

# TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING JULY 9, 2020

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Fred Janci, Mayor; Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor; Robert Williams;  
Robert Bilicki; Glenn Schagelin; Arthur Thornton; Margo Digan  
**COUNCIL ABSENT:** None  
**TOWN CLERK:** Missy Wallace-Wessells

## OATH OF OFFICE

- ❖ Mayor Janci welcomed Honorable Samuel Cooper, Accomack County Clerk of Court to the Wachapreague Town Council Meeting. Honorable Cooper swore the new council members into office. Mayor Fredrick Janci was first to take office as mayor. The following council members were each sworn into office: Robert Williams, Robert Bilicki, Arthur Thornton, Margo Digan, Glenn Schagelin and Sandra Puchalski.
- ❖ There were no Board of Zoning Appeals members present to be sworn in.
- ❖ Mr. Cooper was thanked for his service to Accomack County and assisting with the Oath of Office for the Wachapreague Town Council.

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

- I. **Call to Order** – Fred Janci, Mayor called to Order the Town Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 9, 2020, in the VIMS Seaside Hall in Wachapreague.
- 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.
  - Aileen Joeckel spoke on grant opportunities:
    - A marketing proposal grant available Mid-August 2020 for \$20,000. The purpose of the grant was to promote tourism.
    - A. Joeckel also discussed another grant opportunity through the community development block grant in the amount of \$500,000. This grant could help with tourism promotion. She stated the DHCD would manage the money. It requires a 1 page proposal to be submitted for consideration.
    - The Care Grant was discussed and more information will be researched.
  - Jessie and Joe Vodvarka spoke concerning the letter sent concerning the derelict conditions of their property located on Brooklyn Avenue and Atlantic Avenue. A discussion ensued concerning the issues with the property. Due to time restraint, R. Bilicki and G. Schagelin agreed to meet at property Saturday to further discuss problem areas. It was also agreed the Vodvarka's would have 45 day to get the property into compliance with the ordinances of Wachapreague.
  - J. Vodvarka questioned the cost of dredging and requested copies of the checks. He was questioning the cost to each business. He also asked about grants for the dredging. Mayor Janci stated the cost of dredging is strictly between the property owner and the dredger.

- Linda Jones spoke with regards to the HRSD sewage system and plans to bring into the town. Mayor Janci explained about the discussion of the possibility of the system. The plan was to run from Lankford Highway (Rt. 13) down Wachapreague Road (Rt. 180) to Atlantic Avenue and ending at the VIMS property. The plan was to only include commercial properties. HRSD was willing to pay half and hopes that VIMS would help with the remaining cost. Mayor Janci stated VIMS may not be interested in funding the project. VM Puchalski stated a feasibility study is being conducted for this project and the expansion of the Wachapreague Inn. Mayor Janci assured L. Jones that this would be for commercial owners only. R. Williams stated contact was made to the VHD concerning forcing residents into connecting to the sewer line if passing property. He stated residential properties would not be forced or encouraged to connect due to this being a commercial project.
- Bonnie Hill expressed concern with surrounding property's overgrowth. R. Bilicki explained actions the town is taking towards this issue. She was told the neighboring property's overgrowth has already been taken care of.

#### IV. Council Meeting

- Fred Janci, Mayor stated several meetings were had in June.
  - The council began with the meeting minutes for 6/11/20. This was for a public hearing. Mayor Janci asked if everyone had a chance to read over the minutes. A motion was made by VM Puchalski and seconded by R. Bilicki to accept. A vote was taken and all approved.
  - Mayor Janci asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes for the meeting held on 6/11/20. R. Bilicki requested the following changes:
    - Page 3; Derelict Properties; 4<sup>th</sup> Dot; add "*Prospective Buyers*"
 A motion was made R. Bilicki and seconded by VM Puchalski to approve the minutes. A vote was taken and all approved.
  - Mayor Janci asked if the minutes for the meeting held on 6/25/20 have been reviewed. A motion was made by R. Williams and seconded by R. Bilicki to accept the minutes. A vote was taken and all approved.

#### V. Review of Financial Report

Mayor Janci stated the town is at the end of fiscal year for the budget. Clerk Wessells stated the final figures will not be available until around October. Each month Treasurer Mary Jo Tatum will present the incomplete financials for 2019 until finalized.

Mayor Janci began with Town of Wachapreague Profit/Loss vs Budget.

- Mayor Janci reviewed the financials with the council. He stated the Town has done well for the year. Mayor Janci noted:
  - Interest Income was up 132%
  - Tourism Income was down at 78% for year
  - Transient Occupancy Tax was down at 61% for year
  - Decal Expense was up
  - Postage Expense was down
  - Refuse Expense was down at 42%
  - Repairs Expense was down at 66%
- R. Bilicki stated contact was made to Supervisor Donald Hart concerning waiving brush fees at the county landfill. It was decided to pile brush at Powell Park but arrangements have been made to use lot behind spoil site.
- A motion was made by VM Puchalski and seconded by R. Bilicki to approve the financials. A vote was taken and all approved.

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

- Mayor Janci reviewed the financials with the council. Mayor Janci noted:
  - Interest Income was up 142%
  - Ramp Fees Income was up 131% for year
  - Office Expense was down at 70% for year
- VM Puchalski confirmed that letters were sent to slip holders with outstanding balances.
- A motion was made by R. Williams and seconded by R. Bilicki to accept financials for the Port of Wachapreague. A vote was taken and all approved.

## **VI. Unfinished Business**

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

- R. Bilicki reported USDA is processing approved \$70,000. Transfer will take 2-3 days. The feasibility study will begin.
- R. Bilicki reported a bid marketing firm has been working with local HRSD.
- Mayor Janci reported VIMS have plans for leach field and may connect to HRSD if constructed. He explained how the VIMS plans could be redirected and help with financing the HRSD project.
- R. Bilicki explained the current plans for sewage for the VIMS Project. Mayor Janci asked the record to show that during dark months (winter months) the sewage will need sewage to be feed. This will mean sewage will be brought into the town to be run through the mass drain fields. The council discussed the trucking of sewage into town. Mayor Janci stated a temporary pump and haul has been discussed for use until HRSD line is constructed.
- A motion was made to send a letter to Kathy Plant at Accomack County Health Department. The letter will state the town does not want no outside importation of sewage into the town limits. VM Puchalski and R. Bilicki asked to abstain due to employment. The motion was made by R. Williams and seconded by G. Schagelin. A vote was taken and approved with 4 yes and 2 abstain. Clerk Wessells will do the letter and submit to Mayor Janci for approval.

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

- VM Puchalski reported VPA grant was approved and materials have been ordered.
- VM Puchalski stated the water pump went up at the marina and Bundick Well and Pump was called. She stated the repairs cost \$1400 for new pump and pressure switch. She made a motion to pay the bill and R. Bilicki seconded. A Roll Call vote was taken with 6 yes and 0 no.
- VM Puchalski discussed if restrooms should be opened. They have been closed due to Covid. After a discussion, the council agreed to keep closed for season.

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

- Nothing to report.

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

- VM Puchalski requested to allow the Senior League could hold a fundraiser again this year for team. It would be mid-end August. All agreed
- The USCG asked to use September for tournament.

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

- Mayor Janci stated weeding and trimming have been done.
- R. Williams was asked if contact was made with Big Woods. Mayor Janci will make contact for work to be done.
- R. Williams asked about the car charging station. R. Bilicki will take care of it.

**F. Town Beautification**

- Nothing to present.

**G. Tourism**

- R. Bilicki stated E.S. Cruisers Car Show is scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup>.
- R. Bilicki is working on a Labor Day Crab Cake Cook Off.
- The Chamber will be having the Tailgate Event on September 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Clerk Wessells is to advertise Town Wide Yard Sale for September 19<sup>th</sup>.
- R. Bilicki is moving forward with town sign at Rt. 13 and Wachapreague Road. He has met with Donald Hart and mockup has been developed.

**H. Derelict Properties**

- R. Bilicki discussed derelict properties. It was also discussed to increase fees since not raised in many years. Each property was discussed and progress.
  - Trout, 2<sup>nd</sup> time cut; Valuckin; Front Row-Clerk Wessells gave update concerning demolition; Vodvarka-problems were discussed including the campground trailers need to moveable; Carr-roof; Button; Lipscomb-up for tax sale; Gazelle-porch collapsing and overgrowth. R. Bilicki will do letters. JD and John will be asked to trim trees blocking stop signs.

**I. Safety and Security**

- R. Williams reported nothing new.

**J. Zoning Administrator's Report**

- Mayor Janci nothing new to report.

**K. Streets and Drainage**

- R. Williams stated VDOT replaced culvert boxes on Center Street.
- R. Williams asked Mayor Janci to review and sign Drainage Maintenance Plan.

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

- Clerk Wessells gave report on progress of verification for CRS.

**M. Planning Commission**

- R. Bilicki reported on Nature Conservancy's plan for bird viewing station. The plans are to build a raised platform that will be handicap accessible. It will be similar to Willis Wharf and Oyster. Grants will be available for the project. This will be a good tourism attraction. G. Schagelin made a motion to move forward with bird sanctuary and observation deck. VM Puchalski seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all approved.

**N. Legal**

- Nothing new to report.

**VII. New Business**

- M. Digan asked status of Bocce court and VM Puchalski reported wood was ordered.
- R. Bilicki discussed Zoning changes for the town. He requested preventing expansion of tax exempt property purchases. He also requested changes to the transient rental properties. This will be brought back up next month. A draft Plan should be developed.
  - Jack Sherman express concern of council removing the rights of property owners. He expressed property owners should be allowed to have a small business or rent house.

- New Council Duties: Duties were assigned for the new term.
  - Zoning Administrator – Mayor Fred Janci
  - Floodplain/ CRS – Robert Williams and Clerk Wessells
  - Planning Commission – Margo Digan
  - Marina – Mayor Fred Janci and VM Sandra Puchalski
  - Powell Park - VM Sandra Puchalski
  - Mosquito Control - VM Sandra Puchalski
  - Town Beautification – Margo Digan
  - Safety and Security – Robert Williams
  - Streets and Drainage – Robert Williams
  - Tourism – Robert Bilicki
  - Town Maintenance – Glen Schagelin
  - Seaside Park – Arthur Thornton
- G. Schagelin suggested ways to slow speeders coming into Wachapreague. It was discussed this has been an issue and ideas were encouraged.

**VIII. Announcements**

- It was discussed that the Town of Wachapreague was awarded funds through a Care Grant. The funds must be used as hard cost related to Covid. Grants can be made available to business owners in the town. Letter will be sent to owners with information needed to receive funds.

**IX. Adjournment**

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

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MAYOR  
07/09/2020

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TOWN CLERK

A MOTION TO APPROVE TO PAY BUNDICK WELL AND PUMP  
THE AMOUNT OF \$1400 FOR REPLACEMENT  
OF WATER PUMP AND  
PRESSURE SWITCH FOR THE MARINA.

Pursuant to motion made by **Councilman, VM Puchalski**, and seconded by **Councilman, R. Bilicki**, for a Motion to approve \$1400 TO REPLACE THE WATER PUMP AND PRESSURE SWITCH AT THE MARINA, and the Council having voted upon the motion, as recorded below, and approved at the Town Council Meeting of July 9, 2019.

Name of Official	For	Against	Abstaining	Absent
VM S. Puchalski	X			
Robert Williams	X			
Robert Bilicki	X			
Glen Schagelin	X			
Margo Digan	X			
Arthur Thornton	X			
Mayor Fred Janci (voting only in case of tie)			X	
Vote Totals	6	0	1	0

Duly recorded this \_\_\_\_\_ day of July 9, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk