

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

August 11th, 2022

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor
Robert Williams,
Robert Bilicki,
Stephen Joseph
Glenn Schagelin

TOWN CLERK: Charlie Gibble

ABSENT: Fred Janci Mayor
Margo Digan

I. Town Council Meeting

Meeting began at 7:00 PM

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

- Vice Mayor Sandi Puchalski called the meeting to order.

I. Public comments

Chris Wardius stated the sign had been made for the corner of route 13-180. It has not been put up yet do to the heat. He said now that it has cooled off he should have it up by next week.

Prayer was led by Glenn Schagelin
Pledge of Allegiance

II. Town Council Meeting

- Councilman Glenn Schagelin motioned to approve the minutes for July 2022.
- Councilman Bob Williams 2nd the motion to approve.
- All Agreed with the exception of Glenn Schagelin because he was absent last meeting.

III. Review of Financial Report

Financials

- Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski said she thought the financials looked good for the town and the marina.
- Councilman Bob Williams motioned to approve the financials for July 2022.
- Councilman Stephan Joseph 2nd the motion.
- All agreed

IV. Unfinished Business

A. Powel Park

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski stated they received the privacy tarp for the south side fence at Powel Park. Richie and the coast guard will install it.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski inquired about a porta pot for Powell Park.

She stated it wouldn't be a handicap one.

Vice Mayor Sandi Puchalski stated this would only be seasonal.

Vice Mayor Puchalski stated we will table this discussion for the next meeting.

B. Seaside Park

Councilman Bob Williams stated that the event Carrie Jacobson put together was a success. He stated there was a lot of product and they made some money.

He heard they are planning another event in October.

Councilman Bob Williams spoke to Councilman Glenn Schagelin about cleaning up the area in Seaside Park where the Cedar trees are located along Atlantic Ave.

He would like the guys to go in with a weed whacker and clean up that area.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin will talk to the JD Bradshaw and John Burton.

Vice Mayor Puchalski asked if there were any comments regarding the porta pot in Seaside Park.

Councilman Stephen Joseph said that he thought it should be moved over by the bocce ball court.

Councilman Bob Bilicki suggested moving it opposite the Inn under the Crape Myrtle trees where it could be somewhat camouflaged.

Vice Mayor Sandi Puchalski said that it is supposed to be enclosed by a fence. They haven't gotten to it yet.

Councilman Bob Bilicki made a motion to hold off on the fence around the porta pot because it will only be there for the summer.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski stated we should hold off on making any decisions on the porta pot until we decide if we are going to move it. She thought we should have more council members involved with the decision.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin said Mayor Fred Janci spoke with him regarding the fence. Councilman Glenn Schagelin stated that Mayor Fred Janci had purchased all the material needed for the fence and that he did not want it to be permanent. He wanted Councilman Schagelin, JD Bradshaw and John Burton to install it.

Councilman Bob Williams stated he saw four people use the porta pot Saturday. He noticed people leaving the General Store and walking over to use it. He thought it was a good location. His opinion was if you put it at the bocce court the only people using it will be the bocce players. He thought where it was located was a very convenient place.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski agreed.

She thought the fence should not be permanent until we decide where the porta pot will be located.

Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about Town Hall renovations. He said we should make one of the storage areas a public restroom. It would need to be a US ADA accessible one. Two of the three storage rooms were bathrooms at one time. He stated we should address what to do with town hall. Councilman Bob Bilicki said with the increase of the meals tax and the transient tax we should be able to take care of issues that have been going on for forty years. He said there should be a conversation as to how we can utilize the building.

Councilman Bob Williams asked where we would move our town records. Where do we have a secure location to keep them?

Councilman Bob Williams said his idea was to build another building.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski stated there have been conversations about adding five feet to the back of the building and put public restrooms there.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated to give credit to Charlie in this conversation, there is room above the ceiling at town hall. If we give access to that area we could create a loft area to store town records.

Town Clerk Charlie said the ceiling is just dry walled now. A floor and a stair case would need to be installed. She believes the files would be safer on the second floor if flooding would occur. This would also free up space for a public restroom.

Councilman Stephen Joseph said the issue with the bathroom is water. We need to trench from the well over in the park to make a viable bathroom at town hall.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski said let's do this. Let's get estimates about how much it will cost to run water from there to town hall.

Councilman Bob Bilicki asked Councilman Stephen Joseph if he would be willing to work on this, Councilman Stephen Joseph said yes. He stated he had already approached two people. They were too busy, but he will work on it.

Chris Wardius asked if we thought we would ever have another council meeting at the town hall building. He thought maybe we should bump it out another 5 feet.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that VIMS have given the town use of Seaside Hall indefinitely as long as we put the chairs and tables back after use.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said Charlie's idea was to make the town hall building multi use. He stated her idea was not to have any built in structures and make it more open floor space.

Wardius was asked if he would give the town estimates, which he responded yes.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said the steel stakes around the porta pot was an OCEA violations. It could be very dangerous if someone fell on them.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin said he would remove them.

C. HRSD

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski asked Councilman Bob Bilicki to speak about HRSD.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said he has not been included in the information stream for over six to eight weeks. He said Mayor Fred Janci sent an email to the council that he is working with Senator Warren regarding getting \$900,000 needed to meet the \$4.3 million dollars that Garney presented. Councilman Bon Bilicki stated he spoke with Mayor Fred Janci and said he didn't think we needed to wait for the entire \$4.3 million to be generated to start work. He said we have \$2.4 million, plus what VIMS and town of Wachapreague has. It would behoove us to start this project either with a private contractor or HRSD's Contractor to bring the force main into town. It will not be any greater than \$2.4 million. We have the pump and hall. He said we don't want to lose the money we are getting from the State of Virginia or the Federal Government, nor do we want to risk Graney's price increasing.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski questions the pipes along route 13. She inquired as to how long it will be until they are ready to start entering town.

Councilman Bob Bilicki replied they have not laid any pipes coming into town because they have no commitment from us at this point. He went on to speak about the \$1.5 million dollars Garney was charging in management fees. Councilman Bob Bilicki felt this was extortion and should be challenged. He said the way it has been working is let's find more money to work with this one contractor. He said it is a difficult thing for him to swallow. Councilman Bilicki said it is ludicrous to spend \$1.5 million in management fees just to design a loop . He said it is not common to spend more than you should.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin asked if that is why Councilman Bob Bilicki has been removed from the HRSA.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said he has not been included in the information stream for 6 to 8 weeks.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin told Councilman Bob Bilicki he would like to know why you are not included in the information stream. He stated that Councilman Bob Bilicki has been very involved with this project and has done a great job.

Councilman Bob Bilicki quoted Senator Lynwood Lewis and Delegate Rob Bloxom five weeks ago at the broadband kickoff said this introduction would of never gotten this far without VIMS as a state agency to this town. He said we can interpret this as we should be thankful that VIMS are here. Councilman Bilicki stated his responsibility as construction manager for VIMS will come to an end in September. He said I will still be a resident and member of council.

Councilman Bob Bilicki wanted it noted on the meeting minutes that we move forward and not wait for the \$4.3 million dollars to be funded. We need to take advantage of the funds that we received from Delegate Rob Bloxom and Congressman Elaine Luria. They worked hard for us to get this funding.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski said should we put it out for bids from other companies?

Vice Mayor Puchalski asked what does the council feel we should do.

Councilman Bob Williams said we need to get Councilman Bob Bilicki back to being involved with this project.

He also stated if the town has to come up with some money if we can't get enough elsewhere. It would be ludicrous to turn down this money. Little towns like us cannot look this gift horse in the mouth and not take it.

Councilman Stephen Joseph asked Councilman Bob Bilicki do we have enough money to get the main force main, pump house and the pipes in.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said we need to hold a special meeting regarding HRSD.

The earliest with a 2 week notification would be August the 31st.

Town Clerk Charlie Gible was instructed to advertise the HRSD work meeting in the Post.

D. Planning Commission

Town Clerk Charlie Gible read a letter written by Aileen Joeckel regarding the planning commission.

The letter spoke about how to access the Planning Commission page on the Wachapreague Web site under the government tab.

The letter said that Citizens survey could be found there. Aileen explained in her letter that the survey was sent to fulltime and part-time residents. Out of the 230 surveys mailed only 67 were returned.

E. Invest Funds

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski spoke about moving money to Edward Jones. She handed out flyers showing the different rates and time that the money had to remain in the CD. Vice Mayor Puchalski said these CDs were different from the bank CD. You could pull the out the money early and not be penalized for six months.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said we will not be spending our money for at least the next six months.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski stated that Mary Jo Tatum told Vice Mayor Puchalski if the marina invested the \$50,000 that they had for 6 months at 2.75% they would make \$500.00 in 6 months.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski quoted the Edward Jones rates. 1 year-3.05%, 9 months-02.9%, 6 months-2.75%.

Councilman Stephen Joseph motioned to move the towns ARPA grant money of \$179,000 and the marina money of \$50,000 to an Edward Jones account for 6 months at a rate of 2.75%

Councilman Glenn Schaglin 2nd the motion.

All Agreed.

F. Marina

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski stated revenues were up at the marina.

She stated they thought the marina was having septic issues. Richie checked the electric box and discovered the breaker box for the pump had flipped. The pump is working fine.

Vice Mayor Sandi Puchalski stated the dredging for the marina starts this winter.

G. Free Wi-Fi at Seaside Park Gazebo.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski said someone has offered free Wi-Fi at the gazebo.

Town Clerk Charlie Gible stated all the town would need to pay for is the electric to run it.

Installation and WI-FI is free. It should cover most of the park.

Town Clerk Charlie Gible said she needed a roll call vote.

Councilman Glenn Schaglin Motioned we have free WI-FI installed at the town gazebo.

Councilman Bob Williams 2nd the motioned.

All Agreed.

H. Floodplain Administrator/CRS

Councilman Bob Williams said he had nothing to report regarding floodplain.

He spoke about the CRS report has been completed and submitted.

It is due every year on August 1st.

I. Beautification.

Vice Mayor said Councilman Margo had nothing to report.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin said he heard there is a problem with people not picking up after their dogs.

Vice Mayor Puchalski said it is hard to enforce unless you catch whoever is doing it.

J Derelict Properties

Councilman Bob Bilicki asked about the property on 6 Main St. that needed mowed.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin said the guys mowed it.

Vice Mayor Puchalski said she spoke to Mr. Moon about his property. He told Vice Mayor Sandie he is starting to feel better and will begin working on it once he is able.

K. Tourism

Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about the bird watching station. He had a meeting but there wasn't much interest in attracting a committee. He would like to get a least 3 people to spear head it. Councilman Bob Bilicki said he has the actual drawings from Oyster. He said we need to have something to show the Nature Conservatory.

He said we need a committee to go forward with this.

Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about the CBES ride coming to town in October. He said we committee the band. He said he is working with the ABC for beer and wine for after the event.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said he should have the profit and loss for the September meeting.

Councilman Bilicki spoke to Councilman Glenn Schagelin regarding T shirts.

Councilman Schagelin said he has someone that can do the T shirts on the premises and will only charge for the ones he makes. Councilman Bob Bilicki and Councilman Glenn Schagelin discussed T shirts and logos.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said these would be a Wachapreague shirt.

L. Safety and Security

Councilman Bob Williams reported 2 street lights have been replaced.

M. Zoning Administrator

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski said Jim Bell applied for the job as zoning administrator.

Councilman Stephan Joseph motioned for Jim Bell to be the zoning administrator.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin 2nd the motion

All Agreed.

N. Streets and Drainage

Councilman Bob Williams said he had a document from Rob Duma that he needs Mayor Janci to sign for them to start the preliminary work for them to start work on the main drain line.

O. Maintenance

Councilmen Glen Schagelin said he asked the boys and they had nothing to report.

P. New Business

Councilman said the 2 small signs entering and exiting Wachapreague across from Teaser are starting to delaminate. They are about 20 years old. They will cost a total of \$1400.00 (\$700 each).

Councilman Bob Bilicki motion to move forward with those sign.

Councilman Stephen Joseph 2nd the motion to improve those signs

All Agreed

A Roll Call Vote was taken

- Bob Bilicki voted yes
- Bob Williams yes
- Stephan Joseph yes
- Glenn Schagelin yes
- Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski yes

Vice Mayor Sandi Puchalski talked about having a Halloween party for the town kids. It won't be posted in the newspaper. Just the post office and different areas of town. It will be the 29th at 6:30. Location to be at the fire hall. Sean Fate has reserved the firehouse for this event.

She said anyone that has decorations to please feel free to donate.

Town Clerk Charlie Gibble asked for the ok to have the concrete table moved from next to the town hall lawn to under a tree at Seaside Park. She said she has someone that will move it for the town.

Council said that would be fine.

Q. Adjournment

Councilman Glen Schagelin motioned to adjourn

Councilman Stephen Joseph 2nd

All Agreed.

MAYOR
06/14/2022

TOWN CLERK
06/14/2022