

**TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
October 12th, 2023**

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Charles Elliott, Mayor
Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor
Robert Williams
Glenn Schagelin
Stephen Joseph

Charlie Gobble-Town Clerk

Absent:

Aileen Joeckel
Robert Bilicki

Town Council Meeting

7:00 PM Meeting began.

Councilman Glen Schagelin led the prayer.
The Pledge of Allegiance followed the prayer.

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Charles Elliot.

I. Public comments

Amanda Kelley, Regional Program Lead from SERCAP Inc. introduced herself and stated that they were able to help the town with a small grant to help toward sewer. She said she had folders that also will inform you about other items they can do.

Cedrick Cooper spoke. He is running for Clerk of Circuit Court. He spoke about his dad, Samuel Cooper, who is retiring from this position. He father has been the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Accomack County the last 40 years. He said he has his bachelor's and his master's degree in accounting. Sedrick stated he has 27 years of accounting experience. He is looking forward to serving the residents of Accomack County.

This was not part of the minutes: To learn more about Cedrick go to [Cedrick Cooper announces candidacy for Accomack County Circuit Court Clerk - Eastern Shore Post](#)

Samuel Cooper said thank you for the support he has gotten in the last 40 years as the Clerk of Circuit Court. He will be in this position until December 31st of this year. After that he will begin his retirement.

Ronnie Holdman introduced himself. Holden stated he graduated from the Eastern Shore Community College with an Associate Degree in Business Administration. He attended Virginia Tech where he earned a bachelor's in accounting. He obtained an MBA from Salisbury University. Later he received a Doctor of Education from the University of Maryland College Park. Holdman stated he is running for the School Board for District 8. He said he has been on the board since 1991 when school board officials were appointed to the position.

Ronnie stated that he will continue to serve the school board to the best of his ability. He spoke about funding that he was able to assist in giving the teachers a raise and paying them closer to what other communities pay.

Holdman spoke about how covid has affected mental health, kids learning and higher absenteeism. He spoke about a new initiative that the governor has put into place called All Entity. The government has \$418,000,000 for the state of VA to use for this program that is designated to work on these problems. Accomack county has received approximately \$2,400,000 of the money the governor has allocated for the schools. He stated they have a committee already working on a response to this.

He stated we have great teachers, great staff, and he wants to continue to support them.

This was not part of the minutes: To read about Ronnie Holden go to : [DECISION '23: Holden seeks re-election to Accomack District 8 School Board seat - Eastern Shore Post](#)

Stephani Jackson introduced herself. She stated she is a staff writer for the Eastern Shore Post and is a candidate for the school board section 8. She said she has covered the school board for the past five years as a writer and was a former teacher. Stephanie also reported she currently has two kids in the school system. Steffanie Jackson said she has a lot of perspectives on what the schools need. Her mission is to put the kids first in the school system. She feels the kids need a safe learning environment inside and outside of the schools. Jackson stated she has a special place in her heart for the kids that have disabilities or economic disadvantages. She feels the school board needs to listen and respond to the parents' questions. She wants more participation from the parents. Stephanie also stated the teachers need competitive pay. Volunteer programs for grandparents or parents to help the teachers is one of Stephanies goals.

This was not included in the minutes.: To read about Stephanie go to [DECISION '23: Stefanie Jackson announces for Accomack County School Board's District 8 seat - Eastern Shore Post](#)

Councilman Bob Williams asked if she was going to continue working for the paper if she is elected. Stephanie responded, no she would not.

Linda Jones inquired about the sewer. She directed her questions to Councilman Steve Joseph. She stated the Steve had said to her the commercial residents aren't getting funding for sewer because none of them had signed up. She spoke about a sewer survey that had a lot of responses from the commercial neighborhood that said they did want sewer.

Councilman Bob Williams said the survey wasn't a sign up for sewer. It was put out by the planning commission and a question that was asked. The planning commission was trying to get a feeling if the residents wanted sewer.

Linda Jones stated that the sewer wasn't going to cost the town anything. It was stated several times by Mayor Fred Janci.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated it wasn't going to cost the town anything to bring the sewer to town.

Linda Jones asked, "how do we know we won't be forced to hook up like Exmore was?"

Councilman Bob Williams stated there was nothing requiring anyone to hook up.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin called point of order. He stated the council needs to be listening and not interjecting during public comments.

II. Town Council Meeting

August 11, 2023, minutes were reviewed.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin motioned to accept the minutes from August 2023.

Mayor Charles Elliott asked all in favor.

All agreed.

III. Review of Financial Report

Mayor Charles Elliot asked the council to review the town's financials for August and September 2023.

Vice Mayor Sandi Puchalski motioned to approve the town financials for August and September.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin 2nd the motion.

All agreed.

Marina's financials for August and September 2023 were reviewed.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin motioned to approve the marinas budget for August and September.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski 2nd the motion.

All agreed.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. Maintenance

Councilman Glenn Schagelin stated everything is going well in the maintenance department.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski stated that Richie will go over the garbage truck for the winter months.

(check the oil etc.)

Councilman Glenn Schagelin spoke about a root or tree that is growing into Wendy Taylors yard from the Baseball field.

He said he will have the guys that care of it.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin stated that Robert is working out well.

B. Powell Park

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski reported winterization of the water will take place.

C. Seaside Park

Councilman Stephen Joseph stated Seaside Park is fine. He thanked Mayor Charles Elliott for cutting down a tree at the Park.

D. HRSD

Councilman Steve Joseph asked if the list of the seventeen for sewer hookup need to be approved.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski said she would like to talk to Vodvarka first.

Councilman Steve Joseph said that when he spoke to Vodvarka he had no interest to hooking up.

Town Clerk Charlie Gible said she sent an email asking him about a yes or no on sewer. She reported she didn't get a response.

E. Marina

Vice Mayor Sandie reported that Fisher is going to do the piling work and Shore Uplifts would be doing the floating dock at the marina.

She stated she exchanged their information between them so they can coordinate their work schedule.

They are planning to start in January and be finished by April.

Renovations to the marina bathrooms should begin once the water is shut off.

\$250.00 is the final cost for the boom and spill kit. She will have a combo box on the white dock box to get the kit out if needed.

F. Derelict Properties

Nothing to report

G. Tourism

Nothing to report.

H. Floodplain Adm/CRS

Councilman Bob Bilicki said that Dept. Of Environmental Programs is going to put a tripod on a reference parcel to place a water quality monitoring station.

Councilman Bob Williams said the new CRS report will be due soon.

I. Town Beautification

Vice mayor Sandie Puchalski said she would like to put corn stalks up at the town side.

J. Safety and Security

Councilman Glenn Schagelin stated that the people next to Steve Borgess have moved out.

K. Historic District

Jim Bell reported that they are stalled now. They have 50 properties done. They need to get funding to file the registry.

L. Streets and Drainage

Councilman Bob Williams said he received a call from Reid Hall about an open Colvert Box. Reid said he would be able to fix it for \$250.00.

Councilman Bob Williams stated he told Reid Hall to see the town clerk for the money when he is finished.

Councilman Bob Williams spoke about other areas that will need repairs in the near future.

M. Planning Commission

Mayor Charles Elliot stated that Craig Baker was the newest member of the planning commission.

N. Dog Park

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski said she is having a sign made with the rules for the dog park.

She will send it in an email to the council members.

The primary rule is you must be in the park with your dog.

Jim Bell expressed what the risk was for the town regarding the dog park.

Vice mayor Sandi Puchalski stated the Dog Park is used at your own risk.

Discussion between the council members as to what our insurance will cover regarding the dog park.

Mayor Charles Elliott said a town council meeting regarding the insurance would be a good idea.

N. Community News

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski spoke about the Halloween Party in Wachapreague.

Chris Wardius spoke about the tour of the Eastern Shore. There were 35 people from the visitor centers involved. He said Councilman Bob Bilicki hosted the group. Bob served wine and bourbon at the Art Gallery. Chris said Councilman Bob Bilicki gave a speech about Wachapreague. Wardius said they visited the hotel and their home on Main St. It was very positive for Wachapreague. Aileen Jockel was there also and gave a speech about Wachapreague.

Chris thanked Charlie Gible for doing a great job with the town's Facebook page.

O. Adjournment

Councilman Glenn Schagelin Motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski 2nd the motion.

All Agreed

The Council went into executive session. 4.