

**TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
January 11th, 2024**

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor
Glenn Schagelin
Stephen Joseph
Aileen Joeckel
Robert Bilicki

Charlie Gibble-Town Clerk

Absent: Charles Elliott, Mayor
Robert Williams

Town Council Meeting

7:00 PM Start of Meeting.

Councilman Glen Schagelin began the meeting with a prayer.
The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski.

I. Public comments

There were no public comments.

II. Town Council Meeting

December 14th, 2023, minutes were reviewed.
Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to approve the minutes.
Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski 2nd the motion.
All agreed.

III. Review of Financial Report

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski asked the council to review the town's financials for the fiscal year ending in June 2023.
Councilman Glenn Schagelin motioned to approve the town financials for the fiscal year ending in 6/30 2023.
Councilman Stephen Joseph 2nd the motion.
All agreed.

Marina's financials for the fiscal year ending in June 2023 were reviewed.

Councilman Stephen Joseph motioned to approve the town marinas budget for the fiscal year ending in June 2023.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin 2nd the motion.

All agreed.

Town Financials for December 2023 were reviewed.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin motioned to approve the town financials for December 2023.

Councilman Stephen Joseph 2nd the motion.

All agreed.

Port of Wachapreague Financials for December 2023 were reviewed.

Councilman Bob Bilicki moved to approve the Wachapreague Marina's December 2023 financials.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin 2nd the motion.

All Agreed.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. Maintenance

Councilman Glenn Schagelin stated he is working with someone to obtain a grant for a garbage truck for the town.

Councilman Bob Bilicki asked if the guys will be working on the ditches since the guys will not be mowing lawns this time of year.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin stated that he had spoken with them and said, "rain or shine, they need to work on cleaning the ditches."

Town Clerk Charlie Gible mentioned the problems that Lynn Rodgers was having with flooding at her home.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated the area behind Lynn Rogers (formally Guy Wilkins) was a culvert that has been filled in decades ago and should not be the responsibility of the Town.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin said the town should have an ordinance that states the property owners cannot fill the ditches.

B. Powell Park

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski said the buffer at the tennis courts has been holding up since it was repaired.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski said the trees have been chopped down and the stumps have been ground by Gene Gibson and the marina parking lot. The boys will be picking the remains and taking them to the dump.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski spoke about several trees that need removed at Powel Park. She stated there are 2 trees by the playground and ditch that need removed. She said the water was backing up in the ditch. 2 trees had fallen into it. Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski reported there is one tree at the cemetery that needs to be removed and a few behind it that also need taken care of. She stated that there are a total of 2-3 trees that need to be cut up and removed. Richie Puchalski gave an estimate of \$550.00 and \$600.00 to take care of the trees. The maintenance guys will hall away the debris.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin motioned to approve \$600.00 to remove the trees.

Councilman Bob Bilicki 2nd the motion.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski asked if all the council agreed with this motion.

The council agreed.

C. Seaside Park

Councilman Stephen Joseph said there was nothing to report.

D. HRSD

Councilman Steve Joseph spoke about the letters for HRSD that need to be approved by the attorney

The council will need to meet and discuss any changes to these letters.
He said we will need to have a special session and give two weeks' notice to the public regarding the open session. 2.

Councilman Steve Joseph said he spoke to Jay Dano regarding the private residences wanting sewer.

E. Derelict Properties

The council discussed a property they considered derelict on Main St.
Councilman Bob Bilicki said he will draft a letter to the owner.
Councilman Bob Bilicki stated we do not have teeth in our derelict ordinance.
He said people normally respond to the letters.

F. Marina

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski spoke about the pump out agreement that the town has with the Island House.
She stated the cost for replacement of the pump house was \$24,399.67. The Island house received a grant for \$18,299.75. The remaining funds needed are \$6099.92. The amount of \$6099.92 will be split by the town with the Island House.
Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski made a motion for the town to approve to spend \$3049.96 for the pump out work.
Councilman Glenn Schagelin 2nd the motion.
All agreed.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski stated she spoke with Fisher regarding the work on the marina. Fisher said he was having problems getting his barge here. He told Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski that he may not be able to start until May. Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski stated he originally said he would start in January. She told him most of the boats will be in the marina by May and he needs to start prior to that. He said he will get back to Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski and let her know how soon he can get his barge here. She said she also spoke with Marcus and Dave from Shore Lifts. They will be working on the floating dock and will talk to Fisher about coordinating the work schedule. She stated that she is going to contact the VPA and ask for a carryover in case the work isn't done in time. And not lose any of the money.
Other repairs to the bathroom will be done prior to the boating season.

G. Tourism

Councilman Aileen Joeckel passed pictures of what will be in the visitor guide for Wachapreague.
She spoke about a Tourism Seminar taking place February 26, 2024. Councilman Aileen Joeckel said they have 50 people that have signed up already.
Councilman Aileen Joeckel said they will be doing a photo shoot in March when all the birds come in.
Councilman Aileen Joeckel spoke about upgrading our website,

H. Floodplain Adm/CRS

There was nothing to report.

I. Town Beautification

There was nothing to report.

J. Safety and Security

Nothing to report.

K. Historic District

Nothing to report.

L. Streets and Drainage

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski spoke about the ditch on Bayview. (South Ditch) She said there were sea oars that came up into the ditch. Vice Mayor Sandi Puchalski said Bob Williams is trying to find the money to fix this.

Council spoke about the water issue at Pearl St.

He said the guys need to work on the drains while they do not have lawns to mow.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin asked if you can use the leaf vacuum on wet leaves. Councilman Bob Williams said yes. He stated the machine will mulch also.

M. Planning Commission

Councilman Aileen Joeckel reported the planning commission meeting was cancelled due to the storm.

N. Community News

Councilman Aileen Joeckel spoke about Jim Bell's wants for a secure email address for each of the Council members. She thought this would be the best practice for the town.

Councilman Bob Bilicki asked if the town was vulnerable.

Councilman Aileen Joeckel suggested Jim Bell do a presentation for the council.

O. Adjournment

Councilman Glenn Schagelin motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Councilman Stephen Joseph 2nd the motion.

All agreed.