

**TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
July 13th, 2023**

**COUNCIL PRESENT:**

**Charlie Gobble-Town Clerk**

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

**Town Council Meeting**

Meeting began at 7:00 PM

Councilman Glen Schagelin said the prayer.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Charles Elliot.

**TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE COUNCIL MEETING**

**Mayor Charles Elliot called the meeting to order.**

**I. Public comments**

Margo Digan said the Independence Day Parade was lovely.  
Several council members thanked Charlie Gobble, the town clerk, for organizing the event.

**II. Town Council Meeting**

June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, minutes were reviewed.  
Councilman Glen Schagelin motioned to accept the minutes.  
Councilman Bob Bilicki 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.  
All agreed.

**III. Review of Financial Report**

Mayor Charles Elliot asked to review the town's financials for June 2023.  
The June financials for the town and the marina were marked incomplete.  
Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski motioned to wait until the next meeting to approve the June financials for the town and the marina.  
Councilman Glenn Schagelin 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion  
All agreed.

#### **IV. Unfinished Business**

##### **A. Maintenance**

Councilman Glenn Schagelin stated the new zero turn mower was delivered and it is working well.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin spoke about a flat tire on the F350. He said the JD made the arrangements to have the tire fixed.

Town Clerk Charlie Gibble stated he made several calls until he found someone to take care of it.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin stated that JD was very happy working with Robert.

Town Clerk Charlie Gibble also stated that JD has told her that Robert works hard, and they work well together.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski said that JD praises Robert for how well he is working out.

Town Clerk Charlie Gibble reported that she hasn't received any new applicants.

Councilman Aileen Joeckel stated that someone said they smelled alcohol on Robert. She stated she hadn't been around him to notice.

Town Clerk Charlie Gibble said he comes to the office often for water and she has not smelled any alcohol.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin said he will talk to Robert.

##### **B. Powell Park**

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski said the guys sprayed the weeds at the tennis court. She requested that the guys weed whack by the new fence near the concession stand.

Councilman Bob Williams spoke about a weed killer that Tractor Supply has. It is called 34. He suggested the maintenance guys use it in the park.

Councilman Stephen Joseph asked if the town would purchase a sprayer for the guys. He said he has been lending his out to the guys.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski said she would pick one up at Tractor Supply.

##### **C. Seaside Park**

Councilman Stephan Joseph said mulch was delivered. The southeast looks great.

Mayor Charles Elliott asked about the bench that needed repaired.

Councilman Bob Williams stated he is working on that.

##### **D. HRSD**

Councilman Steve Joseph said we are waiting for the construction contract from HRSD for our portion.

He spoke about the 17 properties that are included in the initial project. There are approximately 27 more homes along the route that could hook up. The amount needed for their hook up would be about \$486,000.

He is looking into a grant for the funds needed. SERCAP is who Councilman Stephen Joseph is working with to get the money for the additional hook ups. It is estimated the cost will run around \$17,000 per hookup. The pumps alone would be approximately \$6000.00. They are 100 PSI pumps and the home will need 200 AMPS in order for it to run. Many of the homes will need their electric upgraded to 200 amps. The reason for the higher pressure for the pumps is because they need to be able to push the waste to the pump house.

He said he is hoping we will be able to get enough money to hook up all the homes on the line.

Linda Jones asked when all of this was going to occur.

Councilman Stephen Joseph said they should start digging in the streets sometime in August or September. Custis Street will be first. They will come down Brooklyn and then T off and go down Main Street to the corner. There will be taps in line for everyone. From there you would need to contract someone to run the lateral.

Councilman Stephen Joseph said he is trying to raise the money to cover the cost to hook up.

Individuals along the line can hire someone privately. Councilman Stephen Joseph said in Exmore they used grants and got a loan. The people there have an extra \$40.00 month bill on top of their taxes that need to pay. Town residents in Exmore were required to hook up.

The \$17,000 is an estimate. This amount does not include filling the old tanks with dirt.

Councilman Stephen Joseph said we are not requiring people to fill their tanks.

## **E. Derelict Properties**

Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke to Mayor Charles Elliott about ironing out some of the language regarding derelict properties.

Mayor Elliott quoted the town charter regarding ordinances, Chapter 1, #44. He spoke about putting liens on properties and the ability to renew your car registration.

His concern is injury or death that could occur if a property is not properly maintained. He said you find information regarding this in the Town Charter 2, #22. Chapter 2, #25 was also quoted regarding keeping personal properties and business maintained.

Mayor Charles Elliott said we need to work on the ordinance regarding our derelict houses.

Councilman Stephan Joseph said where are the teeth in the ordinance.

Margo Digan said we should check with Accomack County regarding penalties.

Vice Mayor Sandi Puchalski said we are covered under Accomack County.

Councilman Bob Williams asked, "how do we reinforce these ordinances in a small town?"

Councilman Aileen Joeckel said the town must come up with the money to take down a condemned homes or do repairs if the owners will not.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin said we could contact the insurance company to let them know the house is in hazardous condition.

Councilman Aileen Joeckel said the planning commission needs to finish their 5-year comprehensive plan before they start to work on the ordinances.

Councilman Bob Williams said we need to work on the ordinances once the 5-year plan is completed. He said Mayor Charles Elliott as the mayor should put a time limit on when the ordinances should be completed.

## **F. Marina**

Vice Mayor Sandi Puchalski said she is in the process of getting the bid request for the marina bathrooms.

She is working with Dan Fisher for work needed to be completed at the marina. She said there are 4 phases.

Replacing or repairing the broken piles on the south side, remove the piles on the north side of the T dock so it is possible to reconfigure, etc. She said she is working on getting an estimate on each phase, so we have an actual cost to work with. She said in the worst-case scenario is we may need to wait until next year to work on the floating dock.

## **G. Tourism**

Councilman Aileen Joeckel said the numbers on the giant flounder would be around \$35,000 to \$40,000.

She also spoke to Turner Sculptures. He will take a look at it. She said the large flounder could then be used for other items like small flounder sculptures to be sold to people or made into fish trophies etc.

Councilman Aileen Joeckel said they are hoping to work with local artist on creating a LOVE sign for the town. She said they would like to place it at the Nature Conservatory piece of ground.

Another idea would be for the town to have a yearly festival.

Councilman Arlene Joeckel spoke about ideas on how to spend the ARPA Grant money that needs to be spent on marketing. She explained that Daytrippers will be taking someone out July 19<sup>th</sup> to get some contents and pictures. They are focusing on activities that would interest young professionals, and people under 40 to draw them into town. She said they are using 1 Fish 2 Fish as a fishing influencer. They are hoping to do a fall fishing event. Councilman Aileen Joeckel said she will be talking to Sunshine Soul. She would like her to be able to come to the Eastern Shore for a week and spend at least a day or two in Wachapreague. Eric Fisher is a birding influencer. She said either fall or spring would be a good time to have him come to town. Councilman Aileen Joeckel stated ARPA must receive the receipts by the end of June 2023.

Councilman Aileen Joeckel stated they are restructuring the ESVA Visitor Guide. She said they would like to do an advertorial. An advertorial would be paid content. As a consumer it would read like a story. The cost is \$4000.00 per page. We have \$20,000 to spend.

Councilman Aillen Joeckel said she would like to make a motion to spend \$4000.00 of the ARPA money on an advertorial. She said the tourism group will put that together.

Councilman Bob Bilicki 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

All agreed.

She said we will still have our ads.

Councilman Aileen said there is a familiarization tour scheduled for the Eastern Shore. She says the state of VA is very big in supporting tourism. Most of the visits will be comped by Eastern Shore businesses.

Councilman Aileen Joeckel spoke about the light box at the Visitors Center. She said it is up for renewal. The cost is \$850.00.

Councilman Aileen Jockel made a motion to spend the money to renew the box at the southern welcome center.

Councilman Bob Bilicki 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

All Agreed.

Councilman Aileen Jockel said 135,000 visitor's guides are printed.

She said 30,000 open face guides were printed.

The Eastern Shore travel Guide is in all of the Va Visitor Centers, Island House, Military Bases, Pa Visitor Centers, Lewes Ferry, Outer Banks Cape May Ferry, Wallops Island, Fredericksburg and the motels in VA Beach,

#### **H. Floodplain Adm/CRS**

Nothing to report.

#### **I. Town Beautification**

Vice Mayor Sandi Puchalski inquired about a bill due to Wardius.

Town Clerk Charlie Gibble reported that the invoice was placed in the file for Mary Jo Tatum to pay. She pays the bills at the end of the month.

#### **J. Safety and Security**

Nothing to report.

Councilman Steve Joseph said there is a light out at the corner of Powellton and Brooklyn.

#### **K. Historic District**

Nothing to report.

#### **L. Streets and Drainage**

Councilman Bob Williams said the sea oars were cleaned up by VDOT on Atlantic. He said that Atlantic is probably on the schedule to be repaved in 2024 per VDOT. Councilman Bob Williams said he asked VDOT if they would also look at Lee and Church St, especially Church St on the North end.

Councilman Bob Williams said he needs to speak to Rob Duma regarding the drainage.

### **M. Planning Commission**

Councilman Aileen Jockel spoke about the check list that will be created for the bed and breakfast and short-term rentals. Jim Bell will assist the zoning officer with the new requirements.

Councilman Aileen Joeckel spoke about the need to work on the ordinances. She stated the planning commission said they will begin working on the ordinances after the 5-year comprehensive plan is completed. The projected time for this to be completed is Fall.

Councilman Aileen Joeckel said the Planning Commission said they would like to be part of the town land acquisitions. They would like to locate the LOVE sign on the location of the old bird watching station.

Councilman Sandi Puchalski said she isn't interested in the other land the Nature Conservatory has contacted council about receiving. The only piece she thinks the town should take is the ground where the bird-watching station was once located.

Councilman Aileen Joeckel asked if the town wasn't interested in acquiring the other properties, Councilman Stephen Joseph and Councilman Bob Bilicki said that is Vice Mayor Sandi Puchalski's opinion. Not all the council agrees with this.

### **HRSD.**

Councilman Stephan Joseph asked to revisit HRSD. He said the DEQ and HRSD would like to know how much the entire town would be interested in having sewer.

Councilman Stephen Joseph asked if the town could do a survey to inquire as to how many people would be interested. He would like to contact the people that are not on the schedule for sewer.

Councilman Bob Williams said a good place would be to put it in the paper that Carrie Jacobson writes once a month. Town Clerk Charlie stated that the town has sent out mass mailings with surveys.

Councilman Stephen Joseph said if people want it, we will work on finding the money for it.

Mayor Charis Elliot asked if he should contact Carrie.

Councilman Bob Billick inquired about grinder pumps.

Councilman Stephen Joseph explained that we need a strong grinder pump because of the need to pump it to the pumping station.

Councilman Stephen Joseph said that there isn't a single residence on the list for sewer. Only properties that have a commercial business. He said he hasn't seen the list, but he saw where the dots are on the map. He spoke with Linda Jones who was at the meeting and told her that her home was not on the list. The post office is.

The list of 17 properties were all businesses.

Linda Jones said to Councilman Stephen Joseph that she was asked last year if they would like to hook up and she said yes.

Councilman Stephen Joseph stated that they were asking the people not on the list but were located where the line ran past.

Linda Jones asked if she could hook up even if she had to pay \$20,000?

Councilman Stephen Joseph you could. You would need to go online and apply for the permit. He said to wait and see if they can get additional grants to pay for it. Councilman Stephen Joseph said he has not seen the list. Fred Janci is the only one that has.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that the initial budget included all those homes but somewhere along the line it has been retracted.

Councilman Stephan Joseph stated that his understanding that is not correct. He said he thought it was initially just to put the sewer in, no hook ups were included. He said then they came up with some extra money. That's how the hook up for the 17 commercial entities were included.

Councilman Stephen Joseph said he is working on getting the town and additional \$486,000 to hook up the 27 people along the current lines.

**N. Community News**

Vice Mayor Sandi Puchalski asked if we could have the community yard sale October, Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Town Clerk Charlie Gible thanked Councilman Glenn Schagelin for helping with the line up at the parade. She thanked Councilman Glenn Schagelin and Councilman Stephen Joseph for working in the kitchen at the parade. She stated there were many people that volunteered in the community.

**O. Adjournment**

Councilman Glenn Schagelin Motioned to adjourn the meeting.

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

All Agreed