

**TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2016**

COUNCIL PRESENT: Fred Janci, Mayor, Robert Hodgson, Vice Mayor, Kathy Ciaccio, Cathy Janci, Don Minniear, Sandie Puchalski, Carlee Vincent
COUNCIL ABSENT: None
TOWN CLERK: Missy Wessells

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

- I. **Call to Order** - Mayor Janci called to Order the Town Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on December 13, 2016, in the Wachapreague Town hall.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Mayor Janci lead the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **Public Comments** - Mayor Janci opened the meeting to the Public. Aileen Joeckel brought up the concern of feral cats located post office. Kathy Ciaccio states the cat is not a feral cat and the cat is taken care of. The cat will not stay at one location but is being taken care of by the post master. Mrs. Joeckel stated a citizen has complained about 7 feral cats fighting in her yard that she wants them gone. The Town Council stated the citizen needs to call animal control and they will trap the cats. The council stated they were unaware of these feral cats around town. The property where these cats were near was the Vincent home but they have several cats and the few they have are taken care of. There was no other issues to discuss.
- IV. **Approval of Agenda** –Mayor Janci moved onto approval of the agenda. The agenda was agreed upon and a motion was made by Robert Hodgson and seconded by Sandie Puchalski to approve the agenda. A vote was taken and passed.
- V. **Approval of Minutes of the November 8, 2016 Town Council Meeting** – Cathy Janci made a motion to accept the minutes and Sandie Puchalski seconded the Motion. There being no further discussion a vote was taken and passed unanimously.
- VI. **Review of Financial Report** – Mayor Janci started with the Profit & Loss Previous Year Comparison for the Town Of Wachapreague. Major Janci stated the income was about even minus the \$10,000 for the Fire Program which will be given to the WVFC. The expenses were down by \$7635 compared to this time last year.
PRELIMINARY Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual for the period ending November, 2016.
 - Income budgeted \$101,000; we have received \$70,000- Missy Wessells stated we have received more than the figures provided. Major Janci stated we are doing very well.
 - Expenses- we are a little over on advertising in Tourism also over in Dues, Supplies, Office, and Postage. We are under in Miscellaneous Expenses, Professional Fees, Refuge, Maintenance, Utilities and Zoning.
 - The Budgeted Expenses for the Town was \$42,165 versus the actual of \$29,685 which shows we are under budget \$12,280.**PRELIMINARY** Profit and Loss Previous Year Comparison of the Port of Wachapreague Town Marina for the period ending November, 2016
 - Harbormaster Sandie Puchalski was recognized for having collected all outstanding balances from rentals.
 - Expenses are up and Income is up but expenses are about even minus grant funds. Some expenses are actually grant expenses not routine maintenance.
 - Balance sheet looks good as well. Overall the Port is doing well.A motion was made by Robert Hodgson and seconded by Cathy Janci. A vote was taken and passed all in favor.
- VII. **Unfinished Business**

A. Marina –

- Sandie Puchalski began the discussion about maintenance and repairs that have been approved and the process of. She stated delivery of the replacement stones. They are hoping to have down the end of week and will take approximately 2 days to complete.
- Electrical Problem: Sandie stated Richie Puchalski looked under the dock and couldn't find anything broken to cause the electric to short sockets. He did notice above the dock was loose pipes that may be able to get water inside. They are to waterproof the gaps and see if when tide rises, if this will fix the problem.
- Harbormaster Puchalski has been having the town workers to do some work around the marina. JD and John will replace/repair the ropes around the parking and they have been cleaning up brush and doing general maintenance. The shells have been dumped on VIMS side of dock. The floating dock will be done in January.

B. Accomack-Northampton County Hazard Mitigation Plan– Robert Hodgson reported he has been receiving information from Shannon Alexander with Accomack-Northampton Planning District. The planning commission has accepted our recommendations. Shannon Alexander was supposed to come to our town council meeting on January but there has been a delay. Due to issues with FEMA and VDEM, she will not be able to present the information until late spring or early summer. Robert Hodgson will follow up on the status.

C. Town Maintenance/Garbage (Repairs)

- Sandie Puchalski inquired about the estimates for the repair of the brush truck body. Missy Wessells stated we have not received any estimates yet but we have a verbal from Colona's Auto for \$3500. They were supposed to get me the estimate tomorrow. Cathy Janci brought up the idea of instead of repairing the truck, could we look at purchasing another truck in better shape for the same money. The council agreed to take a look at other options.
- Kathy Ciaccio stated it was brought to her attention that the storage shed behind the town hall is in need of repairs. Kathy stated we were 41.6% into the current budget and the council has used 16% of the allotted amount. Her idea is to ride the budget out to the end and then use the money to repair the roof on the shed. The council agreed to get several budgets for metal and shingles replaced. The town workers are going to clean up the area around the shed so it can be painted. Robert Hodgson also suggested getting the fuel hoses off the ground-maybe using a stake and bucket to prevent the spillage of fuel. The outlet in the shed needs to be replaced immediately. Robert Hodgson also stated there are 2 places around the town hall that has water ponding. Also there is a crack in the wall. We need to have the maintenance crew to repair the crack and create a stone drainage to help run the water away from the building. We may want to build the flower bed around the side to building.
- Cathy Janci stated the idea to reopen the well at Seaside Park due to the fact the well at the town hall is not good. Aileen Joeckel stated the previous council got a quote of \$3,500 to reopen the well. The council could also look at grants to reopen the well at Seaside Park for water fountains, ability to water vegetation and drinkable water for the town hall.
- Robert Hodgson said maybe we should look at opening a Capital Project account to the next budget. This could finance the large projects needed around town.
- A discussion continue about the work that needs to be done and a schedule for the town workers. Fred has town work, Sandie has marina work and Don has streets and ditches to work on.

D. Powell Memorial Town Park – Nothing to discuss

E. Town Hall Beautification

1. Town Hall Project - Kathy Ciaccio asked how the town council liked the new design of floor plans. Cathy Janci like the new plan. Kathy will go ahead and get Sue to price out the cost. The council continued to discuss the correct dimensions of all the areas.

2. Disposition of Obsolete Equipment - The obsolete equipment needs to be sold. Missy Wessells will go ahead and get the items posted for sale. The council agreed

what has not been sold by the January meeting, the town will accept the bid of \$20 from Major Janci.

- F. Streets and Drainage** – Don Minniear was asked about the work on the ditches and streets. He would like to hire a company to run a camera to look in the drains to look for problems in the drains. Mayor Janci will get Chris with VDOT or Dale with Accomack County to take a look at it. Mayor Janci stated he has the maps for the town's drainage system. Due to recent issues with flooding, it would be best to check out all ditches and the conditions before there is a problem. As they are examined, they can be marked off the map. Mayor Janci and Robert Hodgson agreed a dual work session is a good idea to include the Flood Plain Administration. KC Kellam has been asked to give an estimate for clearing out the ditch on the south side of town.
- G. Safety/Security** - Don Minniear has been trying to get ANEC to repair the street lights that have been having issues in town. Holly contacted the town office and Missy got message to Don. Don is going to call again to get the correct lights fixed. A light also needs repair at corner of Church and Richardson. The property of next door to Kathy Ciaccio has overgrown brush. Major Janci is checking with Randy Lewis to see if he is still taking care of the property. If not, the town will send a letter to the owner to take care of it or the town will at a fee. The owner is also talking about fixing the house up for a bed and breakfast. The property is zoned residential. Committee has requested this topic to be continue until next month. A letter was also to be sent to the property owners of the former Ray Parker Rail Way on Atlantic Avenue stating the property is in need of repairs and/or securing due to deteriorating docks and building structure. One last thing was the "Welcome to Wachapreague" sign as you come into town, the post is rotten as well as the east side of the plant box. Mayor Janci is planning to put something to keep it until it can be fixed. Sandie Puchalski says there may be some salt treated wood left over from the marina that can be used to repair it. Mayor Janci asked Sandie if she can take care of getting this fixed. She agreed to look into it. Cathy Janci also brought up she has someone who has volunteered to plant some bushes in the box.
- H. Seaside Park** – Major Janci reported the Tree Lighting was very nice. The Accomack Community Band played and Santa was delivered by the WVFC fire truck. Citizens supplied cookies and hot chocolate was provided by the Wachapreague Inn. Cathy Janci was able to get pictures from the event. Missy Wessells received a call from Angie Crutchley at the ES Post requesting pictures to put in the Post of the event. Hortco has replaced almost all the trees around the gazebo due to dying at no charge. They don't know what happened and has not seen anything like it. Everything has been taken care of for the winter.
- I. Delinquent and Current Town Real Estate & Vehicle Taxes** - Mayor Janci indicated outstanding tax amount is \$749.39. Missy Wessells stated the amount is much less. There were collection and adjustments to some vehicles are no longer owned by residents.
- J. Zoning Administrator's Report** – A question was asked by Robert Hodgson to Mayor Janci concerning the property located on Brooklyn Avenue behind the general store whether there is an apartment located behind the house. The owners had a small shop located in the building but it is being used as storage as far as the council knows. Major Janci will take a closer look at the property. Mayor Janci has a garage he just received the paperwork for. He also has spoken with several people who want to do additions to their homes. It seems all want to encroach on the setbacks. The setbacks are 15' from property lines but the property owners want to come within 5' of the property lines. Mayor Janci has informed them the only way is to have a signed consent from all abutting property owners. Then the Town Council will review the request. Robert Hodgson wants to make certain a fire truck and get between the homes. No permits have been granted at this time.
- K. Floodplain Administrator/CRS Coordinator** – Several Councilmen went to the program at VIMS concerning the study of using spoils to build up the marsh. It will not help with mitigating storm damage but will build up areas to help create oyster grounds. It is to using federal grant money to help reuse spoils by spraying in areas to raise it no more

than 6". The areas being considered are Bradford Bay (south of town), west side of Cedar Island (north of town) and Finney Creek (across from the Island House Restaurant).

- L. **Planning Commission – Pet Waste Grant (July 2017)** – November meeting was cancelled due to lack of attendance. There will be no meeting in December and the Planning Commission will start fresh in January. The Commission is still reviewing town ordinances. Cathy Janci asked if the litter grant was being applied for this year. Robert Hodgson stated we will apply for the litter grant as soon as it becomes available. Cathy said the dog stations are very nice to have but expensive. Mayor Janci stated they cost about \$300 each.

M. Tourism/Business –

1. **Tourism Grant (Grant Expires 12/31/2016)** – Cathy Janci stated we have everything for the billboard. She will be contacting Clear Channel to get this done. Concerning the tourism grant, Mayor Janci asked Cathy Janci if everything has been gotten from everyone involved with the grant. She said she has the tax information from Wachapreague Inn and was waiting on a check from Blake at Island House Restaurant. Aileen Joeckel stated they have copies of that information.

2. **Wachapreague Billboard** – Cathy Janci also said the brush has been cleared at the billboard sight and Chris will be putting the lights up. Chris and Nikki will take their sign down and use it somewhere else.

Robert Hodgson has asked if the "Welcome to Wachapreague" sign and box could fall under tourism as well as the lights in Seaside Park. Cathy Janci will bring it up at the next Tourism Board meeting. The Tourism Board will review decorations, signs and box repair. She will also ask for some money to help out the WVFC with the expense of town Christmas lights. Mayor Janci stated the lights will eventually need to be changed to LED. Mayor Janci recited the ordinance concerning tourism money as "a way to enhance a visitor's visit". He believes this would qualify as such. The town would also like to do a resolution to the town for appreciation for all the work, including the Christmas lights, they do for the town. Cathy Janci made the motion and Robert Hodgson seconded it. All councilmen were in favor.

- N. **Christmas in Wachapreague December 2nd** – The Tree Lighting was already discussed and was a good turnout. Everyone did a great job decorating. The gift certificate for Santa needs to be gotten. Cathy Janci will take care of this and Missy Wessells will get it mailed to Jay Wilson.

VIII. **New Business** – Nothing to discuss.

IX. **Announcements** – Last year the Town Council got together to have Christmas dinner together. Everyone agreed it would be nice. The members would be responsible for their own meals. Kathy Ciaccio said she could be available December 27th. Missy Wessells will contact Island House to schedule the date.

X. **Adjournment – Happy Holidays** Sandie Puchalski made a motion to adjourn and Cathy Janci seconded the motion. All were in favor.