

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 11, 2014

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

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

I. Public Comments –

A presentation was made by Kerry Allison, Executive Director of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Tourism Commission. Ms. Allison advised the role of the Virginia Tourism Corporation is to assist communities in tourism development, planning and capital access. Also available are Grants, which she pointed out Aileen Joeckel is in the process of obtaining for the Town Website. The Welcome Center in Kiptopeke is where the “big” advertising office is for the Eastern Shore. Ms. Allison noted key products for a Town are its history, outdoor nature, shopping, beach, dining and wining. Discussed were various websites such as pinterest. Key demographics are ages 45-64 being the top of the market at 39% and 25-44 age group at 33%. Primary strategy is a digital presence. Ms. Allison advised simplicity is the best way to go.

Robert Hodgson of the Wachapreague Planning Commission advised the Commission consists of four town residents, one having lived here all his life, the other two have been here approximately 8 to 12 years and then Mr. Hodgson, although born here, has only lived here four years. Aileen Joeckel has come on as a new member, replacing Mayor Janci.

The Commissions objectives are:

1. Maintain a tranquil, small town atmosphere, lack of crime, safe streets and family orientation.
2. Maintain Wachapreagues’ position as prime regional sport fishing and hunting destination.
3. Preserve Wachapreague as a low-key tourist destination for the entire family.
4. Uphold the Wachapreague channel as a viable commercial/recreational working waterfront.
5. Support Wachapreagues’ small businesses.
6. Ensure Wachapreagues’ real estate complies with Town Zoning Ordinance.
7. Develop a Wachapreague Floodplain Management Ordinance.

A review of prior plans was done and it was noted consideration for a septic system and sidewalks along Atlantic Avenue were presented but voted down.

Mr. Hodgson discussed possibly setting up a “Friends of Wachapreague Trust” which would have private funding and be under Council control. These funds could be used to purchase an older home with the intent to possibly tear it down, rebuild it and sell it and/or run a sidewalk out to bird watch along Atlantic Avenue. Contact is to be made with Accomack County to see if they still have the 2006 proposed Comprehensive Plan on their computer for ease of updating. Mr. Hodgson will be looking into this. Thereafter, a proposed Comprehensive Plan will be brought before the Council for their consideration, then a public hearing will be held and posted on the Town website.

John Joeckel thanked Mr. Hodgson for his efforts to date acknowledging the difficulty in having residents come forth and volunteer their time. Mr. Joeckel feels the goals set forth are right on point. His concerns are how the specific strategies outlined will be achieved so the Town and Council will buy into it. He feels that in implementing these strategies will require public stakeholder participation where everyone will have a road map so all will be following the same plan. The Plan is to cover the

next five years when it will be addressed again. Mr. Joeckel feels it should be more comprehensive initially so that there will be no need to revisit it prior to the next five year period.

Mr. Hodgson feels these are good thoughts but believes some of these things have been going on for years i.e. Aileen Joeckel and the Tourism Board which has been progressing, as well as the RV Park which brings in people from Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, New Jersey and New York, very good publicity. He referred to Zoning and following through with the Ordinance to keep the Town looking the way we want it to. Also addressed was small businesses which are very important and will need to be addressed in more detail in the upcoming meetings to expand upon the best strategies to utilize. Mr. Hodgson feels a precise to the point Plan would be best. VIMS was also mentioned but not sure as yet how to continue to work with them due to changes in Directors.

Aileen Joeckel mentioned VIMS has a strategy for how they want to expand in Town. The Town needs a strategy on how they want to work with VIMS toward a possible partnership rather than its own entity. As a State Agency VIMS does not pay taxes. As the Town is enhancing its appearance and VIMS is looking to expand, a Visitor's Center at VIMS would be a draw for local businesses. It would behoove the Town to develop this relationship. A new Director of VIMS has been named but will not be here until June. It has been mentioned the new Director is community minded.

Mr. Hodgson, in summary, stated the Planning Commission will continue in its efforts to come up with a Comprehensive Plan to review as quickly as possible.

II. Call to Order

Mayor Janci called to Order the Town Council Meeting at 8:10 p.m. on November 11, 2014 in the Wachapreague Town Hall.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Janci led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Approval of Minutes –

Mayor Janci requested all changes made to the proposed Minutes be provided to all council so they do not need to compare them to see what changes were made. Lynn Weeks will see to this.

Bonnie Munn made a Motion to Approve the Minutes of the October 14, 2014 Town Council Meeting and Sandi Wood seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the Minutes of the October 14, 2014 meeting were voted upon and passed unanimously.

V. Review of Financial Report – John Joeckel reported:

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- Total Income is up approximately \$7,000 over last year, namely due to auto tags and prior year billing of approximately \$6,000.
- Total expenses are down by \$4,500 versus last year of \$16,500 which is an improvement of \$12,000 or 254%.
- The Balance Sheet shows \$30,000 more this year than last year at this time or 20% more.

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- Received today from the VPA is the \$8,700 reimbursement for the electrical repairs performed at the Marina.
- This year versus last year the net assets are \$81,500 and when you add in the \$8,700 brings us back up to \$90,000 versus the \$103,000 last year. Last year we didn't have any expenditures for dredging or electrical work.
- The Port is down by \$1,000 in profit from last year.
- If you add back in the \$8,700 we just received, Ordinary Income, instead of a negative \$19,200 will be \$10,500 or \$4,000 more than last year in negative income.
- In reviewing the Balance Sheet several slip rentals were not yet paid. In speaking with the Harbor Master it was noted David Wright had paid for his slip months ago but his name had not been

removed from the list. The importance of maintaining an accurate list was presented and a better accounting was requested.

- Lindsey Paul was listed as having an outstanding balance of \$400. The Harbor Master requested the Town consider deferring this balance due to his boat having sunk in September and that being his main source of income. Mr. Joeckel asked council if there were any objections to this. Stuart Bell did not believe this to be his only income and did not feel the Town should give him a pass. Bonnie Munn and Sandi Wood wondered if the Town did defer this payment if it would become a precedent for all future considerations. It was presented that any future requests be considered individually. Sandi Wood made a Motion to defer Lindsey Paul's remaining slip fee and that it be prorated and Bonnie Munn seconded the Motion. Stuart Bell was against deferring the \$400 and all other council were for it as outlined above. There being no further discussion, the Motion voted upon and passed.

Mr. Joeckel reported the list of late fees was as low as \$2,000 but has increased to as high as \$5,000-\$6,000. The cause of this increase is due to outstanding auto tag/decals for the years 2012, 2013 and 2014. Mr. Joeckel's concern is that by now some people have moved and it is too late to recoup these outstanding fees. Also addressed on this list is outstanding lawn care maintenance charges.

Mayor Janci advised a request was made to Mary Jo Tatum to produce three monthly lists; 1. Delinquent real estate taxes, 2. Outstanding lawn maintenance charges and 3. Delinquent Auto Tag/Decal fees.

Mr. Joeckel had presented some time back a way to get people to pay for their tag/decals is the DMV Stops that Accomack County, Town of Chincoteague and others have instituted where a stop can be placed on an individual to renew their license until they have paid the charges incurred by the County or Town. This has been looked into by the Town of Wachapreague and can be arranged.

Stuart Bell made a Motion for the Town of Wachapreague to make the necessary arrangements with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles to set up the DMV Stops and Bonnie Munn seconded the Motion. As there was no further discussion the Motion was voted upon and passed unanimously.

FY 2014 Donation

Mr. Joeckel requested input from Council as to the ongoing \$1,000 donation to the Wachapreague Volunteer Fire Company which was budgeted for in FY 2014. Mr. Joeckel presented to Council the meeting he had with Absolute Security regarding cameras to oversee Seaside Park and the Gazebo. The cost was higher than anticipated or \$6,000 which would breakdown to \$2,000 for labor and \$4,000 for equipment. He is to also contact other providers as to labor and costs. Mr. Joeckel indicated a wireless camera over the Motel office and a hard wired camera on the Fire Department's siren pole, which could run into the town computer would be helpful. A request is made of the Mayor to approach David Fluhart of the Wachapreague Volunteer Fire Department for his permission to use the siren pole.

Mayor Janci mentioned a conversation he had with David Fluhart where Mr. Fluhart had mentioned the possibility of the Fire Department co-sponsoring the Town's upcoming 4th of July Celebration. The Mayor, as all council do, feel a donation is in order every year. Council was advised communications have taken place with David Fluhart in his pursuing the Fire Program Grant with the Town's assistance. The funds should be received soon which will be turned over directly to the Fire Company. Mayor Janci also discussed his communications with VIMS, through Reede Bonniwell, where personal invitations have been presented to all for attendance at upcoming events.

John Joeckel made a Motion to Donate \$1,000 to the Wachapreague Volunteer Fire Department from the FY 2014 Budget and Stuart Bell seconded the Motion. There being no further discussion a vote was taken and passed unanimously. The Motion and Roll Call Vote are attached hereto to these Minutes.

Town and Marina Cash Asset Disposition

Mr. Joeckel discussed the approximately \$232,000 in cash due to expiration of C.D.'s. Most of the money is in a Money Market Account and C.D. with very low interest rates. There are two potential investment options which will accept public funds. One is the Virginia Municipal League and the other is set up by the Commonwealth of Virginia. These funds are investment pools for local jurisdictions to provide excess funds to be kept in an interest bearing account to get a higher rate of return. The Treasury Department of the Commonwealth of Virginia manages the local government investment pool. Mr. Joeckel would recommend this option. Mr. Joeckel pointed out that Accomack County has about Six Million Dollars in the State of Virginia Investment Pool, Cape Charles has over \$500,000 and Northampton County One Million Dollars with over 840 participants. It should be noted these funds are not insured and could go down but they have proved to be well maintained. Mr. Joeckel advised as with C.D.'s we would have sufficient working capital and will have access to these funds, if needed, without any penalties. Mr. Joeckel will speak with the people who manage these funds and will make a presentation at the next Town Council Meeting on his findings.

Old Business

911 System – Status

- Mayor Janci advised his assigned streets are not completed but he will continue.
- Aileen Joeckel has not completed her streets but is trying her best to do so, time permitting.
- Lynn Weeks advised Margaret Brennan came in after receipt of her certified mail and questioned whether 911 has been notified of a change in their address. Ms. Weeks advised her 911 has not been notified due to their request all changes be given to them at one time. Mrs. Brennan was then brought up to date on the council's progress in going door to door. A request was made by Mrs. Brennan to be notified when 911 is presented with all address updates and Ms. Weeks will comply.

VII. New Business –

1. Annual Town Christmas Event – Mayor Janci indicated the trailer that was used for prior parades could be set up for caroling. Bonnie Munn suggested putting a Notice in the Post Office requesting residents put their porch light on to indicate their willingness to have caroling at their house. The notice should also request families to bring their own cameras for pictures with Santa Clause. Aileen Joeckel suggested caroling first, then the tree lighting. It was decided by council the Christmas Event take place on Saturday, December 13th with caroling at 6:00 p.m. and immediately thereafter the tree lighting at the Gazebo in Seaside Park. Santa was present last year and arranged by Nikki Wardius. The old Charlie Brown tree is to be used. Tree trimming will be sometime that afternoon at a time still to be announced. Also discussed was John and Aileen Joeckel hosting a Christmas gathering at their home for council and all Town Employees and spouses. Mrs. Joeckel discussed providing food from the General Store and the Island House and council offered to bring homemade dishes. The date and time to be announced.
2. Town Council Schedule – There had been a suggestion by John Joeckel that in either December or January council take a month off without a meeting. All council were in agreement.

John Joeckel made a Motion to take the month of December off which was seconded by Stuart Bell. There being no further discussion a vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Bonnie Munn reported receiving a call from Wayne Burton of Parks and Recreation about a water problem at Herbert Powell Memorial Park. She asked council if anyone was aware of any problem. No one was. Ms. Munn went on to state she went to the Park and found one of the bathroom doors was rusted so bad she could not close it. She will place a call to Mr. Burton to discuss these issues.

Mayor Janci brought up some matters that were discussed in a prior meeting of which he was not present. (1) Meals Tax – The meals tax receipts are not from the owners but are only held in escrow, it is the Town’s money. The 25% is for anything that might enhance the tourism in Town. (2) The Crab Cake & Apple Pie Cook-Off, was that a Town event or private? Aileen Joeckel advised this event had been started by Ed Nelson sometime before Chris and Nikki Wardius were involved. Mayor Janci indicated the Oyster Roast was definitely an Island House event, with assistance by the Town as requested and American Flags flying along Main Street to show the Town’s support.

Stuart Bell has again spoken with Chris Isdell of VDOT who advises, through research, the Commonwealth of Virginia does not own the sidewalks in Town. Mr. Bell asked council if they knew how to obtain information on the ownership. Mayor Janci indicated he will contact David Rowen to get his input.

VI. Announcements – None

VII. Adoption of Motion for Closed Session – John Joeckel made a Motion for Closed Session to discuss personnel matters and Aileen Joeckel seconded the Motion. A Roll Call Vote was taken and passed unanimously. The Motion and Roll Call Vote are attached hereto these Minutes.

VIII. Resolution to Reconvene Open Meeting – Stuart Bell made a Motion to Reconvene Open Meeting. Bonnie Munn seconded the Motion. A Roll Call Vote was taken and passed. The Motion and Roll Call Vote are attached hereto these Minutes.

IX. Christmas Bonus – John Joeckel made a motion to pay a Christmas bonus to Town employees and Sandi Wood seconded the Motion. There being no discussion the motion was voted upon and pass unanimously.

X. One Time Bonus – John Joeckel made a motion to pay all regular part-time employees a one-time 2% bonus to be prorated on actual wages for FY 2014 which motion was seconded by Bonnie Munn. There being no discussion, the motion was voted upon and passed unanimously.

XI. Adjournment – Bonnie Munn made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Sandi Wood seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

CBW
11-11-14

MAYOR

TOWN CLERK