

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

October 13th, 2022

COUNCIL PRESENT:

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

TOWN CLERK: Charlie Gobble

Absent: Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski

I. Town Council Meeting

Meeting began at 7:00 PM
Councilman Glenn Schagelin said a prayer
Pledge of Allegiance followed

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Fred Janci called the meeting to order.

I. Public comments

Bonnie Hill spoke about a truck parked in the marina parking lot for approximately 3 weeks.
Councilman Stephan Joseph stated we would inform Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski regarding this matter.

Randy Powel asked if the town council will keep the town fully informed about HRSD before we vote on the sewer.

Randy Powel stated he felt that it was a clear conflict if Bob Bilicki is part of the sewer project since he was employed by VIMS. Randy said he should recuse himself from discussion or votes regarding the sewer system.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated he was not an employee of VIMS, nor has he ever been. He was a consultant for William and Mary and this job ended the end of September.

He also stated the sewer is for the town's commercial waterfront properties. Anything west of Brooklyn is not included.

Mayor Fred Janci said the entire town will be informed on the sewer. A town meeting will be held. There will be diagrams, maps, full disclosure where the money is coming from and how much. The town will be notified as to where the money is coming from. This will be done before anything is finalized.

Mayor Janci described the pipe line on Custis and part of Brooklyn. This is the force main and no one can hook up to this. There will be a smaller pipe line that will collect the sewage.

Councilman Bob Williams spoke about how hard Councilman Bob Bilicki has worked on the sewer project. He also talked about how the council works, and gets paid nothing to support the town of Wachapreague. Councilman Bob Williams stated there are a lot of rumors floating around town. There is much misinformation being passed around.

Randy Powel stated he is neither for, nor against the sewer. He believes it will affect the town. He stated that the town's people need to come to the meetings to be informed.

Councilman Stephen Joseph said the town knows what we know.

Mayor Fred Janci stated the town residents need to come to the meetings to stay involved.

Councilman Margo stated that there hasn't been a town council meeting where the sewer system hasn't been spoken about.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated it has been twenty seven months that the sewer project has been in the works.

Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about a meeting with Mayor Fred Janci when they rolled out a plan that Governor Northam believed could happen for the town of Wachapreague

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated we are still \$1,000,000 short.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin said this is an opportunity of a lifetime. The town will never get this chance again. We would be letting the town down if we do not do this.

Lucky Levine facetimes Town Clerk Charlie Gible regarding the Veterans Day Banner project.

30 inches wide X 60 inches in height was the size suggested to Lucky from the place that would create them. They have a 3 to 4 year life expectancy. He thought we would have a longer life span since we would only display them for part of the year. Price for the vinyl banners would be around \$110.00. The mounting bracket would be \$70.00 for a single, and \$125.00 for a double mounting bracket. Lucky said the banners would be paid for by family members or a sponsor.

There is a 2 week turnaround time. 10 is the minimum needed to start the project.

Lucky stated "one of the men he is working with is a Navy Veteran and is responsible for getting the Home Town Heroes program into Chincoteague."

Mayor Fred Janci asked if the banners could hang over the sidewalk instead of parallel to the sidewalk.

Lucky said his reasoning behind hanging them parallel to the side walk is the cost would be less and the streets are very narrow.

Lucky spoke about further actions needed. He said we would have to speak with the electric company regarding use of the poles, the townships approval, and a committee to manage this. We would need a Committee Chair, Lucky would like that position, and about 3 people as co-chairs and helpers. Lucky spoke about ways to promote the project would be through the use of newsletters, posters, Facebook, Island House and the post office.

Lucky said once we reach our minimum order of 10 we can do orders of one or two at a time.

Lucky stated that part of the committee's job would be to make sure they served at least a year and were honorably discharged.

Mayor Fred Janci asked who would like to be a part of the committee.

Councilman Stephan Joseph, Charlie Gible, and Councilman Bob Williams volunteered. Councilman Bob Bilicki said he would ask his dad.

Councilman Stephen Joseph made a motion to move forward with this project and install them. Councilman Margo Digan interjected, without town money.

Councilman Glen Schagelin 2nd the motion.

All were in favor.

Lucky said he was going to work on the forms for people to use to get this started.

II. Review of August 2022 Minutes

- Councilman Glen Schagelin motioned to approve the September 2022 minutes.
- Council Margo Digan 2nd.
- All Agreed.

III. Town Financial

- Councilman Bob Williams motioned to approve the financials for September 2022.
- Councilman Glenn Schagelin 2nd
- All Agreed

Marina Financials

- Councilman Stephan Joseph made a motion to except the Marina financials for September 2022.
- Councilman Glen Schagelin 2nd the motion.
- All Agreed.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. Zoning

Mayor Fred Janci asked that Arthur Mendez submit a letter that he has accepted the position for zoning administrator. It should be read into the minutes.

B. Powel Park

Town Clerk Charlie Gible read a letter that Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski asked her to read.

The letter stated that the solar lights for the pavilion, storage garage, and net for the tennis court have been ordered. They will be put up next month as well as the privacy tarp.

C. Seaside Park

Councilman Margo Digan stated the pieces of the concrete table were still in the park.

Mayor Fred Janci said they will speak to Darryl Lilliston to see if they could dump it along the sea wall.

Aileen Joeckel said it could be taken to her home and dumped by the dock.

Mayor Fred Janci stated that an antennae will be installed for free Wi-Fi at Seaside Park. It can be used for cell phone use. This will be for free. The town only pays for electric. Mayor Fred Janci said this will be a permanent hot spot for the park. They will be installing it at the telephone pole. It will be hardwired.

D. HRSD

Mayor Fred Janci stated that the meeting they just had made the decision to put the project into two phases. The first phase was to use the money that we have now. Phase two would be to use the money that the town has applied for to finish the project. This was greeted favorably by the DEQ.

The meeting was with ANCDP, DEQ, HRSD, and the town of Wachapreague. The other towns were left out because the town of Wachapreague is far ahead of them.

Mayor Fred Janci wants clarification as to who will be responsible for the electric for the grinder pump.

Mayor Fred Janci said out of the 44 people polled if the sewer runs by your house would you connect. 75% of the people said they would connect to the sewer.

Mayor Janci stated Bundick gave him a figure of \$10,000 a house to connect to the sewer. The DEQ wants the Grinder Pump included in the grant money. Mayor Fred Janci said our goal is to get sewer to the town with no cost to the residents. We want to get 100% grant money funding for this project.

Mayor Fred Janci said this project will not be mandatory. If you join in the beginning it will be free. Later you will have to pay for hook up.

E. Derelict Properties

Councilman Stephan Joseph stated the Patricia Braggs has a permit.

Mayor Fred Janci said that he will have a sheriff serve notice to the owners of the property across from the fire hall.

F. Marina

Town Clerk Charlie Gibble read from a letter written by Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski regarding dredging.

The letters had been sent out to the proper homeowners along the water regarding the dredging.

She also reported that Blake contacted Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski saying the Island House needs their pump house replaced. The state will pay 75%. The other 25% will be split between the Island House and the Town. It should cost the town under \$3000.00.

Councilman Bob Bilicki questioned the agreement regarding the pump out station and the town's financial responsibility.

Mayor Fred Janci explained that this was for sewage from boats. The town is tied to the island House in this agreement.

Councilman Bob Bilicki questioned what the split is for the 25% between the town and the Island House.

Town Clerk Charlie Gibble did not know. Mayor Fred Janci said Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski knows more regarding this agreement.

Mayor Fred Janci said the gentleman that wants to purchase the marina would like permission for a pump and haul.

Mayor Fred Janci asked Paul Norris what his intentions were for the marina. Mayor Janci reported that Paul said he wants to have slips and services for all kinds of boats. Paul says he has a list already for people looking for slips. He would like to have a food and retail component also.

G. Tourism

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that Tommy Richardson had an event at the carnival grounds to raise money for the fire hall. Councilman Bob Bilicki stated there were around 80 people at the event. Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that Sean Fate would like to continue this event at the same time next year.

Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about an event at VIMS. He said the Mayor was invited along with Senator Lewis and Delegate Rob Bloxom to the dedication of VIMS. He stated there will be an open house for the town in the near future.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated he has finished his responsibilities at VIMS. He is no longer a consultant for William and Mary, The architect will take over the punch list. They ran 7 months late due to Covid.

Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about the CBES race for the 22nd.

He stated the shirts were expected to run \$1500.00 but came in at \$1010.00. He said he thought we should mark up the T shirts 30%. He stated that Emily at the General Store will sell any leftovers. She charges 30% commission.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated the weather is iffy and the CBES wanted to know if the town would pay for a tent for them.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said he didn't feel comfortable asking for \$800.00 (cost of the tent) CBES came back and asked if the town would pay half of the rental. Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that since we saved \$500.00 on the T shirts can we use the \$500.00 extra for use for the tent. He stated the money was there in the tourism budget. Councilman Bob Bilicki asked how you would like to proceed. Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about the t shirts. It was decided among the councilmembers the T shirts would be priced at \$18.00-\$20.00 depending on size. Councilman Bob Bilicki said we will have Emily sell the leftovers in the General Store.

Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to sell the leftover t shirts to Emily at the corner store at a 20% markup over cost and they will carry the inventory and she will pay us as they sell.

Councilman Margo 2nd the motion

All Agreed.

Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about the Oyster Roast the Island House is having to support the Navy Seals.

H. Flood Plain

Councilman Bob Williams spoke about CRS. He said the report was submitted and has been approved. The town will stay the same. This will give residents the benefit of a 10% discount on their flood insurance.

I. Beautification

Councilman Margo Digan spoke about the gazebo and the condition it is in. She talked about the missing spindles. Councilman Stephen Joseph said he will check and see if his spindles will work. He stated he has leftovers.

Town Clerk Charlie Gobble stated she spoke with Rory McGlown to come in to Town hall to give the town estimated for town hall interior and the gazebo.

Town Clerk Charlie was working on getting an estimation for a mini split for town hall. Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski had tried to get an estimate but the person she contacted had not gotten back to her. It has been 3 months.

Councilman Stephen Joseph said he would do the mini split.

Town Clerk Charlie Gobble stated that Mary Jo informed her she did not put money in the budget for propane.

Councilman Bob Williams spoke about the rusty bolts on the gazebo.

Mayor Fred Janci asked if we thought Rory could work on that also.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin would meet with Charlie when Rory came to look at the work needed completed.

J Streets and Drainage

Councilman Bob Williams stated nothing new.

K. Planning Commission

Aileen Joeckel said the planning commission has had a lot of discussion on the short term rentals.

L. Maintenance

Councilman Glen Schagelin said everything is fine. The garbage truck passed inspection. Councilman Glenn Schagelin stated he was planning on taking the boys to the Island House. He wanted to make sure it was ok with the council if dinner ran over a half of an hour. Council approved.

Councilman Schagelin said he told the guys to pay attention to the drains. And use the leaf vacuum.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin said the maintenance guys have been clocking in on time.

Mayor Fred Janci stated that we are going to have to take a look at the garbage truck.

Town Clerk Charlie Gobble said she asked JD what was wrong with the truck. She stated that JD said it is a good motor but the compactor is bad. She said he thought it just needed a compactor welded to the body.

Mayor Fred Janci said the cab is also rusted. It wouldn't make sense to replace the compactor.

He stated the town will need to look into replacing the truck,

Town Clerk Charlie Gobble recommended the government auctions. She stated a lot of larger cities replaced the trucks with Covid money and there were a few used one on the sight.

Mayor Fred Janci stated that will be something the next council will have to look into.

Councilman Margo Digan talked about the porta pot that was placed near town hall. She said our 3 month rental is just about up. It was delivered August 7th. She said we need to make a decision to keep it longer or take it out and replace next spring. It was stated it was being used.

Town Clerk Charlie Gobble spoke about the Halloween Party at the fire hall on Saturday the 29th at 6:30.

She said Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski asked if anyone had decorations, snacks, cookies, beverages they would be greatly appreciated.

Town Clerk Charlie Gobble spoke about a request that Mary Jo had. The bookkeeper Mary Jo Tatum thought the 5% discount for the person doing the bookkeeping and collecting of the meals tax was too high. Mary Joe's suggestion was to reduce the amount the bookkeeper receives. Town Clerk Gobble reported Mary Jos's thoughts were that since the

meals tax have been raised to 5% the person doing the paper work is making a lot more money and she felt this should be reduced.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said he thought the transfer tax was raised to 4%, Town Clerk Charlie said that is correct. Mary Joe’s concern was the percentage paid to the person doing the book work.

Discussion ensued regarding what the Air BnBs are doing and how they are collecting the transient tax. Town Clerk Charlie said you should contact whoever you rent your home through and let them know you are part of an incorporated town. It is the owner’s responsibility to pay the town their due taxes.

Councilman Bob Bilicki made a motion to go into executive session regarding an issue with commercial properties.

M. Adjournment

Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to close the executive session.

Councilman Margo Digan 2nd the motion

All agreed.

MAYOR
010/13/2022

TOWN CLERK
10/13/2022