

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING February 11, 2021

COUNCIL PRESENT: Fred Janci, Mayor; Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor; Robert Williams;
Robert Bilicki; Glenn Schagelin; Stephen Joseph
COUNCIL ABSENT: Margo Digan
TOWN CLERK: Absent

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

- I. **Call to Order** – Mayor Janci called to Order the Town Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 11, 2021, in the Wachapreague Vol. Fire House in Wachapreague, VA.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Mayor Janci led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **Opening Prayer**- Councilman Schagelin led the meeting in prayer.
- IV **Public Comments** – Mayor Janci welcomed everyone and opened the floor for Public Comments.
 - Dr. Dick Snyder with VIMS was introduced for information concerning HRSD.
 - He explained the situation and decisions 3 years ago concerning not connecting to the HRSD (Hampton Roads Sewer District) and building their own waste treatment plant. He explained the construction time line was not going to work with the new VIMS project. At the moment things have been delayed with the construction. It has now made it possible to allow VIMS to rethink connecting to the HRSD.
 - The HRSD has plans to build a sewer pipeline that will allow town in Accomack and Northampton Counties. The pipeline will lead to the Onancock waste treatment plant for processing.
 - For the Town of Wachapreague, HRSD will construct the pipeline part of the way to the town. There are 3 miles that will need to be paid from other sources. Dr. Snyder and VIMS have suggestions to make this happen.
 - Dr. Snyder highlighted the following points that will make it possible to utilize the HRSD. He also presented possible ways to fund the construction to help bring the system into the Town of Wachapreague for the Commercial District to utilize:
 - Dr. Snyder stated the tentative plan is to bring the sewer line to the north west corner of Brooklyn Ave. and Riverview Ave. VIMS will donate property for a master pump station for the town.
 - VIMS is looking into donating around \$200,000 into the HRSD Project. He explained this is a projection and things change constantly. It is projected to have these funds remaining after the VIMS project is completed.
 - He stated ANPDC, who is currently working with the Town on a feasibility study for the hotel project, is willing to assist with submitting a matching grant for \$2,000,000 for this project. That is the projected cost to build the 3 miles pipeline and connect the Commercial District to HRSD.
 - Dr. Snyder is willing to assist with writing the grant for this project. He explains it is “fluid” and things can change as we proceed.

- VM Puchalski suggested having a public hearing to allow citizens the opportunity to ask questions. It was discussed this project will only affect the Commercial District but he citizens need to be informed. It was discussed to host the meeting either at the Wachapreague Fire House or VIMS.
- Mayor Janci asked what will happen if the \$200,000 is not available from VIMS. Councilman Bilicki stated the funds are what is set aside for part of the original sewage for the VIMS project. Councilman Bilicki stated this should not be an issue.
- Councilman Bilicki explained the timeline for the construction of the HRSD pipeline. It is currently on schedule to reach Wachapreague around 2023-2024. The VIMS project plans to be ahead of the HRSD project. In order for VIMS to contribute the \$200,000, the Town of Wachapreague will need to grant a “Pump and Haul” permit until the pipeline is completed. He stated the VDH, John Richardson, Cathy Plant and Councilman Bilicki have drafted an ordinance to approve a pump and haul permit to the Commercial Waterfront District businesses. Along with the draft is an application that states approval is per property basis. This was recommended by the VDH. He stated this will only apply to the Commercial Waterfront not Commercial Neighborhood. He stated if “Pump and Haul” permit is approved by town, Accomack County will also need to approve. The application has been reviewed by VDH attorney. Councilman Bilicki stated this must be approved quickly, if delayed, VIMS may not be able to participate in the HRSD.
- A discussion ensued about details related to plans for the construction of the pipeline. Councilman Bilicki stated business owners Blake Johnson and Darryl Lilliston have confirmed interest in connecting to the pipeline.

V. Council Meeting

Mayor Janci asked if the minutes for December 10, 2020 were reviewed.

- A motion to accept minutes was made by VM Puchalski and seconded by Councilman R. Williams.
A vote was taken and all approved.

VI. Review of Financial Report

Mayor Janci asked if everyone had a chance to review the Town Financials for December 2020.

- Mayor Janci reviewed Profit and Loss vs. Actual. He stated we are 50% through the fiscal year.
- Mayor Janci stated we are up on Tourism and Miscellaneous Revenues. He stated legal expenses are up.
 - VM Puchalski made a motion to accept December 2020 financials and Councilman G. Schagelin seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all approved.

Mayor Janci asked if everyone had a chance to review the Town Financials for January 2021.

- Mayor Janci stated again income is doing well and legal fees are up. He stated this is expected since many of the ordinances are being reviewed. Councilman R. Bilicki suggested moving funds from Tourism to cover some expenses. Treasurer Tatum will be consulted in this matter.
 - VM Puchalski made a motion to accept financials and Councilman R. Williams seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all approved.

Mayor Janci asked if everyone had a chance to review the Port Financials for December 2020.

- Mayor Janci reviewed Profit and Loss vs. Actual. He stated we are 50% through the fiscal year.

- VM Puchalski stated Marina is doing very well. She stated transient slips income is up and the outstanding balance has been paid.
 - Councilman G. Schagelin made a motion to accept December 2020 financials and Councilman R. Bilicki seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all approved.

Mayor Janci asked if everyone had a chance to review the Port Financials for January 2021.

- Mayor Janci stated nothing has really changed.
 - Councilman G. Schagelin made a motion to accept financials and R. Bilicki seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all approved.

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Historic District

Jim Bell explained the Town of Wachapreague started the Historic District in 2015 with a grant. After a survey was done, it was determined the town would qualify to be included on the national registry as a Historic District. He was unsure what happened but being from another small town it would be beneficial to pick it back up. He explained the benefits and incentives of being included in the National Historic Registry.

He explained the procedure to apply for the registry. He stated he has helped a couple other people in other areas and has information on how to proceed.

- ❖ Any property owner can apply. A preliminary information form must be submitted and approved.
- ❖ Then the owner must apply for a 50/50 grant. The grants will be awarded in the next couple of months. Once approved, they do all the work; surveys, assessments, etc. They will prepare the documents to go to the National Historic Registry. It gets approved and you are done.
- ❖ He stated there is currently funds available for these projects due to COVID.

He concluded with expressing encouragement in looking into this. He offered to prepare the paperwork to move forward with picking it up and continue to develop the Historic District. Council Members asked questions concerning the program.

B. HRSD

Councilman R. Bilicki stated in the packet is a summary of what was discussed earlier.

C. Marina

- VM Puchalski stated dock work is completed.
- VM Puchalski is looking for patch materials to patch the concrete pad.
- VM Puchalski reported 1 "NO Wake" sign broke and needs replacing and another needs to be installed along Whileaway. Due to the weather, it has not been done but will be by early spring.
- VM Puchalski stated the marina shed floor has started to sag. It may need replacing and she will get prices. Councilman S. Joseph offered some wood that may be helpful in this repair.

D. Town Maintenance/Garbage (Repairs)

- Councilman G. Schagelin stated the guys are fine.
- He stated the F150 needs a fuel pump. This requires the tank to be dropped. Parts will cost \$250 and labor \$250. VM Puchalski stated Richie suggested replacing the tank and pump in one unit and it will cost around \$600. She stated the old tank is rusty and may be better to replace all.

- Mayor Janci suggested looking at the website for government sales. It was questioned if a new truck needs to be purchased. A motion was made by Councilman G. Schagelin and seconded by Councilman R. Bilicki to sell the F150. It was decided to put a sale sign and think about what to ask for it. Councilman G. Schagelin would look up the value in Kelly Blue Book for value. It would be discussed at the next meeting what to sell for.

E. Powell Park

- VM Puchalski will be looking into purchasing signs for doggie poo stations.
- She stated the south ditch needs cleaning up of overgrowth due to flooding.

F. Seaside Park

Mayor Janci reported having workers come out and clean up the park.

G. Town Beautification

Councilman M. Digan was absent.

H. Tourism

Councilman R. Bilicki stated nothing new to report. We are staying Covid Compliant.

I. Derelict Properties

Councilman R. Bilicki reported making progress on the ordinances.

J. Safety and Security

- Councilman R. Williams stated nothing new to report.

K. Zoning Administrator's Report

- Mayor Janci reported on 1 application for a storage garage.

L. Streets and Drainage

- Councilman R. Williams requested Mayor Janci to sign the letter for the stop sign to be erected at the intersection of West St. and Park Ave.
- Councilman R. Williams also reported 2 culvert boxes are scheduled to be replaced/repared in town.
- Councilman S. Joseph stated ANEC has been replacing lights around town. Councilman R. Williams offered to relinquish duty of lights to Councilman S. Joseph. He accepted the task.
- Councilman R. Bilicki asked who is responsible for ruts from tires along property edges. It was discussed that the property owner takes care of this. This is a problem with small towns.
- Councilman R. Williams reported VDOT has plans to repave roads around town within the next year.
- Councilman G. Schagelin reported excessive speeding along Main Street. Mayor Janci discussed ideas tried but unable to fix the problem. Councilman G. Schagelin is very concerned about speeding and children around town. Ideas were discussed including hiring off duty officers. Mayor Janci suggested hiring the Accomack County Sheriff Office to patrol a few shifts and see how this will work out. Councilman G. Schagelin will lead this responsibility. Treasurer Tatum will be contacted for funding.

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

- Councilman R. Williams reported Clerk Wessells has been working diligently on this. She has been dealing with multiple people and now has good contact with Eugene Holts. He reported there are only 2 items left and she will be working on it this weekend. Mayor Janci asked how this will be kept. He responded it will be put in a binder with tabs.

- Councilman R. Williams stated he is now involved with 2 other committees in Accomack County. The Waterway Committee is working to blow spoils on areas to build land up. The other is Hazardous Mitigations. This one is working to prevent damage in the event of a storm. Another project is installing flood gates to prevent water from backing up in the town. He has been working with Shannon Alexander to get grants for some of these projects.
- Councilman R. Bilicki offered to be Councilman R. Williams backup. He reported Dr. Snyder has been working on grants that may be helpful.

N. Planning Commission

Councilman M. Digan was absent. Council R. Williams reported Tomeka has been working on ideas for the 5 year plan. They have not been meeting due to Covid.

O. CARE Grant

VM Puchalski reported the 1099's have been issued.

VIII. New Business

Nothing new to report

IX. Announcements

C. Wardius reported on the progress of grants information. They have interviewed several companies dealing with hotel studies. They have chosen a company to move forward with. The Study should start within several months. There will be lots of information coming soon. It was discussed who may be useful with background information with this study.

X. Closed Session

A motion was made to go into closed session for the discussion of replacement of the position of town clerk. A motion was made by Councilman G. Schagelin and seconded by Councilman R. Williams. A vote was taken and all approved.

XI. Reconvene Open Session

A motion was made by Councilman G. Schagelin and seconded by Councilman R. Williams to reconvene to open session. A vote was taken and all approved.

XII. Adjournment

Motion was made by Councilman R. Williams and seconded by Councilman G. Schagelin to adjourn. All approved.

MAYOR

TOWN CLERK

2/10/2021