

**TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
April 9, 2020**

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Fred Janci, Mayor; Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor; Robert Williams;  
Peter Peyton; Robert Bilicki; David Goauk  
**COUNCIL ABSENT:** Katherine Bilicki  
**TOWN CLERK:** Missy Wallace-Wessells (absent)

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

- I. **Call to Order** – Fred Janci, Mayor called to Order the Town Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2020, in the Wachapreague Volunteer Fire Company Hall.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Fred Janci, Mayor lead the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **Public Comments** – Fred Janci, Mayor welcomed everyone and opened the floor for Public Comments.
  - A. Joeckel spoke concerning the loss of revenue. She estimated \$14,000 shortage. R. Bilicki responded with the figures from Mary Jo Tatum, Treasurer: \$2,800 in transient taxes; \$8,300 in meals taxes. Thus far \$4,200 has been received. Giving a short fall of an estimated \$6,900 for the year.
  - A discussion ensued concerning the property taxes for other small towns in Accomack County. This will be discussed at a later time.
  - A. Joeckel spoke on several topics.
    - She asked if “railway” spoils have been tested. They requested to place spoils on town’s spoil site. Mayor Janci stated nothing has been done yet.
    - Joeckel asked the status of dredging. VM Puchalski stated it is on hold until isolation order is lifted. The only thing left is the Island House.
    - Joeckel also discussed the notice sent to the town clerk concerning the channel dredging. R. Bilicki questioned another program available for the same area.
    - Joeckel suggested raising the meals and transient taxes instead of property tax.
  - Jack Sherman spoke about the condition of the waterways. He is concerned about the direction the town is going. He stated the businesses will never be as there were.
  - Randy Powell spoke about the draw of fishing and hunting years ago.
    - He stated the concern of HRSD sewage in town and what is being pursued. He stated the council has not made a good faith effort of letting the citizens know information regarding the sewage and the town’s plans moving forward.
    - He also commented on his concern of a council member voting on issues that could benefit them. He stated if poorly handled, this could become a misdemeanor under Virginia law. He stated he believes the councilman is acting in good faith. This does not give a good impression of the council being upfront and honest. He feels this should be addressed. Finally he stated the citizens should be involved.

- Mayor Janci stated the council has been gathering information to present to the citizens. The plan was to gather factual information to present instead of guesses. The council is getting exact figures so the public can make an informed decision with facts instead of possible scenarios. He stated things have already been put in the paper and talked about that were incorrect and speculated. The town and personal attorneys have been involved with this matter. He stated due to our area, there are conflicts that could come about. R. Bilicki stated if there becomes an issue, he would recuse himself.
- R. Williams commented that this council does not wish to turn this town into a Chincoteague or Ocean City. We are trying to stay a small town. He also talked about RAFT and plans to preserve the town from flooding.
- R. Powell stated letting the citizens about the fact finding plans would help everyone understand what is going on. It was agreed.

#### **IV. Council Meeting**

Fred Janci, Mayor asked if everyone has reviewed the minutes from March 12, 2020 meeting. VM Puchalski made a motion to accept the minutes and R. Williams seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all approved.

#### **V. Review of Financial Report**

Fred Janci, Mayor stated the council is currently on a spending freeze. A. Joeckel stated this will be one of the first places people will come because of our social distancing.

Mayor Janci stated the budget was at 75% through the year. Mayor Janci reviewed the finances with the Council. The Town Profit/Loss vs Budget was discussed.

- Mayor Janci noted things that were are 100%. These were one time payments.
- It was noted that income was down from tags and decals.
- It was noted that expenses were down and will help with the short fall of income.
- A motion was made by R. Williams to accept the Town Financials for March 2020 and seconded by VM Puchalski. A vote was taken and all approved.

The Port of Wachapreague Profit/Loss vs Budget was discussed.

- VM Puchalski stated all the VPA work has been completed. We are waiting for check.
- A motion was made by R. Bilicki to accept the Port Financials for March 2020 and D. Gouak seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all approved.

#### **VI. Unfinished Business**

##### **A. HRSD**

- Mayor Janci stated a meeting was had via phone. This was cleared with the attorney prior to conducting. Mayor Janci wishes to form a work committee to gather information to be presented to the council. The HRSD Committee will consist of Mayor Janci, R. Williams and R. Bilicki.
- D. Gouak suggested putting together a quarterly newsletter to let the citizens know what is going on. R. Williams suggested having kids hand it out around town. The council all agreed this is a good idea.
- R. Bilicki stated the general manager of HRSD is waiting for a response from Mayor Janci in regards to the OP ED.

##### **B. Marina**

- VM Puchalski reported dredging for marina has been completed. She is unsure when the Island House will be done. The check has been issued and waiting to clear. Once it clears, she will submit everything for VPA reimbursement.
- VM Puchalski reported on communication with the other dredgers for the channel. They were supposed to arrive today but got called away. They should arrive Saturday to set thing up.

- VM Puchalski reported on previous concern of slip rental funds due to the flounder tournament being cancelled/postponed. She stated the dredgers will be renting 2 slips from the marina, this will help offset the loss of revenue due to the Coronavirus pandemic. She stated the benefit will be less traffic for the dredgers.
- R. Williams suggested posting the article from John Joeckel at the marina. He stated the information was detailed concerning the dredging and places to avoid. All agreed.
- VM Puchalski reported on information regarding the channel dredging. R. Bilicki will be arranging to have spoil site samples taken to test purity of spoils. This will help with the possibility of using these spoils for other things in the future.

#### ***C. Town Maintenance/Garbage (Repairs)***

- D. Gouak reported the garbage truck is still leaking and taking it to Johnson Welding to get estimate on repairs. He suggested having everyone place garbage in bags. He will be having the guys sweep up debris as they pick up garbage. He stated the truck is in bad shape and need replacing. It will need inspecting in May.
- Mayor Janci reported finding a garbage truck but it was too big.

#### ***D. Powell Park***

- VM Puchalski stated nothing to report.
- R. Williams asked if the council if a sign could be placed at cemetery stating maintained by Kiwanis Club. Everyone agreed.
- D. Gouak stated people have taken advantage of the park. Everyone was please it was being used.

#### ***E. Seaside Park***

- R. Williams stated Clerk Wessells was handling the electrical work at the gazebo. He explained the situation with the council. Mayor Janci stated markings will be placed so this will not happen again. She was not present for the meeting. She will be asked to take care of this matter.

#### ***F. Town Beautification***

- Nothing to present.

#### ***G. Tourism***

- R. Bilicki stated Easter Egg Hunt was cancelled. Sunrise service was also cancelled.
- R. Bilicki reported flounder tournament has been postponed until maybe mid-May. Other things have been also postponed.

#### ***H. Derelict Properties***

- R. Bilicki thanked A. Joeckel and the Planning Commission for updating the ordinance. He stated there were “no teeth” in the violation. He researched other ways to enforce the ordinance. A. Joeckel suggested contacting the attorney for guidance. A conversation ensued concerning other properties. A. Joeckel discussed having an enforcement agent to stay abreast of these situations. She suggested compensation.
- A discussion ensued concerning other ordinances needing to be addressed including campers- 7 days and unregistered boats/vehicles.
- The council agreed to contact the town attorney to discuss an acceptable timeline and approval with possible liens changes.

### **I. Safety and Security**

- R. Williams reported 4 pole lights were reported and repaired by ANEC. He also contacted VDOT to repair a stop sign.
- R. Williams stated a letter was written then edited by Mayor Janci for reimbursement of culvert grate installed on corner of High and South Street. The letter was signed and mailed.
- Mayor Janci stated due to the Covid Pandemic, a notice of no gathering should be issued for the town and marina. He recommended posting notices for any out of town visitors to isolate 14 days upon arrival. He has contacted several people already. A conversation ensued about procedures. The council agreed to posting notices, placing info on websites and having handouts informing every one of precautions and restrictions.

### **J. Zoning Administrator's Report**

- Mayor Janci discussed the VIMS maintenance building zoning request. Mayor Janci denied it due to the freeboard set for the town is currently 3 feet and the request is for 2 feet. The Board of Zoning Appeals members were to hear the request for variance. The meeting is currently set for May 2, 2020 at 11 am at VIMS Seaside Hall.
- The council discussed the roof issue at John Carr's resident on Main Street. Mayor Janci will go by and check the status or danger.
- R. Bilicki discussed the current zoning map of the town. He would like to address and update the zoning districts to include educational. The council agreed this should be forwarded to the Planning Commission.

### **K. Streets and Drainage**

- R. Williams stated nothing new to report.

### **L. Floodplain Administrator/CRS Coordinator/ A-NPDC/RAFT**

- R. Williams stated the seminar was cancelled he planned to attend. Nothing new to report.

### **M. Planning Commission**

- Mayor Janci stated everything has already been discussed.

### **N. Legal**

- Nothing new to report.

## **VII. New Business**

- R. Williams discussed the upcoming elections. He stated it was discussed of moving the town elections to November. He stated the voting agents for Wachapreague are requesting to move the voting location to the fire house. This will provide more room for social distancing.
- Steve Bilicki stated signature from the town to for a cannon that was recovered from Lynhaven Inlet. The cannon is currently in North Carolina. S. Bilicki stated he has spoken with the Virginia Department of Historical Resources. He stated an indemnity must take possession of it. This is what he is requesting. He has agreed with another archeologist in town to be the principle responsible people for the cannon. He stated other have been recovered and displayed in NC. He has contacted the conservation department in DC that is experienced in the care. It is dated for the War of 1812. He would like to place it at Seaside Park as a tourism item. The council agreed this is a good idea. He has additional information to forward to the council.

- R. Bilicki stated the house located on Brooklyn Avenue belonging to VIMS is available for \$1 but needs to be moved. If anyone knows anyone who may want this house, please contact him before it is demolished. He asked nearby property owners if they would to move it. They all declined. He will contact the owner of the property across street.

**VIII. *Adjournment***

- Motion was made by R. Williams and seconded by VM Puchalski to adjourn. All approved.

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MAYOR  
04/09/2020

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TOWN CLERK