but further research is needed. The Town Attorney has a concern about a potential lawsuit. Should the Town not accept this donation it could eventually go to the Nature Conservancy or VMRC.

VIII. Announcements – Bonnie Munn advised she had a rock garden sent to Pat Fate at Heritage Hall where she is convalescing. Mayor Janci said Ms. Fate greatly appreciated this. Susie Atkinson also thanked council for her rock garden and card. Ms. Munn will send a Sympathy note to Mrs. Russell. Bonnie Munn requested she be notified of anyone else the Town could send well wishes to.

IX. Adjournment – Susie Atkinson made a Motion to adjourn the meeting and Stuart Bell seconded the Motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

CBW
3/8/16

MAYOR

TOWN CLERK