

**TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
October 8, 2020**

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor; Robert Williams; Robert Bilicki;  
Glenn Schagelin; Margo Digan; Arthur Thornton  
**COUNCIL ABSENT:** Fred Janci, Mayor  
**TOWN CLERK:** Missy Wallace-Wessells

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

- I. **Call to Order** – Vice Mayor Puchalski called to Order the Town Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 8, 2020, in the Wachapreague Vol. Fire House in Wachapreague.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** – VM Puchalski lead the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **Public Comments** – VM Puchalski welcomed everyone and opened the floor for Public Comments.
  - Darryl Lilliston spoke about constant letters being issued to his business in regards to the noise. He is the owner and operator of Lilliston’s Seafood. The noises are the ice makers for his business. He stated per state regulations, the noise levels are well below violation levels. He stated letters have been received concerning parking in front of his business. His business has been in the town for over 25 years. He explained all the modifications made to satisfy the neighbors.
    - Councilman R. Bilicki stated there are 3 issues that the letters have been issued: The noisy icemaker; box truck not currently registered; and boats and trailers parking along Atlantic Avenue overnight. Mr. Lilliston explained these allegations are incorrect. The icemaker is not over the noisy level; the box truck is used with “farm use” tags for short distance; and the boats and trailers are always moved within 24 hours.
      - D. Lilliston noted complaints from neighbor Gene Gibson with regards to the ice makers. It was stated Mr. Gibson has agreed to pay for repair/baffle box around ice maker. Per the discussion, this should reduce the noise level. Because of Covid, the work has been delayed.
      - Also noted was the parking of boats along the Lilliston property. Mr. Lilliston stated boats belong to watermen that work for him. The boats are not in the street blocking traffic. Business has been done the same for over 25 years without any issue until now. D. Lilliston stated he does not want to argue with the council but things do not seem fair. Lance Eller with VDOT was also present to answer any questions regarding road parking.
      - Councilman R. Williams stated Lilliston’s Seafood is 1 of 2 fish houses remaining on the shore. He is 1 of 3 businesses in the town. He also noted the home owner knew this was a commercial zoned area before moving there. It needs to be a compromise.
      - Councilman R. Williams stated the ordinances are currently under review. Once they are reviewed, citizens will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes.

- VM Puchalski and Councilman R. Williams discussed the noise readings along the fish house area.
  - Councilman M. Digan suggested to talk with parties to try to remedy a solution.
- Linda Jones that Councilman R. Williams for assistance with replacing the grate in back yard. He stated VDOT has not finished yet but will soon. The grate was located over drainage line running through town.
- Aileen Joeckel questioned the “No Wake” signs along the channel. VM Puchalski stated VMRC’s mapping was registered in 1995. VM Puchalski has drafted a request to extend the “No Wake” zone to include Whileaway.
  - Mr. Steve Garvis, VMRC- explained the processes used to place signs. He stated 5 years ago it was determined the location was wrong. To correct the issue, a letter must be drafted with gps coordinates. Once approved, signs will be issued for the area.
  - VM Puchalski stated currently 3 large signs are allowed along incorporated town. Smaller signs are allowed. A new sign will be ordered.
- Aileen Joeckel stated John Joeckel sent letters to all the council concerning the Enabling Act with HRSD. She referenced Section 24 that stated HRSD has the right to decide if property owners are required to connect to the line along pipe way. She continued to explain this can be forced to the property owner without regards to wishes of property owner, town or county.
  - Councilman R. Williams asked if they have ever spoken with HRSD or VDH. She responded no. Councilman R. Williams stated he has attended all the meetings and reported on the conversation with the VDH in Accomac, VA. He was told the health departed nor HRSD will force the use of public sewage lines.
- The council reminded everyone of the 5 minute rule for open session.
- Aileen Joeckel questioned the information received during a planning commission meeting with regards to VIMS and property taxes. VM Puchalski stated VIMS pays garbage collection fees. Even though they are exempt from town taxes, the amount they pay for residential property balances out the revenue loss.
- Aileen Joeckel informed the council of workshops to get grants called Drive 2.0. These will begin in February. She will forward information to clerk.
- Chris Wardius spoke concerning the speeding along Main Street. He suggested installing led lights (red and blue) atop the speed limit sign entering town. VM Puchalski stated this has been suggested and the council is looking into this idea.

**IV. Council Meeting**

VM Puchalski asked if the minutes for September 10, 2020 were reviewed. A motion to accept minutes was made by Councilman R. Williams and seconded by Councilman M. Digan. A vote was taken and all approved.

**V. Review of Financial Report**

VM Puchalski asked if everyone had a chance to review the financials for September 2020. Clerk Wessells informed the council the investment income was not included this month. The computer system was updated and access was down. Treasurer M. Tatum will give totals next month. VM Puchalski reviewed the balance sheet.

- Clerk Wessells explained the final report for the fiscal year ending June 2020 is a long process and will be available within the next couple months.
- Councilman R. Bilicki requested explaining the outstanding balances. Clerk Wessells went through the charges.

- A motion was made by Councilman R. Bilicki and seconded by Councilman M. Digan to accept the financials for the town. A vote was taken and all approved.

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

- VM Puchalski stated marina was doing very well. She stated 1 outstanding account. He will be giving slip up.
- Councilman R. Bilicki stated B. Banning wants to sell boat for \$1. Due to Covid, he wants to someone else to be responsible. It was also discussed that all boats need insurance.
- A motion was made by Councilman A. Thornton and seconded by Council R. Williams to accept financials for the Port of Wachapreague. A vote was taken and all approved.

## **VI. Unfinished Business**

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

- Councilman R. Williams reported Judge Cooper has ruled in favor of the HRSD in Accomack County. There were 3 oppositions including John Joeckel and 2 others.
- Councilman R. Bilicki stated they are moving forward with Feasibility Study.

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

- VM Puchalski reported “No Wake” signs were installed. Drafted letter to VMRC will be sent.
- VM Puchalski reported waiting on estimates for work. She also stated this has been overall a good year.

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

- Councilman G. Schagelin reported about the agreement with the Town of Parksley during garbage day. Wachapreague helps them and they help us when needed. They have had trouble getting parts for truck.
- Councilman G. Schagelin is working on estimates for new tire for garbage truck. He is waiting on Mayor Janci for other estimates. Councilman G. Schagelin was asked about recaps. He stated recaps are noting currently available.
- Councilman G. Schagelin stated guys are doing a good job.
- Councilman M. Digan stated walkway at Seaside Park is getting overgrown. She asked for guys to edge the walkway.
- Councilman R. Bilicki stated JD Bradshaw has edged sidewalks at Town Hall. Councilman G. Schagelin will take care of it on Monday.

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

- Councilman R. Williams thanked Richie Puchalski and the USCG for taking down tree near cemetery. VM Puchalski will check out and see if Richie can take tree down. People came and got firewood.
- Councilman R. Williams stated Justin Paul will get grass seed for park.
- VM Puchalski stated due to Covid, the softball tournaments will not happen this year. Hoping for next year.

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

- Councilman M. Digan reported overgrowth of Seaside Park. She suggested removing some to better manage park.
- Councilman M. Digan thanked Richie Puchalski for constructing the Bocce Court.
- The council discussed work done recently at park and ideas for Park Cleanup. It was suggested to have kids do volunteer service hours and possible the USCG could help.

- VM Puchalski discussed a fee schedule for Seaside Park. A discussion about the fees currently set for Powell Park. It was motioned by VM Puchalski and seconded by Councilman M. Digan to incorporate the same fee schedule for Seaside Park as Powell Park. A vote was taken and all approved.
  - The fee schedule is:
    - ❖ **Residents of Wachapreague:** \$50 deposit/refundable after cleanup.
    - ❖ **Non-Residents:** \$100 for use with electric; \$25 will be refunded with cleanup. \$75 for use without electric; \$25 will be refunded with cleanup.

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

- Councilman M. Digan discussed the flower beds in front of Town Hall. She requested approval for 1.5 tons of river rock to finish beds. It will cost less than \$250. The council did not need to vote but Clerk Wessells suggested reviewing the budget. After discussion, brush truck could pick up.
- Councilman M. Digan asked if maintenance guys can repaint table outside town hall.
- Councilman M. Digan stated due to water quality, Councilman R. Bilicki approved the use of water from home.
- Clerk Wessells explained the condition of the water at town hall. The water is not drinkable and the shallow well only has approximately 5 gallons before dry. She explained previous councils discussed restarting the well at Seaside Park and running line over to town hall. It was too expensive at time.
- Councilman M. Digan asked about town hall flag. It was discussed the cables are at top and unable to retrieve easily. Councilman G. Schagelin will check.
- A discussion ensued of a Wachapreague flag design. It was suggested a mermaid holding a flounder.
- Councilman M. Digan requested purchasing blonde mulch at the Wachapreague Sign. She stated 3 bags will do.

#### **G. Tourism**

- Clerk Wessells asked council's opinion about "Trick or Treat" this year. After a discussion, it was decided to not advertise but allow citizens to decide. Linda Jones stated speaking with Mayor Janci about anyone wishing can do so.

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

- Councilman R. Bilicki discussed derelict properties. He presented list and progress of properties.
  - Parker Railway – Steve Joseph has raised; dock will be next
  - Gazelle – R. Williams sent letter; concern with porch and roof
  - Birdnest/Carr Property – will call building inspector
  - Vodvarka Campground – meeting with FEMA tomorrow. Trailer unable to move
  - Button – Owner has made contact after letter; interested in selling
  - Barnes – Up for auction; R. Bilicki will contact county for date

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

- Councilman R. Williams requested to stay alert about Covid.
- Councilman R. Williams stated town cannot afford police. He has asked everyone to be observant of speed.
- R. Williams stated planning a meeting with Chris Isdell from VDOT. He plans to discuss the possibility of speed control and crossing walks for the citizens. A discussion ensued of possible solutions to improve these issues.
- Councilman A. Thornton suggested rumble strips. It was explained these were denied by VDOT. He explained speeders come from both direction.
- Councilman M. Digan discussed the problem with speeding along Park Avenue. She requested installing a stop sign.

**J. Zoning Administrator's Report**

- Mayor Janci was not present to report.

**K. Streets and Drainage**

- Councilman R. Williams discussed the culvert box at Jones' property on Main Street. VDOT will be to finish the repair.
- During a meeting with VDOT Councilman R. Williams was told streets in Wachapreague are scheduled for repaving in 2021.
- VDOT will be repairing the pipe and road located near intersection of South Street and Atlantic Avenue.
- A discussion ensued concerning a needed stop sign at the intersection of West Street and Park Avenue. Other street signs were discussed needing repairs or replacing.

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

- Clerk Wessells gave report on progress of verification for CRS. She stated paperwork is still being turned in but hopes to lower level to 7 or 6. She explained it was a lot of work but hoping to save the property owners some money on flood insurance.
- Councilman R. Bilicki discussed ways to prevent flooding such as ditch clearing. He asked if the fire company can flush ditch line. Councilman R. Williams stated what was needed was more than what a small town should be required.

**M. Planning Commission**

- Councilman M. Digan the Planning Commission has not met recently. They have a meeting scheduled next Wednesday at 6 pm.

**VII. New Business**

- Councilman M. Digan discussed the situation of people using the tennis court for basketball. She explained council has spoken to them and notices have been installed. She complained about the music booming. She went to neighbors asking opinions and read all comments to council. These comments included everything from leaving alone to shutting down and locking gate. The only complains reported were from basketball players. She stated pickle ball players were not an issue. Councilman M. Digan complained about music and language. She stated the citizens have spoken and need to be heard.
  - Councilman R. Bilicki stated everyone knew this is a park. The citizens know there will be noise. He suggested having a public hearing and have all parties come together to discuss the issues.
  - It was noted that since being spoken to, people have quieted down. There have been no issues since.
  - A discussion ensued and decided to give warning court will be locked if behavior continues. VM Puchalski suggested giving a month to see what happens.
- Councilman R. Bilicki wanted to report the property at 1 Custis Street has made progress on cleaning up property.
- Councilman M. Digan was interested in developing a Historic District within Wachapreague. Jim Bell explained the benefits of having a district. A packet will be prepared for the next meeting. Jim Bell will be presented as a guest speaker next month.

**VIII. Announcements**

- Councilman R. Williams announced the fundraiser for the Wachapreague Volunteer Fire Company. Each of the Town Council members will go door to door to collect. It was explained the fire company lost income because not being able to have carnival. Jack Sherman spoke in favor of helping the company. Councilman A. Thornton explained the requirements to volunteer and the hours dedicated. Clerk Wessells explained the expense of keeping a volunteer company operational.

**IX. Adjournment**

- Motion was made by VM Puchalski and seconded by Councilman G. Schagelin to adjourn. All approved.

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MAYOR  
10/08/2020

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TOWN CLERK