

**TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
September 10, 2020**

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Fred Janci, Mayor; Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor; Robert Williams;  
Robert Bilicki; Glenn Schagelin; Margo Digan  
**COUNCIL ABSENT:** Arthur Thornton  
**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, September 10, 2020, in the Wachapreague Vol. Fire House 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.
  - Bonnie Hill spoke concerning the issue with snakes in her yard. She believes they are coming from overgrowth at a neighbor’s yard located between 1 and 3 Custis Street. Mayor Janci explained the town is unable to force a property owner to remove landscaping. It is unsure if this area is considered overgrowth or landscaped.
    - R. Bilicki stated the ordinances need to be updated for these issues. The council discussed if this is a violation of the ordinances.
    - A. Joeckel stated the ordinances have no “teeth” to force the property owner to remove overgrowth. She also stated this is a safety concern for vermin and rats.
    - R. Bilicki will take care of looking into this matter.
  - The old Parker Railway was discussed. Clerk Wessells stated owner was looking for someone to demo the building. The owner has been trying to find someone to do this. R. Williams stated enough time has been given to remove building. A discussion ensued concerning how ordinances need to be updated.
  - Linda Jones asked about the town yard sale. It was scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of the 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - The new Wachapreague sign to be located along Lankford Highway and Wachapreague Road was asked about. R. Bilicki stated a request was submitted for the waiving of fees. Sign is projected to be installed in next few months.
  - A. Joeckel asked when “No Wake” signs will be installed. VM Puchalski stated they have been installed and explained where they were located. A discussion ensued concerning locations. VM Puchalski will order smaller ones for property owners.
  - A. Joeckel informed the council that the Eastern Shore Visitors guide was inserted in the Virginia Pilot and lots of other advertising in other areas. She explained this should be a good shoulder season for our area.
    - Some of the ads included waterway trail promotions. She stated there were currently 6 trails.
    - Wachapreague will be promoted in these trails to include sunrises and sunsets.

#### IV. Council Meeting

Fred Janci, Mayor asked if the minutes for August 13, 2020 were reviewed. A motion to accept minutes was made by R. Bilicki and seconded by M. Digan. A vote was taken and all approved.

- R. Bilicki requested a copy of last meeting minutes. He will forward them to Nature Conservancy to show the council was in favor of bird watching observation deck to be located along Atlantic Avenue south.
- R. Williams also asked if Mayor Janci signed the Drainage Maintenance Plan. It has been approved.

#### V. Review of Financial Report

Mayor Janci asked if everyone had a chance to review the financials for August 2020. Mayor Janci began with Town of Wachapreague Profit/Loss vs Budget.

- M. Digan questioned the refunded business license fee. Clerk Wessells explained this was for the denied transient rental application for the property located on High Street.
- M. Digan also questioned the Zoning Permits. Mayor Janci stated the fee was for multiple applications.
- Clerk Wessells reviewed the outstanding balances and status.
- Mayor Janci reviewed the financials with the council. It was reported the revenue is better than anticipated due to Covid 19.
- A motion was made by R. Williams and seconded by VM Puchalski to accept the financials for the town. 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. He stated that revenue was also up.
- VM Puchalski stated marina was doing very well. She stated another transient slip rental check was expected from dredging company.
- R. Bilicki questioned situation with Banning's boat. VM Puchalski reported boat has issues and owner plans to pull boat. He has outstanding balance but plans to give slip up. VM Puchalski will prorate for unused months.
- VM Puchalski reported Ray Normes Dredging has not issued check for spoil site usage. She will contact him.
- A motion was made by VM Puchalski and seconded by M. Digan to accept financials for the Port of Wachapreague. A vote was taken and all approved.

#### VI. Unfinished Business

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

- R. Bilicki reported the ANPC will be sending RFP's (request for proposals) out by Friday to qualifying businesses. This will be for the hotel and sewage projects.

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

- VM Puchalski reported "No Wake" signs were installed. She will be ordering smaller ones.
- VM Puchalski reported channel dredging should be completed by next week.
- M. Digan thanked VM Puchalski for installing the signs. Kayakers appreciate these signs.
- R. Bilicki wanted to recognize John Joeckel. He was instrumental in writing the grant to get funding for the channel dredging. A. Joeckel stated it was a \$1.8 million dollar grant. The Town Council sent their thanks for this project.

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

- G. Schagelin reported they were able to get all the brush removed.
- Clerk Wessells wanted to recognize the maintenance crew for putting up flags and trimming Seaside Park at the last minute for the Chamber's Surf and Turf event.
- G. Schagelin stated the garbage truck needs new tires. He will get tire size for Mayor Janci.
- R. Bilicki stated the town's tractor needs maintenance including oil change. VM Puchalski will ask Richie to do this.
- G. Schagelin reported a second tire was replaced on the brush truck. He was not sure how the damage happened.
- VM Puchalski reported VIMS may be auctioning off S10 truck. She will check into this to replace the town F150 truck.
- The F150 was taken to Colona's to bleed clutch.
- Jack Sherman informed the council about possible garbage trucks for sale. Mayor Janci explained the town is looking but need a certain size and price. He will pass on contact info.
- Clerk Wessells informed council about possible Block Grant availability. A. Joeckel explained Cape Charles recently was awarded over \$800,000. Clerk Wessells asked if the grant could be used to assist with sewage. R. Bilicki will check more into this.

### **D. Powell Park**

- VM Puchalski purchased signs for rules to be posted for users of the tennis/basketball court. It has been reported foul language and aggressive behaviors have been exhibited.
- R. Williams reported tree uprooted near cemetery. VM Puchalski will check out and see if Richie can take tree down.

### **E. Seaside Park**

- R. Williams marked power line for Chamber's event being held tomorrow.
  - VM Puchalski stated Chamber was unable to reserve tickets, at discounted price, for the Town Council due to gathering restrictions. The Town does not currently charge and uses electricity provided by the Town. The Council wants the Chamber to consider giving tickets to their members. Mayor Janci stated the council members should be included in these types of events.
- VM Puchalski suggested consideration of a fee schedule for the park. It was noted Powell Park charges a fee. Consider group size; resident; electricity use.

### **F. Town Beautification**

- M. Digan asked about trash can for Powell Park. She will purchase for park.
- M. Digan requested mulch for beds. She stated 3 will do. Clerk Wessells will get.
- M. Digan asked about sign at town entrance. R. Bilicki stated an estimate was received by ES Signs. He will forward to Clerk Wessells.
- M. Digan asked about town hall front beds. A decision to have her take care of planting. VM Puchalski volunteered to help pick something out at Hortco.
- R. Bilicki reported town sign has been delivered. G. Schagelin volunteer to install on outside of town hall.
- Randy Lewis volunteered his property as site for town's sign along Lankford Highway. R. Bilicki stated property belongs to railway. Eastern Shore Railway and VDOT approved area with no rental fee. R. Lewis was thanked for his offer and this was planned some time ago.

### **G. Tourism**

- R. Bilicki reported this is a low impact area. Chamber will host event tomorrow.
- It has not been determined if the Island House will host the Oyster Roast this year due to Covid 19.
- R. Bilicki is working with Nature Conservancy's construction of bird watching deck. He will keep council updated on progress.

### **H. Derelict Properties**

- R. Bilicki discussed derelict properties. He presented list and progress of properties.
  - Vodvarka Campground – Letters, FEMA regulations
  - Birdnest/Carr Property – Demo done but back wall unfinished
  - Trout/Brown – Sending another letter; will include on tax bill
  - Button – Owner has made contact after letter; interested in selling
  - Gazelle – R. Williams sent letter; concern with porch and roof
  - Barnes – Up for auction; R. Bilicki will contact county for date
  - Bragg – Overgrowth; Feral cats; Contact needed for cleanup
- Permits need expiration and bonds for constructions. This will need to be reviewed.
- R. Bilicki discussed issue with Lilliston Seafood and G. Gibson concerning excessive noise. G. Gibson has offered to pay to place buffer to minimize noise. VM Puchalski reported testing noise level and stated well within legal limits for area.
  - Mayor Janci discussed the big truck with expired tags of 2016 being stored along Atlantic Avenue. Also discussed were crab pots stored on side of street; forklift with broken muffler; and overnight parking of boat and trailers.
- Mayor Janci asked for input for changing town ordinance to allow overnight boat and trailer parking with restrictions. A discussion ensued and topic will be brought up next meeting.

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

- R. Williams reported street lights have been replaced.
- G. Schagelin expressed concern over excessive speeding along Main Street and other streets in town.
  - M. Digan respond with ideas presented to Planning Commission. She stated placing more speed signs along roads. She also stated the Planning Commission was in favor of solar power radar speed sign being purchased.
- 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. M. Digan is involved with 5 year Town Comprehensive Plan dealing with safety.
- A discussion of possible grants were discussed including hiring a town enforcement officer. The expenses were discussed and it was decided penalties need to be enforced.
- It was suggested to check the website [www.dhcd.virginia.gov/housing](http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/housing). This grant offers \$500K and requires a 1 page proposal.

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

- Mayor Janci report on permits submitted for approval. He noted 1 has been approved; 1 will be denied due to set backs; and 1 will be researched due to the free board requirement on an addition to an existing house.
- M. Digan questioned the situation of the property located along South Street and High Street. Clerk Wessells reported the business license was denied and the owners were informed how to apply for a special use permit or rezoning of their property. She stated the house was still rented. This will be checked into.

- Mayor Janci suggested setting special meetings to work on ordinances, one at a time. It was agreed Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the firehouse upstairs. After the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, a schedule will be set for future meetings. The meetings will be posted 3 days ahead of each meeting.

**K. Streets and Drainage**

- R. Williams discussed the progress with trying to get permission to access the Mapp Property across from south ditch.
- R. Williams is having pot holes repaired and checking on signs with wrong names.

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

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

**M. Planning Commission**

- M. Digan reported on progress of the Wachapreague 5 Year Comprehensive Plan. The committee has working on strategies and goals. They have completed 3 of 6 objectives.

**N. Legal**

- Clerk Wessells reported on the CARE Grant process. She reminded the funds are available and asked to pass the work around to all the businesses in town. The Town is encouraging everyone to participate if they have direct expenses related to the COVID.
- R. Bilicki discussed the fundraising event to support the Wachapreague Volunteer Fire Company. Last meeting several ideas were suggested. R. Williams asked if fire boots can be used to set up boot collections at Island House and Wachapreague Inn. Mayor Janci suggested doing a boot drive at the beginning of town limits or at the highway. It was discussed this could be a danger. M. Digan and R. Williams will head up the fundraising event for the month of October 2020.

**VII. New Business**

**VIII. Announcements**

- Nothing new to report.

**IX. Adjournment**

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

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MAYOR  
09/10/2020

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TOWN CLERK