

# TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

November 13th, 2022

**COUNCIL PRESENT:**

Robert Williams,  
Robert Bilicki,  
Stephen Joseph  
Glenn Schagelin

**TOWN CLERK:** Charlie Gibble

**Absent:**

Fred Janci Mayor  
Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor  
Margo Digan

**I. Town Council Meeting**

Meeting began at 7:00 PM.  
Councilman Glenn Schagelin prayed.  
Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

**TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilman Bob Bilicki called the meeting to order.

**I. Public comments**

Anne Swick requested that the post and the boards be removed from the old birdwatching platform located along Atlantic Ave.  
Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that we could have the maintenance guys do that.

Linda Jones asked where the sewer system would be located. She wanted to know if it was going to go up the business district of Main St.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated it would run up Atlantic Ave, it will also include the east side of Brooklyn. On the north side it will run up Main St to Linda and Grover Jones home and across the street. It will include the post office, town hall, art gallery, general store and the properties in between. On Brooklyn it will include Vodvarkas, Shirley and Joes, Vivian, Jenkins, Wachapreague Carnival Grounds and Gene Gibson. That is the extend of the commercial neighborhood per the approved plan dated 1948.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated the pump station is planned to be located by an old Cedar tree on Brooklyn and Riverside. This is the highest point in that zone. Pete Peyton has a covenant to his deed that nothing can obstruct his view for the next 30 years. Only the normal pump house that is about the size of a doghouse can be installed there. If HRSD decides not to build the Eastern Shore standard pump station, which is below ground, and decides to build an elevated one which could be the size of one of the carnival grounds building, it will be moved across the street adjacent to Lyndsey's home.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated the homes along Custis St. cannot hook up to the sewer because it is the line pumping the sewer out of town.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that Stephen Joseph has graciously agreed to accept the baton regarding HRSD. He has been communicating with the DEQ and HRSD. Councilman Bob Bilicki stated we have roughly over \$3,000,000 dollars to work with. \$2,400,000 from the state of VA, \$750,000 federal government, \$189,000 from ARPA. Council Bob Bilicki stated that Councilman Stephen Joseph is working on getting the sewer line into town using 2022 money. He said if we don't lock it in now the prices will go up.

Councilman Stephen Joseph stated he is getting a lot of stall tactics. He said DEQ is holding the money. The director has been on vacation. The first hoop we need to jump through is DEQ.

Councilman Bob Williams stated the DEQ stands for department of Environmental Quality.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated we will probably need 2 more pump station in the next 15 years based on people wanting to hook up.

Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about the water table rising. He said the state could condemn your home if your septic fails and does not pass the Board of Health standards.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that Daryl Lilliston Fish house still uses an outhouse across the street, the marina uses a drain field, Blake Johnson is on Pete's system, & VIMS had a drain field.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that VIMS is a highly recognized Marine University. They had a drain field that leached the pollutants in the wetlands. This was not appropriate for a Marine Biology University. Councilman Bob Bilicki stated Dr. Wells supported the pump and haul. For now VIMS will be holding their waste and hauling it to Onancock. The money that was going to be used for the leach field is being protected by Delegate Rob Bloxom and can only be spent on a pump station.

Councilman Bob Williams stated Accomack County Department of Health did study in 2019 on Wachapreague's septic systems. It was determined that in the year 2050 the homes on the North East Side will not work due to the rise in the sea level.

Councilman Bob Williams spoke about the sand mound systems that cost around \$35,000 and only last about 5 to 8 years and then you have to replace the membranes which cost around \$5000.00.

Councilman Bob Williams said I am a steward of the future.

Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about a site called NOAH. He explained the site has graphics that show what is happening between Bayview and South Street. He said the graphics will show the water tables and why the toilets will no longer flush in the future. The council's intent is to preserve the town.

Ann Mathews asked what Chincoteague is doing.

Council Bob Bilicki stated that they have a pump and haul system. Chincoteague has a 5000 gallon tank. Boggs can haul 4000 gallons at a time according to VDOT rules. They charge \$275.00 per haul. The town of Chincoteague wants to do what the town of Wachapreague is working toward

Ann Matthews asked if the town is going to bring this up to vote for the town.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin said no. We are not using any of the town's money so we do not need to.

Ann Mathews asked if our zoning board is doing anything to protect the town from VIMS expanding any further than they have.

Councilman Bob Bilicki responded that in 2017 he asked that same question and Mayor Janci asked the same question in 2013.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that he wanted to fence around VIMS growth so the town doesn't lose the revenue from the houses. It has stalled at planning and at zoning.

Councilman Bob Williams said the zoning committee needs to work on this.  
Anne Mathews said she heard that VIMS could put in for grants for the town.  
Council Bob Williams said he heard the same thing.

Councilman Bob Bilicki closed the public comments.

## **II. Review of November 2022 Minutes**

- Councilman Bob Williams motioned to approve the October 2022 minutes.
- Councilman Glenn Schagelin 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.
- All Agreed.

## **III. Town Financial**

- Councilman Glenn Schagelin motioned to approve the financials for October 2022.
- Councilman Bob Williams 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.
- All Agreed.

## **Marina Financials**

- Councilman Glen Schagelin made a motion to except the Marina financials for October 2022.
- Councilman 2<sup>nd</sup> Bob Williams the motion.
- All Agreed.

## **IV. Unfinished Business**

### **A. Zoning**

Nothing to report

### **B. Powell Park**

Councilman Bob Williams said the barrier has been installed.  
He stated we still need to install a large sign regarding the rules.

### **C. Seaside Park**

Town Clerk Charlie Gible presented pictures of a picnic table and 4 chairs to purchase for the gazebo. She stated they are made out of a heavy resin material. Charlie reported if she purchased this Saturday we would receive a 5% discount. (a savings of \$117.00) The amount would be \$2232.50. She stated that she and John McDermott would pick up the furniture for free.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin motioned to purchase the furniture.  
Councilman Stephan Joseph 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.  
All Agreed.  
Councilman Bob Bilicki said we will take this out of tourism.

**D. Derelict Properties**

Councilman Stephan Joseph stated the Patricia Braggs does not have a permit. The county has a cease and desist. Councilman Glen Schagelin asked if we were going to follow up on the Vodvarka’s property. Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that FEMA said it was the town’s responsibility to take care of the problem. Councilman Bob Williams stated all mobile trailers must be moveable in case there is flooding. The owners need to be able to get them out of here.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that he worked with Vodvarka’s and they did tie them down. As far as moving them nothing has been done.

Councilman Bob Williams said this could affect our CRS rating which saves the town 10% on insurance rate. Councilman Stephan Joseph said our ordinances have no teeth in them. We can’t fine them, we can’t remove them. Councilman Bob Williams said our planning commission needs to work on this.

**E. Marina**

Nothing to report.

**F. Tourism**

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated the CBES event was very successful. Councilman Stephen Joseph said we probably could use another parking area. Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that Wachapreague was a great place for the CBES riders. He doesn’t feel we need to give them \$2000.00 and be a sponsor. Councilman Bob Williams said he heard many comments that it was one of the best run CBES events they had been to.

Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to split the tent rental with CBES. Town cost is \$400.00.

A roll call vote was taken.

Councilman Stephen Joseph	yes
Councilman Bob Bilicki	yes
Councilman Glen Schagelin	yes
Councilman Bob Williams	yes

**G. CRS/Flood Plain**

Nothing to report.

**H. Beautification**

Nothing to report

**I. Safety and Security**

Councilman Bob Williams spoke about the basketball court. He said the sign needs to include no, foul language, and loud music. Councilman Stephan Joseph stated that on their way to the basketball court the players are disrupted. This came from the other side of town.

**J. Historic District**

Nothing to report.

**K. Streets and Drainage**

Councilman Bob Williams said he is waiting for Rob Duma to reply to our contract with him regarding the main drain line.

**L. Planning Commission**

Charles Elliot said that they are currently working on the Air BnBs. They are working on rules for them and how many the town should allow.

He should know more next meeting.

**M. Maintenance**

Councilman Glenn Schagelin said there was nothing to report.

He would like the entire council to be present to go into an executive session.

Town Clerk Charlie Gible and Councilman Glenn Schaglin spoke about estimates that the town was waiting for from Rory. Rory looked at town hall, and the gazebo. She stated we are waiting on prices for painting, replacing the floor, taking out the old furnace, removing the center concrete wall in closet, replacing the toilet, replacing the faucet in the restroom and repairing the gazebo.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin said it would be better to clear out town hall and do the work while the building is empty.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said the town could use the art gallery during repairs.

Town Clerk Charlie Gible said she will be gone the month of February.

Councilman Stephen Joseph said we need to find someone willing to do the work.

Councilman Stephen Joseph stated that he would install the mini split.

Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to give Councilman Stephen Joseph approval to proceed on removing and replacing the existing heat and air conditioner with a mini split. Labor is gifted by Stephen Joseph.

A roll call vote was taken.

Councilman Stephan Joseph	Yes
Councilman Bob Bilicki	Yes
Councilman Glen Schagelin	Yes
Councilman Bob Williams	Yes

Councilman Bob Williams spoke about needed repairs in the gazebo, missing spindles, rusted brackets, and bolts.

Town Clerk Charlie Gible stated that when they looked at the gazebo Rory also pointed out that the one end of the gazebo would need jacked up.

Town Clerk Charlie Gible stated that we have \$10,000 in the budget to do repairs on town hall.

She stated that she called Rory because we have been waiting three months for an estimate and have not gotten a response. She also stated that Rory’s estimate is labor only, not materials.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said we should have a list of repairs needed in order to get estimates from several contractors. It was decided to put items from town hall in storage and use the gallery for town hall.

**VIII.**

**A. Christmas Lights**

Councilman Bob Williams spoke about the town Christmas lights.

He stated we need to let the fire company know what we will be doing. Councilman Bob Williams stated that the Christmas lights are all different lengths.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said he had spoken with Kerry Paul. He said he did not receive prices from him. Councilman Bob Bilicki stated he is the only electrician the town would want it work with since he has been doing the Christmas lights for so long. He stated that ANEC will also work with us. Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that the lights did not make it in the town’s budget.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin said he will meet with Sean Fate to find out what was needed.

The council spoke about how the Christmas lights are hotwired from the primary line.

The goal is to have plugs installed so when the town purchases new lights they can be plugged in.

**B. Santa Clause Visits the Gazebo**

Councilman Glenn Schagelin said he would be Santa.  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> was the date agreed on. 6:00 pm was the time.  
Hot Chocolate and cookies will be served.

**C. Transient Tax- Bookkeepers Fee**

Town Clerk Charlie Gibble said the Bookkeeper, Mary Joe Tatum asked that this be brought to the council's attention. The town clerk explained that currently the person reporting the meals tax receive a 5% discount if paid on time. Town Clerk Charlie Gibble stated that Mary Jo thought the amount should be lowered to 3%.

Councilman Stephen Joseph motioned that we lower the reduction amount from 5% to 3%  
Councilman Bob Bilicki asked to have discussion on the matter.

Councilman Bob Bilicki asked, do we audit the restaurants to see if they are paying the proper amount?  
Councilman Glenn Schagelin said he didn't think we should look into their books. Only the mayor or bookkeeper should be able to have access  
Councilman Bob Bilicki said we should do random audits.  
Councilman Bob Bilicki 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.  
All Agreed.

***N. Adjournment***

Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to close the meeting and move to executive session.  
Councilman Bob Williams 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion  
All agreed.

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MAYOR  
12/08/2022

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TOWN CLERK  
12/08/2022