

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
October 13, 2015

COUNCIL PRESENT: Fred Janci, Mayor, Bonnie Munn, Vice Mayor, Susie Atkinson, Stuart Bell, Aileen Joeckel and John Joeckel
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 October 13, 2015 in the Wachapreague Town hall.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance** – Mayor Janci lead the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Public Comments** – Mayor Janci commended J.D. Bradshaw and John Burton, Town employees, who discovered a Town resident, Butch Steranka, slumped over in his chair outside his home. They approached him and realized something was terribly wrong and called 911. The Wachapreague Volunteer Fire Department Ambulance responded and transported Mr. Steranka to the hospital where he was diagnosed as having suffered a stroke. Thanks to J.D. and John’s actions and commitment to the Citizens of Wachapreague this gentlemen’s life was saved.

Mayor Janci also cited additional little known facts about J.D. and John relating to their helping the elderly with their garbage cans and limbs, keeping an eye on homes of residents vacationing by doing walk arounds and always checking to see if anything is out of the ordinary, to name just a few.

Mayor Janci presented them with plaques of appreciation and all present gave them a standing ovation.

IV. Approval of Minutes – Council had several issues regarding the September 8, 2015 Town Council Meeting Minutes which had Attachment A & B.

- Bonnie Munn questioned why Attachment A & B were not made a part of the Minutes.
- Lynn Weeks advised of speaking with David Rowan, P.C. who recommended the verbatim portions of the Minutes be made as an addendum/attachment. However, Mr. Rowan did not recommend this be done at all and it definitely should not become a precedent. Ms. Weeks advised all of the audio recordings of meetings are available on the Town computer.
- Aileen Joeckel did not think this was a good precedent and, although she had no problem with the attachment she would not vote for the minutes as they stand.
- John Joeckel feels that all of the meeting should be transcribed verbatim and not only just selected portions. As they stand now, he will not vote to approve these Minutes until the entire meeting is transcribed verbatim.
- Mayor Janci stated it was at his request portions of the Minutes be transcribed verbatim through the Freedom of Information Act, however if council did not want them in the Minutes that was fine. Mayor Janci asked council, in response to the meeting be transcribed in its entirety, who would be willing to come in and go through the entire meeting with Lynn Weeks to accomplish this and John Joeckel volunteered.
- Reverend Steve Jones asked to speak about Minutes of Meetings. He stated Minutes never include discussion only relate to actions and to do otherwise is extremely problematic.
- Several Motions were made but none of them passed and the Minutes were not approved.

V. Review of Financial Report – John Joeckel reported the last Fiscal Year total net profit for the Marina and the Town was \$13,000 vs. \$9,000 last year or a 42% increase.

- FY2016 financials since September show the Town has \$118,000 and the Marina \$96,000.

- Assets for the Town are down due to the purchase of the Spoil Site Property of \$49,000 which increases the Total Fixed Assets which are up.
- The Town's Net Income is -\$9,000 over last year of -\$6,000. This will change when the taxes come in in December.
- Main reason for the Town Income to be down is due to the lawn cutting last year was \$1,000 and this year "0".
- Expenses are pretty much in line to where they should be.
- Marina Net Income is a -\$4,000 versus -\$16,000 last year due to changes and improvements made to the Marina.
- Total Cash Assets are \$212,000.

Bonnie Munn made a Motion to accept the Financials as of September 30, 2015 and Aileen Joeckel seconded the Motion. There being no further discussion the Financials were voted on and passed unanimously.

VI. Old Business

- A. MARINA** – John Joeckel stated he has done nothing on the floating docks to date. By next month he will have looked into Grants and will report on his findings. By January, Mr. Joeckel should have a good feel for what can be done and will bring it before Council for their approval or disapproval.
- B. TOWN AND MARINA CASH ASSET DISPOSITION** – Mr. Joeckel discussed using monies out of the \$212,000 by investing \$75,000, the minimum requirement, in the Virginia Municipal League Investment Pool. Mr. Joeckel suggested taking \$50,000 from the Town and \$25,000 from the Marina. Mr. Joeckel further stated that the interest received should be split 2/3 to the Town and 1/3 to the Marina. Mr. Joeckel requested Lynn Weeks get together with Mary Jo Tatum to complete all necessary paperwork to get this process started.

Bonnie Munn made a Motion for the Town and Marina to invest \$75,000 in the Virginia Municipal League Investment Pool, broken down as \$50,000 from the Town and \$25,000 from the Marina, which was seconded by Susie Atkinson. There being no further discussion a vote was taken and passed unanimously.

C. TOWN MAINTENANCE/GARBAGE – Bonnie Munn advised

- There was a thermostat problem with the Ford F-150 truck but is fine now.
- Mr. Joeckel brought up the study performed last month on garbage costs for Davis Disposal versus the Town. Mr. Joeckel feels garbage service for the Town is needed and to not provide this service would increase the real estate taxes to the citizens by 51%, even taking into account purchasing a used garbage truck down the road. Also mentioned was the valuable employees that work for the Town and a concern of losing them should one work day be eliminated.
- Mayor Janci mentioned the Town of Melfa owns a garbage truck and it is only used on Monday. He suggested maybe speaking with them to see if an arrangement could be made to use their garbage truck on Wednesday when the time comes to replace our truck. Ms. Munn and Ms. Joeckel indicated it would be worth looking into when the time comes.

John Joeckel made a Motion that due to the study presented at the last council meeting the Town make a commitment to provide garbage service through internal resources as referenced in our Town ordinance and Bonnie Munn seconded the Motion. There being no further discussion a vote was taken and passed unanimously.

D. Powell Memorial Park – Ms. Munn advised speaking with Wayne Burton of Parks & Recreation and indicated that if the work promised was not done the Town Council was going to write a letter to the Board of Supervisors. Thereafter Mr. Burton came to the Park and tried to take some fencing out but was unsuccessful but did put tape up around the dugout. Mr. Burton advised a brick mason would be coming to fix the dugout soon. Mr. Burton also advised he was coming to sand down the poles to get rid

of the graffiti and that he has purchased 75' of chain to close off access to the Park at night and will be putting up No Parking signs. Ms. Munn is to give the newly purchased swings to Mr. Burton and request he install them along with the swings Parks & Recreation have.

E. Town Hall Beautification/Maintenance – Ms. Munn advised that after the recent storms with torrential rains and wind there was a leak in one of the storage areas in Town Hall where a portion of the ceiling came down. Ms. Munn requested Lynn Weeks contact Chris Wardius to give us an estimate on the repairs. Ms. Munn had surveyed the outside of the building and found that all shingles were intact but noticed the vent on the East side of the building may need to be repaired but does not think the estimate should be too much

F. Street and Drainage – Stuart Bell asked who put the fence up along Atlantic Avenue to block the sea oars from coming into Seaside Park which he stated was “a great idea”. He was advised Mayor Janci had communications with council and the go ahead was given. As such Mayor Janci purchased all materials needed and performed the work along with David Bell. The fence will be stored at the Marina to be used again, should the need arise. Also discussed was the Public Works Grant regarding the culvert and manhole covers which have been purchased and there is only one more cover to install.

G. Safety/Security – Stuart Bell advised of some rumors of vandalism where a boat had been accessed on Lee Street and gas taken and the vandal also tried to take the GPS but failed. Also there was a golf cart stolen, as well as oysters from Joe Bolter. These events all occurred around the same time.

H. 911 System – Mayor Janci and Aileen Joeckel furnished Lynn Weeks with the information on the streets they have been working on. A review and follow up by Ms. Weeks will be done at a later date.

I. Seaside Park – Mayor Janci reported the 3 Dog Waste Stations have been purchased using the Litter Grant monies and that two will go to Seaside Park and the other to Herbert Powell Memorial Park. The damaged spindles in the gazebo have gone from 7 to 11. Mayor Janci advised the trees and shrubs around the gazebo will be removed by this weekend. They will be replaced with junipers and knock out roses which are more salt tolerant.

J. Delinquent Real Estate Taxes, Vehicle & Golf Cart Tags – Mayor Janci advised Ms. Riahi has come in and paid an amount in excess of what she owed and that it may well cover 2015 real estate taxes too. Ms. Riahi has also given a donation toward the Seaside Park in honor of her mother and requested the money be used for a tree in the vicinity of her mother’s memorial bench.

K. FEMA/CRS – Mayor Janci advised council the CRS Recertification papers have been completed and submitted to Christina Groves and Charley Banks in a timely manner.

- Stuart Bell advised of a recent elevation survey of his property and that his Flood Insurance had been \$1,900/year and is now \$484/year. Mr. Bell used Shoreline for this survey at a cost of \$450. He advises that just a corner of his property is in the flood zone.

L. Planning Commission – Town Comprehensive Plan –

Aileen Joeckel advised copies of the proposed Town Comprehensive Plan were provided to everyone and it was requested all comments and/or changes be presented. The only item that will need to be added is the Wachapreague Fire Company’s plan to move within the next two years. The Planning Committee indicated this can be added under the Town Goals. A suggestion was to give real estate offices a copy of the Town Plan as an enhancement for people looking to purchase a home or land in Wachapreague. The Planning Commission is to address the Town ordinances in an upcoming meeting. Ms. Joeckel said the Planning Commission members have never received an official letter describing the terms of office nor length of their term. Z.R. Lewis’ term has ended but he indicated he would be willing to stay on. As the Commission will be starting a new phase, Jackie Zang will be stepping down.

- Mr. Joeckel will make the changes and forward the proposed Town Comprehensive Plan to Ms. Weeks for adding it to the Town Website www.wachapreague.inf. Due to the timeframe required for noticing this for posting and Public Hearing this will have to be on the January, 2016 Agenda.

M. Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan – John Joeckel advised the October 6th meeting was cancelled and the next one will be in November. The Waterway Committee established to evaluate the permanent standing of the waterways has been set up with Supervisor Hart, Supervisor Thornton of Accomack County and Supervisor Hogg and Supervisor LeMond of Northampton County, as well as John Joeckel, Mr. Merit the Harbor Master of Chincoteague and Steve Minor as members. Mr. Joeckel felt the meeting was most fruitful and that Delegate Rob Bloxom and Senator Lynwood Lewis will be attending the next meeting to talk about State funding for non-Federally designated waterways. Issues that will be addressed during these meetings will be Barrier Island Mitigation, Aids to Navigation and the like.

N. Tourism/Business and Tourism Advisory Board – Aileen Joeckel indicated the websites are still being worked on.

- Ms. Joeckel advised the next Tourism Board meeting will be October 15th where they will be discussing the Town Billboard and several other issues.
- Also discussed was the Eastern Shore Artisan Trail and the work done over the past two years to create the Brochure. Ms. Joeckel feels the Town has a wonderful presence here with the Seaside Park, Town Marina, Foxy Lady Charters, The Inn, Current Reflections and the Island House Restaurant.

O. Appointments –

1. Board of Zoning Appeals - Ms. Joeckel advised she needs two more volunteers to complete the list of 5 people needed. A complete list of property owners has been furnished to Ms. Joeckel.
2. Council Members - Discussed was a Letter of Resignation received from Sandi Wood. Mr. Joeckel advised the Town has an obligation to fill this vacancy within 45 days of notice and a Writ submitted to the Court along with a proposed Order. A request will be made to David Rowan to handle this. If the Town is unable to fill this position within the allotted time the Court will appoint someone. John Joeckel made a Motion to accept Sandi Wood's Letter of Resignation and Susie Atkinson seconded the Motion. There being no further discussion a vote was taken and passed unanimously.

P. Town Property – Mayor Janci advised

- The survey is proceeding slowly as there are no measurements on any of the deeds. The surveyor has to check on the surrounding properties and work off their deeds. Mayor Janci has a call into Emina Siskovich to see if their papers are detailed and also has spoken with Ben Byrd who is to set up an appointment with his mother.

Q. Broadband Service and Communications Tower – John Joeckel advised

- A meeting was held with Town Businesses, VIMS, Wachapreague Volunteer Fire Department, Eastern Shore Communications and the Broadband Authority. It was established that the FIBER should be completed by January 1, 2016 which will provide the Town with cable but a decision needs to be made on which service provider to use for the last mile. Under consideration is Eastern Shore Communications, Charter Cable and NeuBeam.
- Mr. Joeckel has done some research to see how other Towns have handled the last mile service provider. Chincoteague contracted with only one. Mr. Joeckel feels some other Towns have more than one provider.
- A Tower will be needed in a location where there is the best line of sight. The Wachapreague Volunteer Fire Department will have a tower for emergency communications that will most likely be hardwired, as will some other businesses in Town. The residents will likely be wireless.
- NeuBeam has indicated they performed a survey of the best location for a Tower and advised the Wachapreague Marina/Seaside Park was the best due to the telephone poles. The Fire Company will be erecting their Tower but NeuBeam did not think it was the best location due to the fact the pole would be facing West.

- Mr. Joeckel advises Eastern Shore Communications has not done a survey of the best location but he has asked them to look at where the Fire Company intends to erect their Tower to get their perspective. Mr. Joeckel has not discussed this with Charter.
- Mr. Joeckel suggests setting up a meeting with the various providers on a day convenient for Council, but not preceding a Town Council Meeting, for presentations by the various providers.
- All council were in agreement and a meeting is to be set up prior to the next council meeting.

R. Tax Bill Inserts; Taxpayer Information and Year in Review – Mr. Joeckel has prepared a draft of the Year in Review insert and has made some minor changes. The taxpayer sheet also has some minor changes over what was mailed to residents last year. All council were in agreement on these proposed inserts.

S. Christmas Decorations – Susie Atkinson advised she will be speaking with Kerry Wallace soon as the Fire Company will be getting them out in preparation for Christmas. They will go over what will be needed and advise council.

T. Floodplain Administrator/CRS Coordinator - Aileen Joeckel advised speaking with Charles Klein of DCR inquiring into upcoming training sessions. Ms. Joeckel was advised there is nothing near here but possibly one may become available in Norfolk. The other option would be to go to Emmettsberg, Maryland, also a distance away but they offer reimbursement of expenses.

U. Town Wide Yard Sale – Council discussed the best time to have a Town Wide Yard Sale and decided to have it the same time every year. It was felt that putting it on the same day as VIMS Science Event and the Crab Cake Cook-off would be a good idea. Mayor Janci is going to speak with Susie Nelson and Dick Snider regarding this.

V. Electric Drop for Christmas Lights – Susie Atkinson discussed Kerry Wallace’s concern over the electric service box that is used for the Christmas Lights. Mayor Janci discussed at the last meeting speaking with Mr. Wallace and his estimate of \$800 to bring the box up to code. Due to the concerns and approaching Christmas holiday all were in agreement to have the work done.

Bonnie Munn made a Motion for Kerry Wallace to repair the electric drop service box used for the Christmas lights in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 and Stuart Bell seconded the Motion. As there was no further discussion a vote was taken and passed unanimously.

W. Ordinance Review – Please see section L – Planning Commission

VII. NEW BUSINESS – John Joeckel presented a 5 page letter addressed to Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Commissioner John M.R. Bull with copies to go to C. Renata Major, Chair, Accomack County Board of Supervisor, Delegate Rob Bloxom, Senator Lynwood Lewis, Governor Terry McAuliffe, Jill Bieri, Director of the Virginia Coast Reserve, Curtis Smith, Director of Planning, Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission and David K. Paylor, Director of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Mr. Joeckel feels this letter addresses the concerns the Wachapreague residents have over the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. Copies were furnished to all council. Mr. Joeckel read the entire letter to council and residents present. Mr. Joeckel feels this letter should be mailed out by Certified Mail and signed by all council as quickly as possible. A Special Meeting was discussed and scheduled for Monday, October 19th at 5:00 p.m. in Town Hall. A copy of the draft letter is attached hereto these Minutes.

VI. Announcements – Mayor Janci brought up the trip to Parramore Island courtesy of the Nature Conservancy that will leave from the Town Marina at 10:15 a.m. on October 20th. Aileen Joeckel, Bonnie Munn and Mayor Janci will take part in this trip.

Also discussed was placing the notice in the newspaper on the Halloween curfew. Ms. Weeks will see to this.

VII. Adjournment – Susie Atkinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Stuart Bell seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

CBW
10/13/15

MAYOR

TOWN CLERK