

**TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
June 11, 2020**

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

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

- I. **Call to Order** – Fred Janci, Mayor called to Order the Town Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 11, 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. There was nothing to speak on tonight.
- Joyce Smith spoke concerning storing and burning brush in the Powell Park entering through Switch Bridge Road. She stated health issues would be exhibited with burning the debris. She suggested mulching it for the citizens to recycle it for their yards. It was explained the reason was the cost to the landfill and trying to cut the expenses. R. Bilicki will contact the county to ask for a waiver for the brush fees.
 - Joyce Smith also spoke on the topic of overgrowth of lot on Switch Bridge Road. She was told arrangements have been made to have it bush hogged. The delay was because the property was extremely wet. It has had time to dry out.
 - A discussion ensued concerning building on private properties.
- IV. **Council Meeting**
Fred Janci, Mayor asked if everyone has reviewed the minutes from May 14, 2020 meeting.
- R. Bilicki noted a wording change on page 2 under HRSD. He asked for the change of VIMS is interested in participating. Under Seaside Park, the correction should read *“Mike Lewis is willing to trench the line free of charge”*. R. Bilicki made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections and VM Puchalski seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all approved.
- V. **Review of Financial Report**
Mayor Janci stated the budget was at 95% through the year. Mayor Janci reviewed the finances with the Council. The Town Profit/Loss vs Budget was discussed.
- The Council discussed expenses. Outstanding customer balances were also discussed.
 - A motion was made by VM Puchalski to accept the Town Financials for May 2020 and seconded by R. Williams. A vote was taken and all approved.
- The Port of Wachapreague Profit/Loss vs Budget was discussed.
- VM Puchalski discussed the outstanding balances and collection. Income is doing well.
 - A motion was made by VM Puchalski to accept the Town Financials for May 2020 and seconded by R. Williams. A vote was taken and all approved.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. HRSD

- R. Bilicki reported USDA Grant update will be early July. It consist of 20% Hotel Feasibility Study and 80% towards the HRSD.

B. Marina

- VM Puchalski reported VPA Grant reimbursement was received.
- VM Puchalski ordered parking signs for the marina. There have been issues with parking along the dock.
- VM Puchalski reported the 2021 VPA Grant was approved.
- Clerk Wessells asked the status of the old marina. VM Puchalski stated the family has visited but nothing has been decided. She stated aqua farming has been looking at the marinas that are currently unused. A discussion ensued regarding possible uses of the waterfront properties.
- R. Bilicki discussed the possibility of a “pump and haul” for the commercial area until the HRSD has been decided. He stated VIMS would be interested in this project. He stated it could get the waterfront up and running. His information was from Cathy Plant at ACHD. Mayor Janci stated this would need to be brought up at a public hearing and emphasized as a temporary situation. Mayor Janci discussed the easement that was approved previously for the old marina. VM Puchalski stated it was too late for this project. This was to be used while the septic was been built behind the Inn.

C. Town Maintenance/Garbage (Repairs)

- D. Gouak reported the garbage truck has passed inspection for another year.
- R. Williams stated the walkway in Seaside Park was not being maintained. It needed to be weed wacked. A discussion that weed killer was not to be used because of the careless spraying on grass.
- D. Gouak was thanked for his service where this being his last meeting for the term.

D. Powell Park

- VM Puchalski stated trying to organize a cleanup soon by the USCG guys.
- R. Williams stated the sign was installed at the historic cemetery. He noted several people have commented how nice it looks.

E. Seaside Park

- Mayor Janci stated nothing new to discuss.
- VM Puchalski stated Kerry Paul was interested in giving a quote for the repair of electric for the gazebo.
- R. Williams stated the repair estimate by Big Woods was given to the Chamber of Commerce. They have paid the estimate. He recommended to have Big Woods do the repairs. The council agreed.

F. Town Beautification

- Nothing to present.

G. Tourism

- R. Bilicki stated E.S. Cruisers Car Show is scheduled for mid-July.
- R. Bilicki stated the 4th of July event will not happen this year and suggested moving the festivities to Labor Day. He suggested having the Crab Cake Cook-off at the same time. Jim Bell has offered to assist with Tourism for the town.
- R. Williams asked for a definite decision for the 4th of July. The council agreed to have nothing to celebrate the 4th of July within the Town of Wachapreague. The council asked the clerk to post on Facebook.

- R. Williams expressed concern over the lack of citizen participation in previous years for the 4th of July events.

H. Derelict Properties

- R. Bilicki stated a notice was sent concerning the trailer on Vodvarka's Fisherman's Lodge Campground. He also reported a 2nd notice was sent concerning the boats and overgrowth of grass at Fisherman's Lodge 1 Brooklyn Avenue with photos. The letter stated they have 30 days to take care of this. He stated the caretaker was cutting around debris and scrap metals was thrown into a neighbor's yard. He noted this is a danger. A timeline was discussed.
- R. Bilicki stated the Barnes' house was going up for tax auction. It was also stated other personal options with owners were being discussed.
- Clerk Wessells stated the Button house owner was contacted and called the town hall. She explained health issues preventing her traveling. She has asked for help with finding someone to get property into compliance with the ordinance. She also expressed an interest in selling the property.
- R. Bilicki reported prospective buyer's interest in buying the Riahi property on 39 Main Street and the old gas station on Main Street. There may be an interest in opening a donut shop.
- Clerk Wessells reported Front Row Properties "Parker Railway" 23 Atlantic Avenue has contacted the town hall in regards to demolishing the building. He was waiting for report stating no asbestos and then will get a demolish permit from Accomack County. He also requested a list of contractors who can do the work. He also presented a copy of the soil testing and it was negative for contaminants. He will mechanically dredge the area.
- R. Bilicki asked the status of the lot at 6 High Street "Trout" and if an invoice has been sent for cutting. Clerk Wessells confirmed the invoice was sent.
- Mayor Janci reported a complaint from Mr. Collins concerning the backside of the property at 15 Main Street. The house's wall has collapsed and was in need of immediate repairs. The property owner will be contacted by R. Bilicki.
- R. Bilicki discussed the house located at 56 Main Street. This property's back yard needs to be addressed and cleaned up.
- R. Bilicki also discussed the unfinished house on 8 Liberty Street with a travel trailer used as a residence. Mayor Janci stated the Planning Commission needs to specify the 7 Day Clause in the zoning.
- R. Bilicki stated a building permit fees need to be raised to \$250. He also suggested requiring a bond and expiration date for permit.
- D. Gouak stated the maintenance crew needs to do a walk through prior to cutting the lawn to prevent damage to mowers. It was noted the scrap metal flying across property from Fisherman's Lodge.
- Other abandoned properties were discussed.
- R. Bilicki stated Fisherman's Lodge Campground is required to have campers mobile and removed yearly for inspection per FEMA regulations. R. Bilicki inquired the number of spots rentable and income generated.

I. Safety and Security

- R. Williams reported street lights along Bayview and Center Street were replaced.

J. Zoning Administrator's Report

- Mayor Janci discussed the VIMS maintenance building zoning request was passed by the Board of Zoning Appeals. The variance was approved for the 2' freeboard.
- R. Williams stated the state is measuring traffic count around town. R. Williams contacted them concerning the Covid epidemic. The company stated it would not interfere with the count.

K. Streets and Drainage

- R. Williams reported pot holes were repaired and requested VDOT to look at Church Street road conditions. R. Bilicki stated Atlantic Avenue and Liberty Street were breaking up as well. He asked if VDOT would evaluate this areas.
- R. Williams asked when the dredging pipe was being removed. VM Puchalski stated it has already been done and Ray Normes was sending a check for reimbursement of spoil site use during the dredging.

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

- R. Williams stated the maintenance reports for Floodplain Maintenance Plan, Bi Annual Drainage Maintenance report was submitted to Clerk Wessells and awaited Mayor Janci’s signature.
- Mayor Janci asked for ditches to be cleaned near his house to prevent flooding. Clerk Wessells also reported on resident at 14 Powelton Avenue that have requested ditches cleared due to flooding. This has been passed onto JD.
- Clerk Wessells will be doing verification for CRS. She reported on process being followed. R. Williams stated the property along Atlantic Avenue (approximately 1.25 ac from South Street north to new construction) deed copy has been submitted to the town. The owners have declared restrictions that the property is to be left “green”. This will be used for the CRS scoring.
- VM Puchalski discussed clearing the south ditch along Powell Park.

M. Planning Commission

- The Planning Commission has scheduled a meeting for Monday June 15th.

N. Legal

- Nothing new to report.

VII. New Business

- R. Bilicki discussed 1 more meeting scheduled for Thursday June 25th at VIMS Seaside Hall. He needs to request any other meetings for the Town. The July 9th meeting will be scheduled for VIMS Seaside Hall. Everyone agreed.
- He also suggested moving the meetings back to Tuesdays. They were originally changed due to location restrictions for R. Bilicki. This will be discussed with the new council members.
- R. Bilicki would like an update to our website to include all the council members, duties, contact information, tax information and any other relevant information.
- Mayor Janci requested a “Thank You” letter to be sent to Dr. Snyder. Clerk Wessells will take care of this.
- R. Bilicki requested the issue of Zoning Maps be included on the next agenda. Also Town Ordinances need to be addressed.

VIII. Announcements

- Mayor Janci thanked Councilman David Gouak for his service to the Town from July 2018 – June 2020. He was awarded a plaque and his name plate.

IX. Adjournment

- Motion was made by Mayor Janci and seconded by VM Puchalski to adjourn. All approved.

MAYOR
06/11/2020

TOWN CLERK