

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 10, 2015

PRESENT: Fred Janci, Mayor, Bonnie Munn, Vice Mayor, Susie Atkinson, Stuart Bell, Aileen Joeckel, John Joeckel and Sandi Wood

TOWN CLERK: Lynn Weeks

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

- I. **Public Comments** – Stuart Bell, councilman responsible for Streets and Drainage in the Town of Wachapreague has discussed the condition of the sidewalks along Main Street with Chris Isdell of VDOT on numerous occasions. Mr. Bell has witnessed repairs being made to sidewalks in a number of different Towns and feels Wachapreague should be among them. As such, Mr. Bell requested Chris Isdell of VDOT and Supervisor Donald Hart of the Accomack County Board of Supervisors for the Pungoteague District attend this meeting. Town residents were notified to come and discuss any issues or concerns they may have.
- Chris Isdell, Residency Administrator for the Virginia Department of Transportation on the Eastern Shore spoke about the work that is being done on sidewalks is maintenance only and is mandated by the American Disabilities Act (ADA) for ramp access. VDOT has to prioritize projects especially with reference to safety and funding availability.
  - Mr. Isdell advised it is recorded VDOT owns a 30' Right of Way out to Atlantic Avenue and 15' from the center of the road, in the Town of Wachapreague. He has been researching VDOT's archives for verification of ownership and hopes to have a definitive answer with the next couple of months. Mr. Isdell notes the sidewalks appear to be continuous and uniform indicating they were all done at once.
  - Mr. Isdell acknowledged how proactive Mr. Bell has been in pursuing sidewalk repairs and confirmed that the VDOT contractor will be making some repairs along the sidewalk by early summer near the Wachapreague Inn.
  - Supervisor Hart recalls the sidewalks along Main Street being repaired by VDOT, possibly in the late '80's or early '90's. He has requested Mr. Isdell also check VDOT's service records.
  - Supervisor Hart is in agreement the sidewalks along Main Street are deteriorating and has offered to look into any help the County of Accomack could give once the areas outside of VDOT's right of way are determined. He requested the VDOT Contractor give two estimates, one for VDOT and the other for the County, which was agreed to.
  - John Eshleman of 41 Main Street spoke of the collection of water around the sidewalk, driveway entrance and at times up to 5" of water under his house with no major storm. He asked if between VDOT and the County a drain could be run under the road. Mr. Isdell said when this occurs Mr. Eshelman needs to advise VDOT so that they can assess it, as that would be part of VDOT's responsibility. Also experiencing this issue is Bill Burnham.
  - Aileen Joeckel brought up discussions the Planning Commission has had where they feel all drains in the Town need to be assessed for possible repair or replacement.
  - Mr. Isdell indicated a Study would be needed which would include the amount of time and expense associated with such a project. Upon completion of the Study the Town could request a grant from VDOT.
  - Supervisor Hart stated the Town will need to identify the work required.
  - Aileen Joeckel asked Mr. Isdell if he had any information on a Bike Path Plan that the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission has been reviewing and, although he could not speak for them, he mentioned hearing the length of SR 180 through the Town was possible.

- Susie Atkinson brought up speed control along Main Street and the possibility of putting in rumble strips. Mr. Isdell mentioned the noise factor which would affect the residents in nearby homes. The most effective speed reducer is enforcement. Another vehicle to slow people down would be the radar trailer. A call requesting it be set up is all that is necessary. VDOT also notifies law enforcement when they get a request for the radar trailer.
- Bill Burnham has offered his driveway for placement of the radar trailer. He lives at 26 Main Street.
- Supervisor Hart thanked Chris Isdell for his role in obtaining the traffic light at the corner of SR 180 and Route 13. Council and residents all were in agreement.
- Supervisor Hart was not sure if there were any monies left in the Wachapreague drainage fund but if someone could check on that and let him know he is willing to help in any way he can.
- Supervisor Hart also discussed the proposed convenience center site where bids have been received but were too high. This center will be similar to Tasley's and will be manned. The site is at the crossing of Routes 600 and 180.
- John Joeckel addressed Supervisor Hart about the importance fishing and boating have on the economy in the Town of Wachapreague. He mentioned presentations he made in August 2013 before the Transportation Commission on what was needed to get dredging by both counties, and in September 2013 before Accomack County Board of Supervisors. He also advised meeting with the Northampton County Board of Supervisors on this same matter.
- Mr. Joeckel met with Senator Lewis and explained the situation and what other localities were doing in Virginia regarding the water access authority. Senator Lewis has proceeded to develop legislation on the water access. In January 2014 the Accomack County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution supporting Senator Lewis' legislation by the General Assembly. However, to date nothing has happened.
- On January 21, 2015 a meeting was held with the Eastern Shore Waterways Partnership, Coast Guard, and Army Corp of Engineers, along with Supervisor Thornton. When asked on the status of Senator Lewis' legislation Supervisor Thornton indicated they will be getting to it. Mr. Joeckel pointed out it has been 8 to 10 months since this legislation was passed.
- Mr. Joeckel is requesting implementation of a bi-county committee for the entire Eastern Shore, with the help of the Accomack County Board of Supervisors and other agencies, to coordinate with the Commonwealth of Virginia to have an engineering study performed.
- Discussed was the loss of one mile of Cedar Island which does not include the thinning of the whole length of the Island. Mr. Joeckel has been working with the Army Corp of Engineers to tie in the dredging of the Wachapreague Inlet to use the materials from the dredge to do remediation work to the Island.
- Supervisor Hart was furnished with a copy of the Minutes of the January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting and requested all additional information on this subject be submitted to him.
- Supervisor Hart commended John Joeckel for all of his hard work.
- Mayor Janci thanked Supervisor Hart for his assistance in maintaining the polling place here in the Town of Wachapreague.
- The Mayor and Council all thanked Supervisor Hart for his attendance and support of the Town.

## **II. Call to Order**

Mayor Janci called to Order the Town Council Meeting at 8:10 p.m. on February 10, 2015 in the Wachapreague Town Hall.

## **III. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Janci led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **IV. Approval of Minutes –**

Aileen Joeckel made a Motion to Approve the Minutes of the January 13, 2015 Town Council Meeting and Bonnie Munn seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the Minutes of the January 13, 2014 meeting were voted upon and passed unanimously.

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

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- The VPA reimbursement for the Marina roof once submitted will be an additional \$2,000 with assets showing \$84,000 this year versus \$97,000 last year. This is due to the dredging and electrical work performed.
- Net Income is down by \$4,000 this year versus last.

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- Net cash assets is \$182,000 this year versus \$160,000 last year.
- Net Income for the Town is up 22-1/2% this year versus last.
- The Town is owed approximately \$6,300 in outstanding taxes and vehicle decals.

Susie Atkinson made a Motion to accept the January 2015 Financials and Stuart Bell seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the Financials were voted upon and passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

**A. Streets and Drainage** – See Also Public Comments – Stuart Bell advised Chris Isdell of a pot hole by Finney and Main that is getting larger. Mr. Isdell is to look into this.

**B. Delinquent Town Taxes** –

- Mayor Janci advised the Town is in receipt of additional payments of outstanding real estate taxes and auto tag/decals.
- Mayor Janci was advised by David Rowan no Ordinance is needed to institute the DMV Stops.

Stuart Bell made a Motion to approve the Town take the necessary steps to institute the DMV Stops program where delinquent auto tag/decals purchases by property owners will be stopped from renewing their driver licenses until all outstanding taxes are paid, which was seconded by Bonnie Munn. The motion was voted upon and passed unanimously with the Roll Call Vote attached hereto these Minutes.

**C. FEMA** – Mayor Janci confirmed a copy of the proposed Ordinance No. I-2A has been furnished to all council and all members of the Planning Commission which was highlighted to show verbatim the language in existence on the March 16, 2009 Ordinance. Mayor Janci indicated that although a vote could not be taken at this time all questions and discussions were welcome. It was confirmed David Rowan has reviewed the proposed Ordinance. A request will be made to Mr. Rowan for a letter of acknowledgement.

- John Joeckel suggested in the Ordinance on Page 4, under Designation of the Floodplain Administrator “The Zoning Administrator is hereby appointed to administer and implement these regulations and is referred to herein also as the Floodplain Administrator. The Floodplain Administrator may:” and it goes on to detail the Administrator’s duties. Mr. Joeckel suggests revising this Ordinance to include the CRS Coordinator and duties, guidelines of which Mr. Joeckel furnished to council.
- Mr. Joeckel went on to state that Wachapreague’s rating is 804, average 1210 and the highest 1710. With elevating the Town’s rating there would be the possibility of flood insurance reductions.
- Mayor Janci discussed the Timeline required for the Public Hearing and Joint Planning Commission and Town Council Meeting which must be advertised twice in the newspaper with at least five days before the actual meeting can be held. Postings on the website, in the Post Office and on Facebook must also be done.
- Mayor Janci is in receipt of a registered letter from FEMA reminding the Town of the May 18, 2015 deadline and their acknowledgement of receipt of our proposed ordinance. In response to requests at the January 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting inquiring into the other Town’s and their use of the State Model, Mayor

Janci advised the majority of them are following it with the exception of Chincoteague who have made changes regarding freeboard.

- Mayor Janci indicated a vote could be taken immediately after the Public Hearing but will verify this with David Rowan.
- Aileen Joeckel addressed the wording agreed to by the Planning Commission of all violations to be remedied within 120 days, which has been added to the ordinance. With reference to Mr. Joeckel's suggestion of including the CRS Coordinator under the Designation of the Floodplain Administrator, no vote was taken.

**D. Mosquito Control Contract – Designation of Council**

- Bonnie Munn made a Motion to appoint Susie Atkinson as the responsible council member and she accepted.
- Susie Atkinson will get in contact with Bill Dornenburg of Erlich to discuss the Town wanting not only dunks but oil, as well. Ms. Atkinson and Mayor Janci would like to meet with Erlich's technician when he is scheduled to come to Town to coordinate the best locations for this service.
- Ms. Weeks is to email Susie Atkinson with all pertinent information for contacting Erlich.

**E. O'Nancock St. Patrick's Day Parade –** Mayor Janci confirmed council's interest in participating again this year. The Mayor is in receipt of the Entry Form that needs to be completed. Council discussed and decided the theme would be "End of the Rainbow" with a pot of gold. A meeting at Mayor Janci's house was scheduled for Sunday at 1:00 p.m. Aileen Joeckel suggested emailing town residents so that they attend the parade. Bonnie Munn has offered to place a Notice in the Post Office for volunteers.

**VII. New Business –** None

**VIII. Announcements –** None

**IX. Adjournment –** Susie Atkinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Bonnie Munn seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

CBW  
2-10-15

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MAYOR

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TOWN CLERK