

**TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
March 14th, 2024**

COUNCIL PRESENT:

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

Absent: Charlie Gibble

Town Clerk

Town Council Meeting

Meeting began at 7:00

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

I. Mayor Charles Elliott called the meeting to order.

II. Councilman Glen Schagelin said the prayer.

III. Charles Elliott led The Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Public comments

No public comments.

Town Council Meeting

V. February 8th, 2024, minutes were reviewed.

Stephen Joseph made a correction on the minutes under the HRSD heading. He stated that the town of Exmore is seven months ahead of schedule, not the town of Wachapreague.

Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to approve the minutes.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin 2nd the motion.

All agreed.

VI. Review of Financial Report

The Council reviewed the Town's financials for February 2024.

Councilman Bob Williams motioned to approve the town financials for February 2024.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski 2nd the motion.

All agreed.

The council reviewed the ports financials.
Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to approve the minutes.
Councilman Glenn Schagelin 2nd the motion.
All agreed.

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Maintenance

Councilman Glenn Schagelin reported a small accident that occurred with a car and the town tractor. A town car was struck lightly. The vehicle's taillight was broken and there was a slightly scuffed bumper. Councilman Schagelin said everything has been taken care of.
Councilman Bob Williams spoke about the ditches. He wants the maintenance guys to clean the ditches every Monday. Councilman Bob Bilicki and Councilman Bob Williams talked about the areas of town that has the worst flooding and problems with the culverts. They are Finny, Liberty, Center, Church and Custis.
Councilman Glenn Schagelin said his house on the corner of Finney and Main is also flooded during storms.

B. Powell Park

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski stated the ditch in front of the playground to the Bayview needs cleaning and clearing.

C. Seaside Park

Seaside Park needs roundup and weeded. Anne Swick said she was going to use round up around town hall and Seaside Park.

D. HRSD

Councilman Steve Joseph spoke about the HRSD sewer project... He also said that they are still waiting for some paperwork to be signed. Councilman Bob Bilicki also talked about the HRSD project, and the remaining work needed.

E. Derelict Properties.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that the house that John Carr lives in, owned by his sister Irene Carr has had complaints regarding the condition of the home from surrounding neighbors.
Councilman Bob Bilicki said there is concern by two neighbors regarding a Sycamore Tree that is rotting on the property. The tree could split and take out Allen Stevens Store and apartment. It could also fall on the home John Carr lives in.
Councilman Bob Bilicki asked if there was an ordinance regarding the condition and need for paint on a home.
Councilman Bob Williams stated that in the town charter Chapter 1 paragraph 21 has information regarding derelict properties.

F. Marina

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski reported that the restroom renovations are almost complete. She stated that the contractor that was responsible for the VPA Grant work has not shown up to do the work required on the dock. She said she is waiting for approval from the VPA to see if carryover of the funds has been approved for next year. If approved, she may use a different contractor.

Beth Mendez is looking to put an AED by the marine office. She would like it located under the video camera.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski stated that scrapping will be completed prior to the flounder tournament as well as other maintenance.

G. Tourism

Councilman Aileen Joeckel spoke about the Zinc media group that will be here March 19th through the 22nd.

She stated they will be filming on the 22nd in Wachapreague. The town and the barriers Island will be filmed. She said it will be a film crew of five. Councilman Aileen Joeckel said the main emphasis will be on birding. She said we will own the B roll film and be able to use it for tourism.

Councilman Aileen Joeckel will bring new visitors guides to town hall. She said we have been reimbursed for the visitor guide.

We will have another influencer coming to town April 9th, and leaves on the 14th. She will be in town, on the water and kayaking. Councilman Aileen Joeckel said it would be great if people were out and about.

H. Floodplain Adm/CRS

There was nothing to report.

I. Town Beautification

There was nothing to report.

J. Safety and Security

Councilman Bob Williams said he is meeting with someone online, April 1st, regarding installing cameras in town for safety and security.

K. Historic District

Jim Bell said he must have the grant application within the next two to three weeks. He asked if we could show town support. He handed a resolution to the council to approve and the mayor to sign with the town seal.

Councilman Glenn motioned to approve the resolution.

Councilman Bob Bilicki 2nd the motion.

All agreed.

Jim Bell reviewed the process involved with bringing a historic district to town.

He explained the benefits of being on the Historic Register. Jim Bell said our main priority is to get on the Historic Register.

Mr. Bell said there will be a group of people coming into town to survey the properties. He said he will have a meeting with Historic Resources.

He said we have 80 properties that need to be surveyed. Jim Bell reported we need to have some skin in the game. He suggested different ways to get the money to finance this project. And come up with the 25% needed by the town.

Jim Bell stated we would need \$2500 from local contributors, \$2500 from corporate and the rest possibly from a go fund me page. A grant in the amount of \$17000 would then be applied for.

Jim Bell said we could also try to apply for the grant with 15% of the funds and apply for a \$19,000 grant.

To do that we would need \$1500 from corporate, \$1500 from local donations and \$500 from a go fund me page.

Primary Historic Resource is an open grant. Wachapreague is small but large enough to be on the Historic legislation.

Check the website for information.

Jim Bell said he will continue to work on this project. We can always reject it. Jim Bell reported that the people from Richmond will do the field survey, (we need 80 more homes) the nomination packet, and the legal hearing. If the town is accepted by the state, we will also be included in the National Registry.

Jim Bell handed a letter to the council that would need the signature of the mayor by April 4th.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin made a motion to accept Jim Bells proposal and continue the work for the historic society. Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski 2nd the motion. All agreed.

Jim Bell said a few of the benefits are we are listed on a database, you receive a plaque, and a few more benefits. Being on the historic registry doesn't necessarily mean the home is old, it also may have to do what the property had historically.

L. Streets and Drainage

Councilman Bob Williams stated it will cost millions of dollars to fix our drainage system.

Councilman Stephen Joseph stated when they walked the town with Rob Ruma, he said his estimate to fix our drainage system it would be around \$6,000,000.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said he will be more proactive with Accomack County, Rob Lepore, Councilman Glenn Schagelin and the maintenance guys regarding our problem with the ditches.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said years ago the fire company would run water down the ditches to clean them out.

Councilman Bob Williams said VDOT is planning on paving Custis, Brooklyn, Richardson and Atlantic.

Councilman Bob Williams informed VDOT that HRSD is working along these roads to bring the sewer to town now.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said he can call to see if they can change the dates.

Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about the chicken farm and the trees that have died along the road, 180., by the farm. The purpose of the trees was to block the view and the odor of the chicken farm.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said he will bring in the DEQ to figure out what is causing the trees to die if this cannot be fixed.

M. Planning Commission

Councilman Aileen Joeckel reported the planning commission has quite a few things in the works.

N. Community Report:

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski asked for a formal vote to donate \$500.00 to the firehall on behalf of Carolyn Bradshaw to the Wachapreague Fire company.

Councilman Sandie Puchalski made a motion to contribute \$500.00 to the fire company in Carolyn Bradshaw's name.

Councilman Bob Bilicki second the motion

All Agreed

X. Adjournment

Closed Session

Mayor Charles Elliott called for the meeting to adjourn and go into closed session to discuss employee business.