

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

June 9, 2022

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

Councilman Glen Schagelin said the prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by all.

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

- Mayor Fred Janci called the meeting to order.
I. Public comments
- Someone in the audience inquired as to what the final decision was regarding the basketball hoops.
- Mayor Fred Janci responded that would be discussed when the council talks about Powel Park.
- Bob Williams spoke about Tim Killmon, a respected and well-liked man in the community, who passed away recently. He asked we have a moment of silence for him.
- Town Clerk Charlie read a letter written by Leslie Trimble. She was not in favor of reinstalling the basketball hoop at the court. She stated that the behavior of the players is not conducive to a family park.

Elizabeth Moc spoke about using an electronic system to lock up the basketball court. Her suggestion, the person using the court would need to buy a card to use the court. There would be a time stamp as to who is using the court and what time. If the court is abused, they would lose their privileges. She said there should be a \$10.00 fee associated with the key.

Mayor Fred Janci asked who would like to look into the electric key pad. Councilman Bob Bilicki said he would check into it.

Randy Powell suggested that the town of Wachapreague should investigate hiring a parttime police officer.

II. Town Council Meeting

- Councilman Bob Bilicki Motioned to approve the minutes for the May 12, 2022.
- Councilman Bob Williams 2nd.
- All Agreed

III. Review of Financial Report

Town Financials

- Councilman Bob Williams motioned to approve the financials
- Vice Mayor Sandy Puchalski 2nd the motion
- All agreed

Marine Financials

- Councilman Bob Williams motioned to approve the financials
- Vice Mayor Sandy Puchalski 2nd the motion
- All Agreed

IV. Unfinished Business

A. POWEL PARK

Councilman Bob Williams discussed the meeting regarding the basketball hoop.

He stated participation was sparse.

He said the cost would be very expensive for the town to build a new court.

Councilman Bob Williams spoke about planting trees to block the existing court.

He said someone would have to agree to water the trees for approximately 2 months.

The trees would cost over \$3500.00

Vice Mayor Sandy Puchalski talked about a mesh that could be used to block the view of basketball court.

Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to reinstall one basketball hoop on the west side no later than July 1, 2022.

Mayor Fred Janci said we need to have an open discussion.

Discussion ensued at to what time the court should close, dusk or a set time.

Mayor Fred Janci said we already gave the neighbor next to the court a time of 7:00.

Discussion arose between council and the public audience regarding music, time of play and concern for the neighbor.

Mayor Fred Janci stated no one is going to get 100 % of what they want. We need to try to meet somewhere in the middle.

Mayor Fred Janci motioned to table the basketball hoop conversation until the next meeting.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated he already had a motion on the floor. He said he would like to amend the motion.

Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to reinstall one basketball hoop on the west side of the tennis court no later than July 1, 2022. He amended the motion with a provision the court is closed at 7:00 and there is no radio

playing. This is a temporary solution until a final decision is made regarding installing a new basketball court or half court.

Councilman Stephen Joseph 2nd the motion.

Councilman Stephan Joseph -Agreed

Councilman Margo Digan -Agreed

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski -Agreed

Councilman Bob Bilicki -Agreed

Councilman Bob Williams -Agreed

Councilman Glenn Schagelin -Objected

Councilman Bob Williams motioned we have a sign made to hang on the outside of the court that stated the rules regarding, no Music, no foul language, the time the court closes and to look at the cost of the barrier.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski said she would have a sign made.

Mayor Fred Janci this is an interim solution.

Councilman Bob Williams stated Vice Mayor suggestion of the mesh would work.

Councilman Margo 2nd Councilman Bob Williams's motion

Councilman Stephan Joseph -Agreed

Councilman Margo Digan -Agreed

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski -Agreed

Councilman Bob Bilicki -Agreed

Councilman Bob Williams -Agreed

Councilman Glenn Schagelin -Objected

B: Historic District

Jim Bell spoke about what was going on regarding the historic district. He said 51 properties (Historic sites, homes, cemeteries etc.) have been submitted to the DHR Department of Historic Resources. They went through all of the properties and approved all of the work. The properties are now in the state archives. They will be there forever.

Jim Bell stated he will leave the information at Town Hall. He reported you can find information regarding this at wachapreaguerenaissance.org and use the tab Historic District. A variety of styles of homes and properties were chosen. Eighty more properties would need to be surveyed in order for the town to be on the State Historic Registry. The benefit of this is there maybe grants available for the town at this level. The cost would run from \$8000 to \$20,000. Jim Bell said he would be looking for grants. He stated the town will need to decide if they want to continue in order for him to know what parameters he should stay in.

C. Seaside Park

Councilman Margo Digan had nothing to report.

Councilman Bob Williams inquired about having work done at Seaside Park.

Councilman Bob Williams reported an estimate of \$1,100 from Kopp for leveling. Included in the price is screened topsoil and to distribute the topsoil.

Mayor Fred Janci said fall would be the time to work on it.

There was a discussion regarding pricing for work to be completed at the park.

Councilman Steve Joseph reported the money to spend had been approved and the work needed to wait until fall.

He said he will find out if the cost included seeding.

D. Beautification

Councilman Margo Digan had nothing to report.

E. Planning Commission

Councilman Margo Digan reported the planning commission met on June 7th. They are planning on meeting twice a month in order to move faster on the comprehensive plan. A lot of discussion took place on the short term rentals. There was talk about the difference between Air BnBs and rentals.

Councilman Margo Digan said the planning commission was going to ask the town for a 90 day moratorium on any new variances. They need time to work on the definitions of the rentals and ordinances.

Councilman Bob Bilicki inquired “doesn’t our ordinance for transient housing explain what a short term rental is.” It says in our town ordinance a transient rental it is a rental less than 28 days.

People that have transient rentals pay a transient tax.

He also spoke about the situation regarding the Honycutts and the Schagelin. Zoning had a meeting regarding these properties. Councilman Bob Bilicki asked, “is this is a zoning or a planning issue.” Zoning vote was 0-4 against.

Mayor Fred Janci stated that Aileen said it should not have been sent to zoning. The planning commission is who needs to review this. It is at the planning commission now.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said he heard the zoning board appeals voted 0-4, not in favor of a short term rental for Schaglin and Honeycutt’s.

It was questioned was the vote no, this is the wrong place, or the wrong board.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin said I don’t know why you would vote no to a business that has participated in this business for 20 years. The business pays transient taxes, and promotes other businesses in town. He stated I can rent this out for longer period of time and pay no transient tax to the town.

Vice Mayor Sandy Puchalski reported every one of Glenn and Susan’s neighbors wrote letters of support for them.

Town Clerk Charlie Gible said the town receives a nice revenue from their transient tax payments.

F. Ordinances

Councilman Bob Williams reported that the reason the town started working on the ordinances was nothing was happening on the planning commission. He said now that we have a working planning commission he questioned if the town council needs to continue working on the ordinances.

Jim Bell said the planning commission meetings are open to the public.

Councilman Margo Digan said we need to check with Aileen regarding 6/22 meeting at 6:30 to see what she has in mind.

Mayor Fred Janci said it will have to be a public meeting.

G. Marina

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski reported that they have lost a few of the larger boat slip rentals. She reported that there have been short term rentals that have picked up the slack.

H. Donation to the Fire Company.

Councilman Bob Williams motioned to donated \$1000 to the fire company.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin 2nd the motion.

Mayor Fred Janci talked about the money we gave the fire company (\$300.00 per meeting)

Councilman Margo Digan asked if someone had inquired about using the VIMS facility.

She said it would be more conducive to our meetings.
Everyone agreed on giving the fire company \$1000.00

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski asked Councilman Bob Bilicki if VIMS would let the town use Seaside hall for our town hall meetings.
Councilman Bob Bilicki said he would.

I. HRSD

Councilman Bob Bilicki reported that Mayor Janci sent an email to all the councilman that Virginia State Assembly voted to reward the Town of Wachapreague 2.4million dollars.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that he had a submental grant request for 5 million through the federal government using Congresswoman Elaine Luria's office. We received \$3,090,000.

Those two combined, totals more than Rob Duma's feasibility study of \$5,490,000.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that he and Mayor Fred Janci met with the HRSD's new director and project manager.

They agreed to have Mayor Fred Janci write a letter authorizing changes to incorporate Rob Dumas report for a sewer force main up dated engineering. Garney is going to charge the town for a secondary loop.

Councilman Bob Bilicki reported it doesn't appear it will cost the residents anything for the commercial neighborhood or the waterfront.

Mayor Fred Janci reported the governor still need to approve the budget and another signature is needed to finalize the 3 million dollar grant from the federal government.

Mayor Fred Janci said we are getting much closer to a public meeting regarding HRSD. HRSD gave us until March or May to make a decision. They will move on without us if no decision is made by then. He said this is an opportunity to get \$3 million dollars' worth of infrastructure for free. If we turn down this money it will never be available again.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated we should wait until we get written confirmation from both the federal and the state before we establish a date for a public meeting regarding this.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated the council has a town charter to govern in this decision.

J. Derelict Properties

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that the lawn on 6 High St. is above 12 inches.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin said why should we use the town equipment. He stated we should subcontract this work. Councilman Glenn Schagelin stated that last time the guys mowed a lawn with grass over 12 inches the town equipment was damaged.

Vice Mayor stated that the ordinance should be tougher.

Higher fines were discussed for lawns that are not being cut.

K. Tourism

Councilman Bob Bilicki discussed the CBES Ride in October. He stated he met with Blake and Shawn Fate to establish a route for where the bikes will ride into town and exit. He said it is very well organized.

Andy from Eastern Shore Signs did the graphics with a higher resolution. He has the music on hold until the budget is approved.

Councilman Bob Bilicki discussed the sign and the artwork to be incorporated on the sign he has been working on with Wardius. He is ready to release it. He is hoping the sign will be ready by the second week of July.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated Nature Conservancy Bird watching public meeting will be held at VIMS , Seaside Hall, June 10th at 4:00.

L. Safety and Security

Councilman Bob Williams discussed various areas he and his wife straightened signs and trimmed bushes that were obstructing sign.

He stated there were a few more areas that Tomeka and he were going to take care of.

M. Zoning Administrator

Mayor Fred Janci asked if there was any inquiries from anyone about becoming the new zoning administrator. Town clerk Charlie Gible said there was an ad posted in the paper and two applications were picked up. None were returned.

N. Streets and Drainage

*Councilman Bob Bilicki stated, thanks to Stephen Joseph the north ditch has been cleaned up
The bill has been paid.*

Councilman Bob Williams reported that Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke with Davis Bowen & Friedel to see if their quote for \$3500 was still valid..

The quote was for finding grant money to do the engineering for a main drain line.

The grant money needed is between \$25,000 and \$35,000.

Councilman Bob Bilicki was informed that the quote was still good.

Councilman Bob William asked if we could use ARPA grant money for this.

Mayor Fred Janci said we all agreed the ARPA Money would go to the HRSD project. We have already committed that money. He stated that council had promised Delegate Rob Bloxom who went to the state legislator with the belief the town of Wachapreague had \$180,000 to use toward the project. This is the towns "skin in the game".

We could risk losing our funding for HRSD.

O. Maintenance

Councilman Glenn Schagelin said he had nothing to report.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski stated that the renovations on town hall should start in the fall.

The furnace will need ripped out.

Mayor Fred Janci stated there are issues with the air now.

Mayor Fred Janci will need to approve the amount for the new heat and air once we have the price.

P. 4TH of July Parade

Town Clerk Charlie spoke about the planning of the parade and picnic.

She said there were gift cards were donated from Panzattis, Kendal’s Kountry Kitchen, Pizza Hut, Wachapreague Inn, The Book Bin, and Food Lion . She also spoke about the Coast Guard volunteering to help with the parade. Town Clerk Charlie Gibble talked about the help she received from Shawn Fate regarding the use of the Carnival Grounds to use for the town picnic.

The parade route was discussed. She also informed Mayor Fred Janci that he would be announcing the winners of the parade.

Town Clerk Charlie said they were planning a free lunch for the town. It would consist of Hotdogs, Baked Beans, Snow cones, etc. She said she had received donations of food and money from several people in town.

Q. Resolution

Councilman Bob Williams spoke about Resolution for the Hazard Mitigation Plan. He wanted to make sure it was signed.

Town Clerk Charlie Gibble had it in a packet for Mayor Janci to sign.

R. Radon Sign

Councilman Bob Williams spoke about the rador sign. He included a readout regarding speeding. It included a grid.

Mayor Fred Janci recommended the people in the audience should attend a supervisors meeting at Accomac. He stated there is zero interjection from the public. The public needs to sign up if they want to speak during the public comments

Councilman Margo Digan stated she attended a meeting in Onley. The council was timed as to how long they could speak.

S. Adjournment

MAYOR

TOWN CLERK

06/14/2022