

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

October 14, 2021

COUNCIL PRESENT:

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

TOWN CLERK: Charlie Gibble

I. Town Council Meeting

Meeting began at 7:00 PM

Council man Glen Schagelin said the prayer.
Pledge of Allegiance

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

- **I Public Comments** – Mayor Janci welcomed everyone and opened the floor for Public Comments.
- Bonnie Munn asked if any businesses had made commitments to the sewer.

Chris Wardius spoke up and said he did.

Bonnie Munn asked who would be paying for the sewer.

Mayor Janci said the money is coming from the across the bay.
Everyone is paying \$60.00 a month for sewer there. The money is coming from them.
Mayor Fred Janci stated his plan is to bring sewer to the town at no cost to the town's people.

- Linda Jones said Charlie did a wonderful job coordinating the yards sales and providing a map with locations of sales.
- Linda commented on the expense of the bocce ball court flags.
Councilman Margo stated that Town Clerk Charlie was able to find them for less money.
Linda Jones questioned how the council determines how they will spend money.

Vice Mayor Sandie explained that they will get bids to determine what the amount will be. Councilman Bob Williams stated each council member can spend up to \$250.00 a month.

Linda questioned the sewer and its expenses. She asked, "Who gets to decide what goes into the sewer?" She used grinder as an example.

Linda asked who approves what the town gets to spend.

Mayor Janci stated that the town would get to vote. It was clarified if the town has to pay anything toward the sewer the town would get to vote regarding the sewer coming to town.

Mayor Fred said at this time it is not the goal to have the town's people hook up to sewer. The goal is to run the sewer line into town for Wachapreague's commercial waterfront. If you want to hook up to the sewer line and it is running down the street where you live, it is up to you to hook up or not.

Nobody is forcing the townspeople to connect to sewer.

Councilman Bob Bilicki explained where the commercial neighborhood was and that there was no consideration for the town's people to hook up.

He also spoke about the water table and how high the water table was at the waterfront. He explained the effects flooding had and how it compacts the soil over the drainage and leach fields. We are only looking to help the commercial waterfront.

Mayor Janci stated if ten years from now the town's people decide to hook up, they may. Mayor Fred Janci said his goal is to have the sewer at no cost to the town. He stated we will not know until we go through the whole process.

He said there is a lot of grant money out there now.

Mayor Janci said that it is a stretch for this infrastructure to come down from route 13 to the town, now is the time. He reported Linwood Lewis and Rob Bloxom said they have never in their lives seen this much money available.

This opportunity may not be available again.

Council Bob Williams said one of the reasons to bring sewer into the town is because of sea level rising which in turn raises the water table.

Councilman Williams stated that a study that was done by Accomac County in 2019 reported that 75 homes in Wachapreague will no longer be able to support a septic system in 2050.

Mayor Fred Janci stated that this may be our only opportunity to have HRSD bring the sewer line to within two miles of our town.

A gentleman asked, "If the town says no to sewer, will HRSD still bring it within two miles of the town?" Mayor Fred Janci said, "no."

- Gene Gibson said the fish house was in violation of the noise levels.

Mayor Janci said that decibels levels were taken and the readings came in at 45, which is acceptable.

Gene Gibson said he believes it is the icemaker and there should be ways of mitigating this. He stated the noise is not livable and nothing is being done to improve the situation.

Mayor Fred Janci stated the Fish House is located in the commercial district. Janci stated that apparently James put a barrier around the wrong area. Councilman Fred asked Gene if he would like someone to go with him to speak with Lilliston regarding this situation.

Jim Bell said it helped him a lot to read the Town Charter from 1946. He suggested that everyone on the council read it.

- Aileen Joeckel expressed her concern regarding the town's people. She stated there are many town's people who will not be able to afford the sewer bill. She was concerned that this will change the culture of the town.

Aileen Joeckel was also concerned about not having enough sewer to pump on the off season.

Councilman Bob Bilicki explained how the tanks would work.

Mayor Fred Janci stated it has a tank and only pumps when it reaches the proper height.

Aileen Joeckel inquired about the sewer being so large.

Mayor Fred Janci says the biggest expense for bringing in the line is digging the ditch. He stated there isn't that much of a difference in installing a larger pipe.

Mayor Janci stated if ten years from now our children want to connect to sewer, the larger-sized piping will be installed. We are thinking of the future by having this done now.

Mayor Janci stated these are the steps we need to take. We need to get the price from the engineers, Council needs to get together to decide what they want to do,

ANPCD needs to do the grant writing and apply for the grant. If we don't get 100% of the funds required the town gets to vote yes or no as to whether they want the sewer.

David Shields stated that raw sewage was leaking from two homes near the marina.

Councilman Bilicki reported there is a swell there to drain off water.

Mayor Janci stated we will have it checked out by County Health Department.

(This was inspected by the health department and the run off was determined to be water, not sewage)

- Randy Powell stated he thought that Bob Bilicki being on council was a conflict of interest because he worked for VIMS and was involved with the Hotel feasibility and HRSD.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated he had no ownership in the motel. A larger hotel would benefit Wardius, because he is the owner and the town because it would have brought more revenue to the town.

Councilman Glen Schagelin stated that Councilman Bilicki abstains from voting if it involves VIMS.

Councilman Bob Williams stated that Councilman Bob Bilicki works very hard for the town. He puts the town first.

Council Bilicki stated that he became a council member of council in 2017. He moved to Wachapreague to be near his mother, who had dementia and his father. Councilman Bob stated that when he is finished working with VIMS he will return home and visit Wachapreague on weekends like he did before.

- Mayor Fred Janci closed the public comments.
- Jim Bell spoke briefly about the Historic district. He explained that up to 55 homes could be placed in the historic district.
Jim requested to have speakers come to our next meeting to speak about this endeavor.

II. Town Council Meeting

- Mayor Janci asked for approval of the September minutes.
- Minutes were reviewed. Vice Mayor Sandie motioned to approve, Councilman Glen Schagelin second the motion. All agreed.

VI. Review of Financial Report

- Mayor Janci asked if everyone had a chance to review the Town Financials for September 2021. Councilman Bob Williams made a motion to accept financials. Vice Mayor Sandie 2nd the motion. A vote was taken and all agreed.
- Mayor Janci asked if everyone had a chance to review the Port Financials for September 2021. Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to approve the budget. Councilman Schagelin 2nd the motion, all agreed.

VII. Unfinished Business

A. HRSD

Councilman Bob Williams made a motion to change the next work session to Focus on Grants. November 18th will focus on HRSD.

B. Marina

Vice Mayor Sandie stated that she knew the rings needed replaced and has new ones ordered.

C. Town Maintenance/Garbage

Councilman Glen asked if the town was looking into purchasing the Parsley Garbage truck. He stated he will also look into Government auctions.

D. Powell Park

Vice mayor Sandi stated that the basketball hoops had been stolen. She reported that another had been donated and it is installed.

A deer camera has also installed to watch the new hoop

E. Seaside Park

Councilman Margo Digan spoke about the upcoming Veterans Day event to take place 11/11 at 11:00 at Seaside.

Senator Lynwood Lewis and Delegate Rob Bloxom will be speaking.

Councilman Glen Schagelin stated that Timmy Killmon said he would donate a flag pole for Seaside Park

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that Tankard Nursery provided a price for Seaside Park clean up.

Councilman Margo Digan requested to get a price from Charles Elliot also.

F. Town Beautification

Councilman Margo Digan said she had nothing new to report.

G. Sign

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that VDOT reported that the Wachapreague sign on Route 13 was nonconforming. It needs to be repaired or removed. He was asking VDOT for a 60-day extension to make repairs or remove. He will bring the estimates to the next meeting and the council can vote at that time what they want to do.

H. Tourism Councilman Margo Digan asked if we were going to have Santa Claus this year.

Mayor Fred said yes, Pete could be Santa.

Vice Mayor Sandy suggest Councilman Glen as a backup.

I. Safety and Security

Councilman Bob Williams stated all the parts for the new solar radar sign are here. He just needs to get together with Councilman Stephen Joseph and Councilman Glen Schagelin to install. He stated that the total received is \$3700 in donations. The cost of the sign is \$4550.

J. Zoning Administrator's Report

Mayor Janci had nothing to report.

K. Streets and Drainage

Councilman Bob Williams said he had nothing to report.

L. Floodplain Administrator/CRS Coordinator/ A-NPDC/RAFT

Council man Bob Williams had nothing new to report.

M. Planning Commission

Councilman M. Digan stated the committee did not have a meeting.

Councilman Stephan Joseph motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Glen Schagelin 2nd the motion

Council went into a closed session.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion was made by Councilman Stephen Joseph and 2nded by Council man Glen Schagelin All approved.

MAYOR

TOWN CLERK

12/8/2021