

# TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

**April 14, 2022**

**COUNCIL PRESENT:**

Fred Janci Mayor,  
Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor  
Robert Williams,  
Robert Bilicki,  
Stephen Joseph  
Glenn Schagelin,  
Margo Digan

**I. Town Council Meeting**

Meeting began at 7:00 PM

Councilman Glen Schagelin said the prayer.  
Pledge of Allegiance followed.

## TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

- Mayor Fred Janci called the meeting to order.

**I. Public comments**

Mayor Janci said it had been asked that we could speed up and streamline our meetings. He said we will start with the public comments. He stated the council would not interject during the public comments. After public comments are finished, there will be no comments from the public during the council meeting.

Mayor Fred Janci asked for public comments.

Leslie, who lives on 20 Bayview next to the tennis courts, said she wanted to explain her displeasure with the activities happening there. She stated there is foul language, loud music, unruly players, drug use, and public urination. Councilman Bob Williams asked what time of day this was taking place. Leslie said she wasn't sure what time it was starting. She was at work before they arrived. It usually lasted until sunset. Mayor Fred said this wasn't falling on deaf ears. They have had complaints before.

Randy Powell requested that there should be a second time for public remarks after the council meeting to give the public a chance to state or question discussions made during the meeting, He felt the council was silencing the public. Mayor Fred Janci said that was not the town's intention. Members of town have requested the meetings speed up. Councilman Bob Bilicki stated: "we are following Roberts Rules."

Lynn Rodgers introduced herself. She said she purchased Guy Wilkinson's old house. She stated she has had water issues since March. She said the flood in 2021 left a lot of water around her house for quite a while. The most recent flooding was worse. It left her with flooding around her home and under her crawl space.

She talked about her conversation with a neighbor Wayne Taylor. They spoke about a pipe going around her house that was supposed to help with drainage. The pipe was crushed in the back.

Wayne Taylor said he had contacted VDOT, before and recommend Lynn do the same. She contacted Dale Pusey at VDOT. He came out and walked the property with her.

Dale Pusey said VDOT rejected the idea that Wayne and she had come up with. Dale told Lynn she should contact the town regarding this issue. Lynn said she spoke with Councilman Bob Williams and Mayor Fred Janci regarding her flooding issue. Dale Pusey instructed Lynn to ask the town to do a drainage study of the town. Lynn stated, "I know that I am not the only person with water problems." She said, "I am here to ask the council to do a drainage study of the town."

Councilman Bob Williams said he spoke with Dale Pusey at VDOT. He stated that Dale said we can pass a resolution to do a drain survey. He said that entails checking right away. Councilman Bob Williams said a lot of the ditches have been filled in. Councilman Bob Williams went on to explain the drainage system at Lynn Rodgers home.

Chris Wardius thanked Councilman Bob Bilicki for his continued effort in supporting tourism and coming up with new ideas.

Councilman Bob Bilicki thanked Chris Wardius.

Emily Patrick stated she came to listen to what progress is being made toward having a communal bathroom. She spoke about the need for a public restroom. We need something easily accessible and centrally located.

## **II. Town Council Meeting**

- Councilman Bob Bilicki stated since they just received the minutes, he would like to put off approval.
- Mayor Fred Janci said we could wait until the next meeting.

## **III. Review of Financial Report**

- Mayor Fred Janci asked to review the town budget.
- Councilman Bob Bilicki requested a breakdown from Mary Jo Tatum regarding tourism expenditures. He said different people in town have been asking what we are doing with the tourism tax. He would like this report be made part of the minutes.
- Mayor Fred stated that he had already received this report. It was up to-date until last month.
- Councilman Bob Bilicki stated he hadn't seen it. The report must have gotten lost in his emails. Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to accept.  
Vice Mayor Sandie 2<sup>nd</sup>ed.  
All Agreed.
- Mayor Fred Janci asked to review the marina financials.  
Vice Mayor Sandie said the majority of the leases have been paid. She stated that there are still a few out, they have until June to pay.  
She stated she should know more about VPA grant in May.

Councilman Bob Williams motioned to accept the marina financials.

Councilman Bob Bilicki 2<sup>nd</sup>ed

All agreed.

## **IV. Planning Commission**

Aileen Joeckel spoke about the town survey. She said they received over 60 responses. She said they will post the results on the planning commissions once that are compiled. She reported the meetings are the first Tuesday of every month at Seaside Hall and everyone is invited. She stated there is no public discussion at these meeting.

#### **Ordinances:**

Councilman Bob Williams said we are in limbo right now regarding working of the ordinances. The budget is coming up and we will need to discuss that. It was decided to have a budget meeting April 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00pm at town hall.

#### **V. Beautification**

Councilman Margo Digan asked if the Christmas garland would be taken down.

Mayor Fred Janci said he would remove the garland.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that the maintenance men should be taking care of it.

Mayor Janci said he would remove.

#### **VI. Seaside Park**

Councilman Bob Williams inquired as to how many cedars do we want to keep.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said they are there to help stop erosion.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski stated that pompas grass could replace trees if needed.

Mayor Janci thought we could leave the trees and see what happens. Mayor Janice stated he would speak with Charles and Donold regarding the cedars at Seaside Park.

#### **VII. Powel Park**

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski stated that she was having a cleanup day with the help of the coast guard. They were going to clean up and put up playground equipment before the Easter egg hunt.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski inquire about what we were planning on doing about a porta pot in the park.

Councilman Margo Digan said we should discuss the hoop first. Councilman Margo Digan said our tiny little neighborhood is highly affected by the people that use that court. She said the basketball hoop was initially a good idea. She stated it was intended for our town and a place for the kids in town to play basketball. Councilman Margo stated that the court is located right next to a residential home. She said basketball is a different type of sport. It is loud and an aggressive sport. It's the nature of the game. It doesn't belong in a residential neighborhood. She said she put trash cans inside the court for the basketball players to use and this morning she went to the court and picked up 6 pieces of paper in the basketball court.

Vice mayor Sandie Puchalski said the pickle ball people were there this morning. Councilman Margo Digan said she was there before 7:00am walking her dogs. It was before they arrived.

Vice Mayor Sandi Puchalski stated she walks her dog there almost daily. Most of the players leave between 4:00 and 5:00. They are out by dusk. She has not witnessed the behaviors that are being reported.

Councilman Margo Digan said the first two weeks of March there was speeding, and loud noises at the court. Late March it was very quiet without much use of the court. She saw a neighbor and some younger boys using the court. They were fine. She stated we that live in this area do not want to spend another summer anticipating when they will come, and how much noise we are going to hear. She stated the basketball court doesn't belong in a neighborhood. Councilman Margo stated she researched all parks in Accomac County and North Hampton. No one has a basketball court in their park, and certainly not in a residential area on top of somebody's house. She has the research if you want to review it.

Chincoteague has a basketball court. She stated it is in a park with other sports activities. Parsley had a court but they had to take it down because they were having the same problem. North Hampton has an indoor court at the rec center. They do not have any outdoor basketball courts in their parks.

She stated they have been very patient and kept trying to work with the players. Mayor Janci and Vice Mayor Puchalski have talked to players. We put up signs regarding littering, language, and behavior. Councilman Margo Digan asked, "when do the homeowner and tax payer get stuff done right for them regarding this issue?"

Councilman Bob Williams asked Councilman Digan, "what is the solution?"

Councilman Digan said the solution is to get rid of the hoops. "I need to make a motion to get rid of the hoops. I am not against basketball. Wachapreague needs to find a place that is not residential." She stated she knows there is no space in Wachapreague for courts.

Mayor Fred Janci stated that Leslie lives next door to the court, and Councilman Margo Digan lives three doors down. Councilman Digan said the other neighbors do not want the court.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski stated that Carrie who lives there doesn't mind the court. She is only two houses away. Councilman Digan said Carrie Jacobson is never outside. She is in her house or studio all the time.

Leslie said she doesn't see the benefit. She never sees anyone in town walk to the court. None of the people are tax payers or live in town that use the court. They are not tourist or visitors to the town.

Vice Mayor Puchalski said originally the coastguard used the court, and there were some young boys in town that played basketball on the court. She stated that Richie Puchalski offered to put up a barrier at the court between Leslie's home.

Mayor Fred Janci named the problems with the court, the speeding, swearing, loud music, and public urination.

Mayor Janci said he has spoken with the players there regarding everything except the public urination, (this is a new problem) It would help for about three weeks and the start again. The neighbor next door to the courts agreed with Mayor Janci.

Councilman Stephan Joseph motioned to remove the basketball hoops.

Councilman Margo Digan 2<sup>nd</sup>ed the motion.

Council Bob Bilicki said, "you are adjacent to a playground where there is a child's play equipment, ballpark and isn't there a restroom there also?"

Vice Mayor Puchalski stated there is an old restroom that is connected to the Concession stand.

It is kept locked because the water is shut off. It is opened up for events.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated, "couldn't we find another spot to put up a basketball court in the Park?"

He stated we are not closing the court for the use of tennis and pickle ball.

Councilman Margo Digan said, "they are different sports. Pickleball and tennis are not loud sports and they clean up after they leave."

Mayor Fred Janci said, "we could lock up the tennis court and have people who use the court pick up a key to unlock the court. It is the town's park and we can say only town's people can use the court."

Vice Mayor Sandi Puchalski stated that Elizabeth wanted to donate another hoop to the basketball court. Her sons and she use the court.

Vice Mayor Puchalski said she would rather see the courts locked up and people needing to pick up a key to unlock the courts than taking the hoops down entirely. That way the court would be available for the coastguard or the town's people. Vice Mayor Sandi Puchalski asked, "even if it was locked and only local people that wanted to use the courts would you want it taken down?"

Councilman Digan stated she is motioning to take the hoops down. She said she wants them gone,

Councilman Digan stated, "what about the pickle ball court and the tennis players?"

Mayor Fred Janci responded, "if it is only for the town to use, it can't be ok for this person not living in town to use and not ok for another that doesn't live here."

Council Bob Bilicki asked if this issue was racially motivated.

Mayor Fred Janci and the lady who lives next to the basketball court said no. Mayor Fred Janci said this has to do with behavior problems, such as foul language, speeding, public urination, littering and loud music.

The lady living next to the court said she never mention race. It is not a racial issue. It's their actions.

Councilman Digan and the neighbor said these complaints are not racially motivated.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said he is glad he asked that questions because the options on this are the undercurrent of the conversation.

Mayor Fred Janci said we have been working on this issue for several years.

Councilman Glen Schlagle said, "why don't we talk with the basketball players and tell them this is what the town expects and if they don't follow the rules and respect the neighbors, they will lose their use of the courts."

Mayor Janci explained that has been done.

Mellissa asked how we would enforce that.

Councilman Margo Digan said, "we spend hours on this every year. We pay the taxes and take care of stuff. We can't keep trying to accommodate people that don't live here and will not adhere to the rules. We are working harder and we are just going around in circles. They do not change."

She asked, "isn't there a motion on the floor that has been 2<sup>nded</sup>?"

Councilman Bob Bilicki said, "we are still in discussion. This was put up with good intention. This did not go through the proper channels where planning should have been involved. If we take the hoops down, we should give this to the planning commission to find a place to put a basketball court."

Council Margo agreed. She said that it needs to go to planning and zoning.

Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to amend the motion to temporarily remove the basketball court and broken basketball back until we find a place to put the basketball court going through the planning commission.

Councilman Margo questioned what temporarily meant.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said until we find a spot.

Councilman Margo Digan said we need to remove the hoop and then take it to planning commission.

Mayor Janci asked Councilman Digan if she had a motion on the floor.

She said yes. She motioned to remove the hoop the last hoop out of the tennis court.

Councilman Stephen Joseph 2<sup>nded</sup> the motion.

Councilman Bob Bilicki asked for a roll call vote.

Councilman Bob Williams	Yes
Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski	No
Councilman Margo Digan	Yes
Councilman Stephen Joseph	Yes
Councilman Bob Bilicki	No
Councilman Glen Schagelin	Yes

It was voted Four to Two to remove the last hoop.

Mayor Janci stated the hoop must come down.

Councilman Bob William stated it is the caliber of people that are coming to play that are the problem.

It is their behavior.

Vice Mayor Puchalski asked, "locking up the courts, handing out keys and managing who plays there- wouldn't that be something that is acceptable?"

Councilman Margo Digan said, "no, it is not good with me."

Vice Mayor Puchalski said Richie will not be taking the hoop down.

Mayor Janci asked Councilman Schagelin to have the maintenance guys remove the hoop.

Councilman Margo Digan reached out to Don Hart at Accomack to see if they would resurface the tennis court. She is waiting for a response.

## **VIII. Marina**

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski stated the cross member repairs have been done. The labor was \$120.00. The materials were \$95.00. She said we need to ok \$915.00 for all the repairs.

Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to approve \$915.00 for repairs to the marina.

Councilman Margo Digan 2<sup>nded</sup> the motion. All agreed.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski spoke about the duck Pond. She said there is dirt coming into the marina from the pond. She said if there is any money left over from the VPA Grant to use that for other expenses at the marina.

### **IX. Maintenance**

Councilman Glen Schagelin said he had a request from JD to get rid of both of the snapper mowers and purchase a new mower. He said the mower that John is using is falling apart.

Mayor Fred Janci stated that Justin Paul told Mayor Janci it should only take one day to mow everything that needed to be mowed. One guy is supposed to use the mower and the other the weed whacker. Mayor Fred Janci said, "we know nobody is using the weed whacker."

Councilman Glen Schagelin said we need to keep our Park at Seaside in pristine shape. Councilman Schagelin and Mayor Janci discussed what the town's needs are. They questioned the need of the maintenance guys. Their concerns were if we have someone doing trash and another group taking care of the mowing, why would we buy another mower?

Mayor Fred Janci asked if the guys were making it into work on time. Councilman Glen Schagelin stated he checked the time cards. There was a problem with one of the guys still coming late.

Councilman Schagelin discussed how two tires got cut at Brush drop off. It was explained the driver misjudged the turn to be free of obstruction. The tires have been replaced at a cost of \$500.00.

### **X. Raft/CRS**

Councilman Bob Williams sent a guide for everyone to read from Ashley Mills. It had Mitigation plan that Wachapreague was included in. Councilman Williams said it's going to cost money to get these projects completed. He said HRSD and the fire department is included in this.

Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about the last rain that caused much flooding. He said there was an area near VIMS where he is not convinced the swell is correct even though it is VDOT approved. He is concerned the water will flow into Phil's yard. Mayor Fred Janci was going to check a pipe in that area to see if the piping is correct. Mayor Fred Janci said he would be glad to go over and check it out. It was noted that council had gotten off of agenda and the topic of VIMS should have fallen under Streets and Drainage.

### **XI. HRSD**

Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about Anne from ANPCD. Rob Duma has been paid up to 90%. He will receive the last 10% when the report is 100% finished. Mary Jo had informed Councilman Bob Bilicki that the town had received 90%. 2.7 million versus 3.65 million that was the full amount needed. The difference is the pump at each property owner's property. Grinder pump would suit the need. It was recommended that we speak with HRSD and Mr. Hubbard. Councilman Bob Bilicki said it is a basis of design; we have most of that already due to Rob Duma's report. It was recommended that since we are not capable of managing a public/private procurement that we speak with HRSD, Mr. Hubbard and the new manager to see if they would do a change order to the town if we are successful. Then we would be locked into pricing. It would just be an extension instead of getting three new prices. We should know by the end of April. It is in session in the General assembly now.

Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about applying for another grant if we need additional funding so we would not have to use any additional tax payer money. He also stated the pump station will only handle the commercial water front properties and town hall.

### **XII. Derelict Properties**

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated he only had one property to report. He said it was always referred to as the Trout property. Mayor Fred Janci spoke about the new letter that was being mailed to derelict properties. The town was making a proactive approach. If the lawn isn't mowed the town will mow and continue to mow with no additional warning

letters at a cost of \$100.0 per lot.

#### **XIV. Tourism**

Councilman Bob Bilicki thanked Aileen for encouraging him and other attendees of the tourism committee to write a letter to Mr. Sabatini, executive director of tourism, requesting a grant to create an advertisement to help promote the town of Wachapreague.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated we spent \$93% of the tourism money already. This grant would help.

Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about a sign the town of Wachapreague would be subletting from Wardius. The cost would be \$225.00 monthly plus approximately \$25.00 for electric.

Mayor Janci said this will be a budget issue. Wardius asked how long is this going to take.

Mayor Janci said this is going to be around a \$4000.00 project for the sign and rent. (Approximately \$1800.0 for the sign and monthly rental) We are working on the new proposed budget now. July 1<sup>st</sup> is when the new budget will start.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said Blake estimated about 400 people will be in town for the flounder tournament.

Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about the CBES riders October 20th.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated he is lining up music for the afternoon. He was also going to sell T shirts to make money for the town.

Councilman Glen Schagelin spoke about what should be on the t shirts: date of the ride, that it takes place in Wachapreague and town logo.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated he and Merriweather Payne are meeting with Jill Bieri and Jim McGowan of the Nature Conservatory to have an in- depth conversation of what we want to achieve for the bird watching station.

They would like to have a community meeting to see what interest the town has.

Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about an idea of having scooters in town to rent. It was called the Byrd. The company provides insurance and you must be over 18 to rent. A Byrd manager will be needed to manage this. They would need to pick up the scooters if not returned and charge them. If the town didn't like it within the first year the company would pick up the scooters.

#### **XV. Porta pot**

Councilman Margo asked about the porta pot. Councilman Bob Bilicki said that the Board of Health has a law against the permanent use of a porta potty. It does not allow for extended use of a one.

Councilman Digan said the porta pot at town hall will not be permanent.

Mayor Fred Janci said there is a well on Seaside Park that could be rejuvenated.

The line could then be run over to Town Hall.

Councilman Dijon went over the pricing for a porta pot with water. It was decided this would have to be decided on when the new budget is figured out.

Mayor Fred Janci mentioned the Easter Egg Hunt. He said Vice Mayor Sandie would not be available. Town Clerk

Charlie Gobble stated she would be there. She has several people coming to hide eggs Several council members agreed to help with the egg hunt. Mayor Fred Janci said Cathi Janci would be there too.

Councilman Margo Digan stated that Charlie Gobble will be chairmen for the events committee. Charlie stated she has several people interested already.

#### **XVI. Safety and Security**

Councilman Bob Williams said the sign has been adjusted and reading the speeds correctly. He said the sign has helped slow a lot of cars down that are coming into town. Councilman Bob Williams explained the hand-out regarding the speed of cars entering town.

Mayor Janci asked Councilman Bob Bilicki about the curbing at VIMS. Councilman Bob Bilicki said that was required by Dale Pusey of VDOT.

Mayor Fred Janci asked about the lights at the maintenance building. Councilman Bob Bilicki stated the lights will be on a toggle switch and Justin will turn it off when he leaves in the evening.

Councilman Bob Bilicki explained where there will be trees planted and showed the landscaping plans for VIMS.

Mayor Fred Janci inquired as to why there were so many tanks. He said it is very industrial looking.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated, "I am not an employee of VIMS. When the job is completed, I will no longer be working for VIMS. He stated as council member he would suggest that town's people let VIMS know their opinion.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated he will bring up the complaints from the owners regarding the architecture, he doesn't care for what is happening there either. Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that his first priority is the town. My employment is with VIMS.

Mayor Fred Janci reported the Eilena is interested in becoming the zoning manager. He told the council to think about it.

### **XVII. Safety and Security**

Councilman Margo Digan stated she is concerned with people destroying things in town. She spoke about picnic tables broken in the doggie park, 2 hoops that were mysteriously removed and an entire flag stolen.

She thought maybe we should look into security cameras at town hall facing Seaside Park.

Mayor Fred Janci said it may be hard to identify people and read license plates but the fact they are there may be a deterrent.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski reported she has cameras at the marina. Chuck takes care of her cameras. She said council could talk to him for ideas.

### **XVIII. Streets and Drainage**

Councilman Bob Williams spoke about issue involving poor drainage. He spoke about the home on Liberty St that had a blue barrel stuck in the ditch. The owner was sent a letter regarding this issue. The response from the owner was that barrel was put in there by the previous owner and is not his responsibility to remove it. Councilman Bob Williams stated if the owner gives the town permission, we can fix it.

The second issue Councilman Williams spoke about was Lynn's home on Bayview. He said we need to pass a resolution to have VDOT do a drainage survey for Center St.

Councilman Bob Williams made a motion.

Councilman Glen Schagelin stated what about Finney and Main. The flooding there is a big issue.

Councilman Bob Williams stated, "my plan was to start with one and see what we can get." He is trying to do one area at a time.

Mayor Fred Janci asked about the road area around Councilman Glen Schagelin home.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that problem has to do with the main drain line.

Councilman Glen Schagelin said the town residents wants to know how the town was going to use the money for if we increase the meals and transient tax to what the county is currently charging. We could show them this is something for which those additional funds could be used: possibly used for a matching grant to fix our drainage problems in town.

Mayor Fred Janci spoke about how expensive piping is. He stated for a 24-inch pipe for 2000 feet would cost approximately \$60,000, a 20-inch pipe would be around \$30,000.

Councilman Williams said that is just the pipe, not the labor.

Mayor Fred Janci is getting a price for installing the pipe and the manholes.

Councilman Bob Williams asked, "does everyone agree to the resolution?"

Council said yes.

Councilman Bob Williams said he would write the resolution and have Mayor Janci and Charlie sign.

Mayor Janci said he had Charles and Don look at the ditches to remove trees and debris. They will give an estimate.

He stated we will have the maintenance guys pick up the brush afterwards.



### **XIX. Yard Sale**

May 21<sup>st</sup> was decided as the date for the sale

It was decided that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of May will be the set date.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said historically the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in September was the fall time for yard sale.

Vice Mayor Sandi Puchalski and Councilman Margo said we normally do two sales a year.

### **XX. New Business**

Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned for the pilot program Byrds scooters to be approved for one year.

Mayor Janci said if it doesn't cost the town anything.

He said, "I think we should try it. I just don't want to see scooters everywhere."

Councilman Bob Bilicki said, "I will be the coordinator." He said there will be a maintenance person in charge of storing the scooters and charging them.

Councilman Bob Bilicki made the motion again. Councilman Glen Schagelin 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Councilman Margo said she was still in discussion regarding the scooters.

Mayor Fred Janci said, "are we going to allow garaging and maintaining these in our town? Do we want lime green scooters setting all over town?"

Mayor Fred Janci stated, "whoever manages this will have to live in a commercial neighborhood."

Councilman Margo Digan said it sounded like a good idea but felt more information was needed before it was voted on.

Councilman Bob Bilicki withdrew the motion.

### **XX. Adjournment**

Councilman Glen Schagelin motioned to adjourn.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski 2<sup>nd</sup>.

All Agreed.