

**TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 14, 2017**

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

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

- I. **Call to Order** – Mayor Fred Janci called to Order the Town Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on March 14, 2017, 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. He welcomed Kerry Allison from the Eastern Shore Tourism Commission. Kerry Allison gave a presentation on how well tourism for the Eastern Shore of Virginia has grown and doing very well over the last several years. She discussed the plans to expand tourism to have visitors 12 months a year. She also discussed the VTC website and how well that is doing. She will be hosting a Tourism Summit on April 11, 2017 9:30am – 2pm. She has invited all towns in a “Tourism-Working Together” event to promote helping each other out and promoting the beautiful Eastern Shore of Virginia. They will also be discussing entrepreneurship, where there is a need and how to finance the venture. Stacy Martin was mentioned as a resource to help start or expand a business. Her information will be shared during the Summit. Cathy Janci committed how difficult it was to host events such as “Oyster Roasts” and the “Crab Cake Bake-Off” due to Accomack County Health Department regulations. There could be more events in Wachapreague but when it comes to preparing food, they make it very difficult. The Town cannot advertise and bring the public to the event. Kerry Allison stated we must figure out a way to work with the restrictions of ACHD. Mayor Janci stated the Council would like the events and tourism to grow and expand.

Chris Wardius spoke next. He would like the Tourism Board to start back getting together. Cathy Janci stated she has been, with the help of Robert Hodgson, getting the budget information together. The expenses which needed to be paid regularly from the Tourism account were not properly documented. Cathy wanted to be able to present the Tourism Board an accurate listing of all expenses before obligating the funds to other plans. She stated she believes she has found all the “missing links”. A meeting can be called because she has other things she wants to discuss with the Tourism Board.

Chris Wardius also informed the Town Council the lights for the sign in Painter will hopefully be installed Friday. The electric is there and the lights are in his truck and it’s just the issue of getting the electrician there to fire them up.

Chris then suggested once the recurring expenses have been budgeted for to maybe look at placing another sign further south. Cathy Janci stated we have the lightbox at the CBBT and now the sign in Painter, we should look further north. She said there is 1 sign that says “The Island House” but nothing to say Wachapreague. Chris Wardius suggest maybe the Chincoteague area but on Route 13. Cathy expressed her concern that many local people don’t know where Wachapreague is located. In order to bring people to the town they need to know where it is. People are familiar with the “Island House” but have no idea it is located in Wachapreague.

Mayor Janci informed everyone that Cathy Janci is organizing a Quilting Retreat to be held in September. A group of 20 women along with their husbands will be staying and eating in town for the weekend. The event will take place in the art gallery and maybe the husbands will go fishing.

Kathy Ciaccio had an idea suggested to her to have a bourbon tasting event at Seaside Park. Chris agreed that Wachapreague Inn could offer a promotion for those attending. Kathy Ciaccio stated this could be a way to bring the younger tourist in the area. Chris Wardius mentioned other events that the town could direct visitors to Wachapreague.

Mayor Janci suggested to move on but stated the Tourism Board needs to get back on track with regular meeting to discuss ideas. He named the Tourism Board of Wachapreague members were: Cathy Janci, Chris Wardius, Nikki Wardius, Blake Johnson, Aileen Joeckel, Katrina Neal and Cathey Bell.

**IV. Approval of Minutes for the February 13, 2017 Town Council Meeting** – Kathy Ciaccio made a motion to accept the minutes and Don Minnear seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

**V. Review of Financial Report**

**Town Of Wachapreague: Previous Year Comparison**

- Our Income is up \$5,000 compared to last year.
- Overall expenses are down by \$10,000.
- Our Net Income at this point is \$14,949

**PRELIMINARY - Town Of Wachapreague. Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual**

- Mayor Janci stated we are 67% through the fiscal year.
- The Town is under budget by \$20,000
- The Town Income is 9% above budget; which is \$29,586 ahead of budget.
- Mayor Janci wanted to give a quick prediction: The income will slow because most of the taxes have been collected and the Town's expense will increase due to some work being done. The Town's trucks are being repaired, electrical work being done to the Town Hall & shed and cleanup work being done to the park. Mayor Janci stated these numbers may not stay this far apart but we are going in the right direction.

**PRELIMINARY - Port Of Wachapreague Town Marina: Previous Year Comparison**

- Mayor Janci stated with the slips rentals; way over, about \$6,700 ahead of last year.
- The Port Total Income is \$7,600 ahead of last year. Sandi Puchalski told the Council that she still has slips to be rented and transient money to collect.
- Sandie Puchalski explained the accounts that had outstanding balances. The payments are paid in payments. Many of the slip holders have made 1<sup>st</sup> installments. Asked how many slip holders are solid; she stated about 90% but there is a waiting list to fill empty slots.
- Mayor Janci continued to the VPA Project Expenses of \$13,995. He commented that 75% will be reimbursed.
- At the bottom of Comparison, it shows a net income of \$4,299; \$10,496 will be reimbursed. The actual number should be \$14,795.
- The net income is \$5,524 over last year. Mayor Janci commented that things are moving in the right direction.

A motion was made by Sandie Puchalski and seconded by Cathy Janci to accept the financials. A vote was taken and all agreed.

**VI. Unfinished Business**

Cathy Janci asked Chris Wardius if they have received their portion of the Virginia Tourism Grant check. Chris said we need to contact Nikki, he didn't know. Aileen Joeckel commented that she emailed Missy with the correct breakdown of money to be dispensed. Missy could not remember the email but would check on it. Aileen stated the breakdown should be: \$1000 paid to The Island House, \$1500 paid to Wachapreague Inn and the balance goes to the town.

**A. Marina –**

- Harbormaster Sandie Puchalski handed out to all council members a copy of the summary and breakdown of cost.

- The dock work is completed. The only thing left to do is what Chris Wardius has to do. Sandie asked Chris if he could do the work in front of the office first before the Flounder Tournament. Aileen asked if the signs were put up and Sandie stated they will be done when everything is completed at the marina. The plan is to clean up the front, stain the wood then put the signs up. Chris will have it done before the tournament. The shed can wait until after the tournament.
- Mayor Janci commented it really looks good down there.
- Sandie wanted to discuss the camera situation. 2 of them are broken. She suggest putting 2 fixed camera; 1 towards the street and 1 towards the parking lot. The quote was \$1,042 which included labor. The contractor would break the work down and do the camera at different time.
- Cathy Janci made a motion and Robert Hodgson seconded the motion to purchase the replacement camera for the marina. A vote was taken and all approved.
- Another issue that was discussed was that there were some vandalism and egg throwing at homes along Brooklyn Avenue around March 3<sup>rd</sup> and the following weekend. After witnesses and evidence, the persons responsible were found and Sandie and Richie Puchalski will be taking care of the matter.
- Mayor Janci has asked Missy to send a letter to the Mariners home on Brooklyn Avenue instructing them the health issue of the brush, it needs cleaning up. The house doors and windows need to be boarded up, also. They are to be given 30 days or the town will do it at their expense.

**Marina Dredging** – Mayor Janci stated he has talked with dredging company and they are still working on a project in Virginia Beach. They will not be completed with that until the end of March. Mayor Janci said we could put them off until after the Flounder Tournament but Sandie said that would be worse. Sandie asked when did he talked to them and Mayor Janci stated it's been a couple of weeks. Mayor Janci said he will talk to him again but it may not make a difference. Sandie asked to try and see if he can be done before the tournament.

**B. Accomack-Northampton County Hazard Mitigation Plan**– Robert Hodgson reported he has nothing to report at this time. They said probably spring or summer.

**C. Town Maintenance/Garbage (Repairs)**

- Sandie Puchalski said that work is in progress on the dump truck and the brush truck body is being welded. The F150 has been completed.
- Sandie Puchalski asked if anyone has heard from Kerry Paul concerning the electricity. Comment from the Council was no. Sandie said she will contact him to see when he could do the work. Kathy Ciaccio asked if he could look at moving the water pump. Major Janci said we can have him look and give us a quote. A discussion was conducted and Sandie asked what work was approved and pricing. Robert Hodgson stated up to \$800 to include breaker box, outlet on east side of building and outlet inside shed. Robert Hodgson wanted to see if the outside light on the back corner be included.
- Chris Wardius was asked when he would have his work done for the town. His reply was before the flounder tournament.
- Cathy Janci informed Chris that ADCO was still in business after announcing they were closing. Chris Wardius stated he was using Andy Bocholt for the sign work.

**D. Powell Memorial Town Park** – Sandie Puchalski stated she has spoken with CG Chief today and has a Coast Guard work group set for the 31st of March. It is on a Friday but due to the change of personnel, this would be the best day. She said they are going to do a bunch of stuff at the park such as tearing fencing down. Richie Puchalski says if he has enough, he will donate metal wire to make a 3' fence. They are also ripping out the old post where the playground is and build a divider using 2x4's and rope going through it. This will make it look neat. They will also paint the picnic tables and do as much as possible. Mayor Janci informed Sandie Puchalski that the maintenance workers were giving a task, when time permits, to clean up the brush in the ditch, from the tennis court to the playground. Sandie will try to get some

done too. She will also contact the county to request some wood and paint/stain for this project. Mayor Janci asked about the sign near the concession stand due to its poor condition. Sandi will have the county person to take a look at that. Robert Hodgson stated a golf cart sign has fallen. Sandie replied she will have Richie fix it. Sandie Puchalski was thanked for all her work.

**E. Town Hall Beautification** – Kathy Ciaccio asked Chris Wardius if Sue has talked with him. He stated they are going to meet on Friday. She stated Sue and Joe (design team) will meet with Chris and get an estimate for the renovation of the Town Hall. Chris was given a diagram of the plans. Mayor Janci will be the contact person for Sue if anything is needed. Mayor Janci agreed to attend the meeting to review the plans with Chris Wardius. Kathy Ciaccio was thanked.

**F. Streets and Drainage** – Don Minniear stated Mayor Janci, Robert Hodgson and himself walked around town and looked at some of the drainage troubled areas. Robert Hodgson took notes on a map of problems. Don stated the next step is to have a meeting to prioritize things. Don asked Mayor Janci if he was bringing in someone from the county. Mayor Janci replied yes he has contacted Steward Hall. Steward said he would like to attend and bring his ditch engineer. Steward Hall told Mayor Janci the county has a hydrologic excavator with a chipper and maybe with the south ditch that will work for most of it. Don Minniear said maybe this spring, the catch basins can be done due to that being a safety issue. Mayor Janci will be setting that meeting up. Mayor Janci said to possibly suggest the camera to be used and some funding for the work. Mayor Janci stated he walked the south ditch line last Sunday and there is lots of fallen trees and frag mites which causes the damming of the ditch. Don Minniear told Mayor Janci that he explored the homemade tile. He traced it down to the general area of the catch basin. Mayor Janci thanked Don Minniear for his work. (Note Refers To: Houses on west side of High Street experienced severe flooding this past summer. Don Minniear traced the underground drain that extends along the back yards to a culvert on the north side of South Street.)

**G. Safety/Security** - Don Minniear stated nothing to report.

**H. Seaside Park** – Major Janci stated there was nothing at this time to report.

**I. Town Finances** -

1. Mayor Janci stated last month Aileen Joeckel suggested investing money into the Town's VML Investments instead of letting it sit drawing no interest. Mayor Janci stated he agrees this is a good idea. In the checking account the Town has \$107,000 on the balance sheet. Mayor Janci suggests transferring \$50,000 into the VML Investments which will leave \$57,000 in the checking account. Also while looking at the Port Balance Sheet, he feels what money is in the account should stay until after the dredging project is complete. Robert Hodgson asked if any interest has been received because he has not seen it on the financial statements this year. Missy stated her understanding is it will be rolled over into the investments. Robert Hodgson stated it should be shown on the financial statement. Mayor Janci stated there was much research by John Joeckel. PNC is not giving any interest and money is being made with VML. Aileen Joeckel told the council that they were following Wachapreague and investing in VML. Robert Hodgson made a motion to add an additional \$50,000 to the VML Investment Pool. Cathy Janci made a second on transferring the money to the VML Investment Pool. A vote was taken and all agreed. Mayor Janci thanked Aileen for the suggestion.

2. Mayor Janci stated he has not spoken to anyone concerning the delinquent taxes yet. Missy stated she has emailed the Johnson's and they were going to send a check but the check has not been received. A letter is to be sent to the Varvarka's due to the fact they are delinquent in their Transient Tax and Report also. Mayor Janci wanted the phone number for their son and Missy is to find it.

**J. Zoning Administrator's Report** – Mayor Janci stated nothing to report.

**K. Floodplain Administrator/CRS Coordinator** – Robert Hodgson stated he is going to a meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>. He has talked to the person about cleaning out ditches. She may have some funding ideas on that. He will discuss that when he gets to the meeting. Robert Hodgson has sent everyone a copy of the ditch cleanup (a drainage system maintenance requirement) for the CRS. He explained to everyone what is expected for cleanup of the floodplains insurance and what they want for an organized plan to clean culverts and ditches. The Town is currently at a 10% discount and doing what is outlined by requirements. The town may get an additional discount and the problem areas are being taken care of.

**L. Planning Commission** – Robert Hodgson stated he tried to have a meeting last month but didn't come together. He has contacted one of the members that does a lot of traveling for work. We will try to have another meeting tomorrow night. Robert Hodgson is hoping Aileen Joeckel and ZR Lewis will be there. This will give at least 3 members. The 5<sup>th</sup> member was bicycling in Florida and not sure if he is back yet. Robert Hodgson states he has been reading through the ordinances to see if they are still current or if they need changes. So far they look good. There is one that needs to be changed but has not had a quorum to do this.

**M. Tourism/Business** – Cathy Janci stated there was nothing to report now. There is a meeting that is being scheduled with the Tourism Board.

**VII. New Business –**

**A. Seaside Park Cleanup** - Seaside Park is having its spring cleanup on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor and his wife will provide lunch for everyone who helps. Robert Hodgson suggested having the event catered by Joe at the General Store and being paid from the Tourism Board funds.

**B. Easter Event** – Cathy Janci asked Carlee Vincent if she will be available to help with the Easter event. Carlee stated she will see due to her exams from college is coming up. The Easter Bunny will be coming on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 11 am. At the next meeting, everything will get finalized as to what is needed and who will be helping with which task. Kathy Ciaccio told Cathy Janci she will check but she thinks she has lots of Easter decorations. She will check what she has.

**C. 4<sup>th</sup> Of July** – Mayor Janci stated the 4<sup>th</sup> of July will be on a Tuesday this year. Dave Bright will do the skydiving and is looking forward to it. Cathy Janci suggested scheduling a rain date on the Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup>. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and picnic will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> and Cathy Janci will get the permit for the food. The budget will be decided on when the date gets closer. Kathy Ciaccio asked about the food from last year due to bad weather causing the cancelation of the event. Mayor Janci stated some was sold and everything else was used on Labor Day weekend. Cathy Janci said the bread that was left was donated to The Food Bank and the Town received a credit for it.

**VIII. Announcements** – Nothing else to announce.

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

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3/14/17

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MAYOR

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TOWN CLERK