

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE  
PUBLIC HEARING AND  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 9, 2015

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

**PUBLIC HEARING**

***Proposed Budget FY 2016***

Mayor Janci discussed the purpose of this meeting was to go over the proposed FY2016 Budget and turned the Public Hearing over to John Joeckel. Mr. Joeckel advised a Budget Work Session was held on May 23, 2015 and the proposed FY2016 Budget was advertised in the Eastern Shore Post on May 29, 2015. The Council meeting to approve the Budget is scheduled for June 22, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

Mimi Sedjat indicated having seen the advertised FY2016 Budget and everything looks fine to her.

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**I. Public Comments –**

- Mimi Sedjat advised ARC will be having their annual fish fry on August 8, 2015 at Edward's Seafood. Tickets will be \$10 each for fried fish and/or roasted chicken. There will be a raffle with the first prize being a Turner Sculpture, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize a William Crocket life painting and the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize is yet to be determined. Ms. Sedjat is to email the Town all pertinent information.
- Mayor Janci advised Judy Morgan of Eastern Shore Communications would like to partner with the Town of Wachapreague to bring FIBER based high speed internet service for the Town's residents and businesses. This would be for an internet based phone, not direct phone service. Ms. Morgan would like the opportunity to address council at our next Town Meeting. Participants in this service include Cape Charles, Nassawadox, Exmore, Onancock, Parksley, Chincoteague in Virginia and Pocomoke City and Ocean City in Maryland. Cited specific needs include:
  1. Location to bring the FIBER: The location must have electricity with a power draw of no more than \$50/year, be able to have at least a 50' pole installed and have a capacity to afford a direct line of site to as many rooftops of residents and businesses, as possible.
  2. Subscriber Commitment – at least 20 residential customers must commit to a 5-year service term. Prices range from \$39.95 to \$69.95/month.
  3. Funds – ESC is in the process of finalizing the construction costs to bring the Fiber to Wachapreague, which is very costly. They are hoping to get financial support.
- John Joeckel advised this is an excellent product and one he uses at his place of business. It was brought to Mr. Joeckel's attention ESC is most interested in Wachapreague due to the U.S. Coast Guard Station and VIMS being located here.
- Bonnie Munn had a concern about a 5-year commitment.
- Council agreed to have Ms. Morgan make her presentation at the July 14<sup>th</sup> Town Council Meeting.

**II. Call to Order**

Mayor Janci called to Order the Town Council Meeting at 7:20 p.m. on June 9, 2015 in the Wachapreague Town Hall.

### **III. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Janci led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **IV. Approval of Minutes** – Due to three council members being absent there was no quorum for voting purposes.

John Joeckel, Aileen Joeckel and Bonnie Munn had no comments regarding the Minutes of the May 13, 2015 Town Council Meeting or May 23, 2015 Budget Work Session.

### **V. Review of Financial Report** – John Joeckel reported:

#### **TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE**

- Net Income this year is \$8,000 more than last year when you take away the Fire Company pass through.
- Expenses are up \$1,500 over last year.
- Overall net income is up by \$6,500 or 63%.
- In review, the Balance Sheet of the Town indicates it is doing very well.

#### **PORT OF WACHAPREAGUE**

- Laura Godbolt of the Virginia Port Authority has responded to the \$10,000 Grant request and advised it was denied. This will create problems for the upcoming year. Mr. Joeckel will see if he can find out why they denied the request. Also mentioned was the possibility of a Federal Grant that Mr. Joeckel will check into.
- Mr. Joeckel advised of a reduction of 4 boat slip rentals this year. According to Sandie Puchalski this decline was due, in part, to bad off shore fishing and the high cost of operating larger boats. This brings the potential income down by \$4,500. Ms. Puchalski believes the Marina will do better on transient slip rentals.
- With the VPA Grant gone and no reimbursements the Marina's Total Income is down over \$5,000 from last year.
- Mayor Janci felt better advertising for the Town Marina and possibly looking into floating docks to accommodate smaller boats may be the answer.
- John Joeckel believes the expense to convert the docks over to floating docks would be quite costly. However, the Town would have a year within which to research and perform a study on this issue.
- Aileen Joeckel discussed the billboard across from 84 Lumber that the Town could use at a cost of \$200/month using tourism money. Also discussed was revitalizing the Town of Wachapreague sign on Route 13 to be more descriptive of what the Town offers.
- Mr. Joeckel mentioned that the Business and Tourism Grant may be better utilized by having articles in fishing and boating magazines where Wachapreague would be a destination. The Board could invite and take magazine writers off shore fishing to experience what the area has to offer.

### **VI. Old Business**

**A. MARINA** – See Section V – Port of Wachapreague

**B. TOWN AND MARINA CASH ASSET DISPOSITION** - – John Joeckel is awaiting the finalization of the Siskovich Property purchase and all costs associated therewith.

**C. TOWN MAINTENANCE/GARBAGE** – Bonnie Munn advised the garbage truck is still at Colonna's. They are awaiting refurbishment of parts from an out of town supplier. Mayor Janci suggested looking into an alternate source for repairs as the truck has been out of service five weeks with no guarantees of when the Town can expect it back. This will be discussed at a later time.

**D. Powell Memorial Park** – Ms. Munn spoke with Wayne Burton of Parks and Recreation who advised the swings they were to replace were done. However, when Ms. Munn checked she found they were not. She will again speak with Mr. Burton.

- E. Town Hall Beautification/Maintenance** – Ms. Munn mentioned Carolyn and David Bright would like to have the shells surrounding the flagpole but will wait until the Fall when in their place grass and shrubs will be planted.
- F. Street and Drainage** –Stuart Bell was absent. Mayor Janci met with the VDOT contractors, who were assessing the sidewalks, and walked along with them as they marked which one’s would be worked on. In front of the Wachapreague Inn they have replaced the entire sidewalk. The contractors indicated they will not be repairing or replacing driveways. Mayor Janci indicated the worst location along Main Street is where the old gas station used to be. The Mayor will speak with Stuart Bell and request he arrange a meeting with Chris Isdell of VDOT to go over all of this with him. Mayor Janci also indicated speaking with a Branscomb employee requesting an estimate to extend the sidewalk in front of Seaside Park to Atlantic Avenue. Follow up needed with further discussion.
- G. Safety/Security** – Stuart Bell was absent.
- H. 911 System** – Council is continuing work on this issue.
- I. Seaside Park** – Mayor Janci advised
- Receipt of a \$1,000 Litter Grant. A requirement for this grant is an accounting of all expenditures. Best use of this money would be to place pet waste stations at our Town Parks. Two at Seaside Park and one at Powell Memorial Park. Also suggested was designated dog walking areas. To be discussed at a later date.
  - Ms. Joeckel suggested an organizational meeting be set in preparation for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration. It was determined Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. on Mayor Janci’s patio. Mayor Janci indicated that committees already set up are Food - Cathy Janci, Set up and breakdown – Vernon Bell, Judges – Bonnie Munn for Best in Decoration of Golf Carts, bicycles and desserts. Sandi Wood was working on the “Friends of Wachapreague, LLC”. Bonnie Munn will be obtaining the County Permit to close Main Street for the parade.
  - Raffle tickets designed, produced and paid for by Bonnie Munn to raffle off the “Independence Quilt” made by Cathy Janci are ready and some tickets already sold. All proceeds are to benefit Seaside Park.
- J. Delinquent Real Estate Taxes** – Mayor Janci advises there have been some payments made toward delinquent property taxes and auto tag/decals.
- K. FEMA** – Mayor Janci advised of the CRS Audit on May 29<sup>th</sup> with Christina Groves. Mayor Janci showed Ms. Groves the borders of the Town and the approximate floodplain limits. We are currently a 9 with a 5% discount which will become either an 8/10% or 7/15%. Part of the credit process hinges upon the surrounding properties which are designated wetlands that cannot be built on and that the Town of Wachapreague will get credit for. Ms. Groves is going to obtain a copy of the County maps and see how much of this can be credited to the Town. This will be about a 150 day process. Also discussed was the Town website where the Floodplain Ordinance is available.
- L. Planning Commission – Town Comprehensive Plan** - Aileen Joeckel advised May 14<sup>th</sup> is the next Planning Commission meeting. John Joeckel has provided the frontage, graphs, county information and stats on population for inclusion into the Town Comprehensive Plan. A rough draft has been circulated to all members and will be discussed at Thursday’s meeting.
- M. Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan** – John Joeckel advised they are on a summer hiatus for the next couple of months. However, business is still being conducted by email and the Coastal Erosion and Coastal Flooding portions are about done. Soon pertinent information pertaining to the Town of Wachapreague will be required.
- N. Tourism/Business and Tourism Advisory Board** – Aileen Joeckel advised discussing a change on the proposed Town Website with Mona Cossitt regarding the logo on each page as to the color, and was advised of an additional charge since that was not in the original contract. Also, Ms. Joeckel needs all Town ordinances for inclusion into the Website.

**O. Board of Zoning Appeals Appointments** – In the works

**P. 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration** – See Section I above.

**Q. Color Copier** – Mr. Joeckel asked if the existing copier is a rental, and if so, upgrading to a color copier that copies on both sides and scans. To be discussed at the next Town Council Meeting.

**R. Acquisition of Property** – Mayor Janci advised

- Surveying quotes by Shoreline Surveyors \$4,700 and Shore Engineering \$7,500 - \$10,000, neither would be available for several months. Mr. Joeckel suggested contacting Grandville Hogg for an estimate. Continuing efforts will be made to obtain estimates.
- The Town is at the 30-day due diligence time and council agreed Mayor Janci contact David Rowan to go ahead with the contract.
- The Nature Conservancy continues to contact Mayor Janci and a conference call is scheduled, although the Mayor had suggested walking the property with a representative of the Nature Conservancy but that was declined.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS – Limitation of Helicopter Landings**

- John Joeckel feels there should be a Town wide ban on helicopter landings in Town whether it be public or private property. Mr. Joeckel believes this would best be accomplished by being incorporated into the Town’s Zoning Ordinance. David Rowan may have other suggestions that the Council may wish to consider. Cited was VA Code Section 15.2-2293.2 which prohibits localities from imposing a total ban on departure and landings within the locality by non-commercial helicopters for personal use, but does allow localities to adopt regulations regarding repeated helicopter landings and departures on the same parcel of land in some or all zoning districts. This will be placed under Old Business on the Town’s July 14<sup>th</sup> Agenda.

**VII. Announcements** – Mayor Janci mentioned speaking with Charles of the US Coast Guard Station here in Wachapreague who asked if the Town had any community service projects that needed to be done. Bonnie Munn mentioned Powell Memorial Park.

**VIII. Adjournment** – Bonnie Munn made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Aileen Joeckel seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

CBW  
6-9-15

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MAYOR

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TOWN CLERK