



Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting Tuesday, February 17, 2015

1. Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Krause called the February 17, 2015 Regular Town Council Meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Slaughter Beach Memorial Volunteer Fire Company. Council members present were Mayor Bill Krause, Treasurer Jackson Gingrich, Secretary Glenn Stieffenhofer, and Councilperson Kathleen Lock. Vice Mayor Amy Parker was absent. Community members in attendance are shown on the attached sign-in sheet.

2. Welcome and Announcements

Mayor Krause welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked them for coming to the meeting.

3. Approval of the February 17, 2015 Regular Town Meeting Agenda

Motion: A motion was made by Jackson Gingrich to approve the February 17, 2015 meeting agenda. Glenn Stieffenhofer seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously, 4 – 0.**

4. Approval of the January 12, 2015 Regular Town Meeting Minutes

Motion: A motion was made by Kathleen Lock to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2015 regular Town Meeting. Jackson Gingrich seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously, 4 – 0.**

5. Approval of the January 19, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion: A motion was made by Jackson Gingrich to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2015 Special Meeting. Kathleen Lock seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously, 4 – 0.**

6. Britt Deese, Memorial Fire Department – "Knox Box" Presentation

Britt Deese did not attend the meeting. The Knox Rapid Entry System is specifically designed for firefighters and first responders to gain access to properties in the event of an emergency. Property owners store entrance keys in a high-security Knox-Box key box mounted near their entrance door and with one master key, the first responders can gain access to the property. More information about Knox Box will be put on the Town website.

7. Reading of Correspondence

- a. *Email – Regarding the Governor's proposed budget cuts that include a reduction in the Municipal Street Aid Fund from \$5 million to \$3 million, which is reflected in the Bond Bill. In addition, legislators CTF funds are cut from \$16,750,000 to \$8,375,000. Mayor Krause will work with Kathleen Lock to draft a letter to our Representatives, Senators, and the Bond Bill Committee members to express the critical value of this funding source and how any reduction will impair our street improvements and operations. Resident Bill McSpadden suggested that we mention the initiatives that the State is supporting including the possibility of the Bayshore Byway that will be bringing tourists into Slaughter Beach and using the Town roads – effectively, they are pushing people into Town and then taking money away that would support this initiative.*
- b. *Phone call from Diane Hanson, Mayor of Dewey Beach – She called Mayor Krause to congratulate the Town on our Wildlife Certification efforts. She said she saw the information on our website and in a press release. Mayor Krause thanked Bill McSpadden for leading this effort.*

- c. Bob Ehemann, Grant Coordinator for DNRECs Division of Parks and Rec, sent a check for the court resurfacing project matching funds in the amount of \$14,712.50.

8. Reports

a. Treasurer

i. Treasurer's Report

Jackson Gingrich distributed the restated December 2014 Treasurer's Report that reflects a bank charge that was omitted from the report last month and then presented the January 1 – 31, 2015 Treasurer's Report. For January 2015, the General Fund had deposits of \$6,182.80 and expenses of \$7,055.62 leaving an ending balance of \$31,104.52. The Municipal Street Aid Fund had no deposits and expenses of \$415.41 leaving an ending balance of \$11,345.27. The Realty Transfer Tax Account had deposits of \$15,776.62 and expenses of \$8,868.27 leaving an ending balance (including CD) of \$503,070.15. Summing the above, the Town's total ending cash balance as of January 31, 2015 was \$545,519.94. The detailed Treasurer's Reports are posted on the Town website under the Town Council tab at <http://slaughterbeach.delaware.gov/town-council/financial-reports/>.

Motion: A motion was made by Kathleen Lock to approve the January 1 - 31, 2015 Treasurer Report subject to audit. Glenn Stieffenhofer seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously, 4 – 0.**

ii. Finance Committee – Budget Update

No update this month. We will like give quarterly updates.

iii. Update on the switch of the Town payroll to be IRS compliant

This is now a closed item. The bookkeeper is issuing all of the General Fund checks.

b. Building Inspector/Floodplain Manager

Jackson Gingrich reported for Building Inspector Bob Clendaniel who was not at the meeting. The Building Inspector has prepared two reports; the first report is for his BI duties combined with his work to prepare for and attend the Zoning Ordinance public hearing, while the second report is for meeting with FEMA and preparation and attendance at the Flood Plain Ordinance public hearing. A total of 10 hours were accounted for in January 2015 and one permit was issued for \$75.00. The detailed Building Inspector's Reports are posted on the Town website under the Town Council tab at <http://slaughterbeach.delaware.gov/town-council/financial-reports/>.

c. Tax Collector

Jackson Gingrich reported for Tax Collector Angela Tibbitt. He presented the reports for December 2014 and January 2015.

The December Tax Collector's Report indicated the beginning bank balance on December 1, 2014 was \$4,225.98. After deposits of \$822.45, and a check issued in the amount of \$4,000.00, the ending balance on December 31, 2014 was \$1,048.43. The total 2014 tax billing to owners is \$68,495.76 of which \$67,088.22 was received through December 31, 2014. With 2013 overpayments applied to 2014, late fees received, and prior years taxes collected, the balance of 2014 tax billings is \$67,636.51. The 2014 tax billings receivables are \$1,143.41. We also have past due tax billing receivables for prior years in the amount of \$624.43.

The January Tax Collector's Report indicated the beginning bank balance on January 1, 2015 was \$1,048.43. There were no deposits and no checks issued. The total 2014 tax billing to owners is \$68,495.76 of which \$67,106.97 was received through January 31, 2015. With 2013 overpayments applied to 2014, late fees received, and prior years taxes collected, the balance of 2014 tax billings is \$67,656.02.

A \$45.00 adjustment for an uncollectible account leaves the 2034 tax billings receivables balance at \$1,079.66. We also have past due tax billing receivables for prior years in the amount of \$457.63 after an adjustment of \$166.80 for an uncollectible account.

d. Town Street Committee

No report.

e. Mayoral and Council Updates

i. Update on DNREC Beach Protection and Regulations Meeting

Jackson Gingrich attended the meeting held in Lewes on January 30, 2015. This presentation was similar to the public workshop held in Slaughter Beach on October 31, 2014, but was specifically tailored to mayors, town managers, design professionals and builders, and realtors. The presentation included an overview of the regulation development process and the current regulations governing beach protection and the use of beaches. The discussion also included administrative principles, prohibitive activities, activities requiring permits/approvals, procedures for processing permits, appeals, cease and desist, and procedures for adoption. Mr. Gingrich said there was one singular theme in the presentation - the regulations haven't really changed, but DNREC plans to enforce the ones they have.

Mr. Gingrich added that Governor Markell's budget came out yesterday, and according to Tony Pratt from DNREC, there is no money for replenishing Slaughter Beach (or any other Bay beach) in the budget for FY16, though the legislature could change this if they so desire. He stated that planting beach grass will now be worth doing and will be coordinated between Jennifer Luoma and Bill McSpadden. According to DNREC, we should also be getting (on our own) Coastal Panic Grass for planting behind the dunes to prevent vacant area takeover by the invasive Japanese dune grass (the short curly grass).

ii. CAV – Report on Conference Call

Conference call took place on January 16, 2015. We are down to the last two items and Darlene Messina was complimentary on our progress. We also need to finish the filing program and data we find should be kept in the individual folders for each property.

iii. Synopsis of January 19, 2015 Public Meeting

We knocked off all the topics we had and all in all it was a very productive meeting.

iv. PHNWR Letter of Support on Fixing Breaches

Mayor Krause reported that Vice Mayor Amy Parker wrote a letter of support to DNREC on fixing the breaches. Bill McSpadden stated that we should also anticipate writing a similar letter of support to the federal government once the state permitting is completed.

Residents of Slaughter Beach can show their support of this project by submitting comments to: Delaware Coastal Programs, Ms. Sarah W. Cooksey, Administrator, 5 E. Reed Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901.

v. NWF for Community Wildlife Habitat

Slaughter Beach has been registered by The National Wildlife Federation as a Community Wildlife Habitat. The next step is to achieve all of the required goals for certification.

9. Old Business

a. Grants

i. Wastewater Management Feasibility Study Grant

No update.

ii. Sea Level Rise Grant

We received checks from the Hendricks and Tucker, which were deposited into an escrow account. There will be a kickoff meeting held with DEMA/FEMA and Sussex County on either March 2nd or March 4th.

iii. Building for Sustainable Communities Grant

No update.

iv. Sussex County Shared Safety Grant

Amy Parker reported via email that the Sussex County Shared Grant (for last season) will be finalized when Dean Hazzard buys the solar security lights for the public bathroom area and installs it. She will then submit receipts to Sussex County. She indicated that we should apply for the new grant in April or May 2015.

Mayor Krause said we would work on the possible uses for new grant funds over the next month.

v. Town Park

As previously reported, the warranty claim work was put off until about April or when the weather warms up. We received the matching funds for the grant for the park improvements.

vi. Sussex County \$10,000 Development Grant

Residents were sent an email asking for input on ideas to use the Sussex County 2015 Economic Development and Infrastructure Grant. Some suggestions included:

- *Cameras throughout Town that could be viewed on the web to monitor weather, traffic, and safety*
- *Community WI-FI signal*
- *A walkway into the wetlands*
- *Group discounts for heating, oil, and propane; septic clean out; discount club memberships, or other group buying opportunities*
- *The new sewer system*
- *Give the money back to the taxpayers*
- *Design and install standardized entry barricade structures for all town roads with public beach access with appropriate signage of expectations*
- *Design and install Slaughter Beach banners for utility poles*
- *Rake the beach to clear trash and brown sediments*
- *Widen road drainage to help reduce road flooding*
- *Public compost site for yard waste*
- *Solar lights for light poles*
- *Public swimming pool*
- *Return of the larger recycling bins in a common space*
- *Additional playground equipment*
- *Tee shirts with Slaughter Beach logo*
- *Welcome sign with a horseshoe (crab)*
- *Update the Fire/EMS company communications or equipment*
- *Update any part of the existing infrastructure that is in need; perhaps the bridge*
- *New park benches*

- *Speed bumps*
- *Seasonal decorations*
- *Decorate light and phone poles with flowers*
- *Outdoor fitness equipment*
- *Interactive water feature for kids*
- *Bring back the fireworks*
- *Bandstand/stage for summer concerts and events*
- *Prepay the Delaware Launch Service for road maintenance*
- *Osprey nests*
- *Enhance interpretive signs*
- *Boardwalk on Marvel Tract*
- *Observation Tower for birding*

Motion: Kathleen Lock motioned to get costing for and approve the expansion of the scope of the forthcoming Bayshore Initiative interpretive signs for the pavilion area, landscaping to make it attractive, and osprey nests. Jackson Gingrich seconded. **Motion carried, 4-0.**

b. CLUP – Discussion and Vote to Approve Amendment to “Slaughter Beach Comprehensive Land Use Plan – 2014”

Motion: Kathleen Lock motioned to approve the amendment to the “Slaughter Beach Comprehensive Land Use Plan – 2014”. Jackson Gingrich seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously, 4 – 0.**

c. Job Descriptions

No update.

d. Snow Plowing

Mayor Krause stated that he felt the snow plowing went well. The only street he saw that were not done was a little strip by Simpson up towards the wharf. Kathleen Lock mentioned that she didn’t even see the State plows come though. Harry Ward said that he thought the Fire Department did most of it and he was very pleased.

e. SBZO and New Zoning Map

This is a closed item; approved at the January 19, 2015 public meeting.

f. Update on Flood Plain Ordinance (FPO)

This is a closed item; approved at the January 19, 2015 public meeting. Submitted to DNREC and then on to FEMA for final approval by the March 16, 2015 deadline.

g. Voting Procedures

Mayor Krause suggested we have a meeting at 6pm on March 9, 2015 to discuss voting procedures. Mayor Krause will run the meeting unless a committee chair is identified prior to the meeting.

10. New Business

a. Discussion and vote to approve pay increase for Dean Hazzard (Maintenance)

Motion: Kathleen Lock made a motion to Increase Dean Hazzard’s pay rate by \$2.00 per hour. Jackson Gingrich seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously, 4 – 0.**

b. Town Newsletter

Mayor Krause suggested Amy Parker serve as the editor for the newsletter again this year.

11. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

12. Upcoming Events

a. Voting Procedures Meeting, Monday, March 9, 2015 at 6 PM

b. Town Council, Monday, March 9, 2015 at 7 PM

13. Adjournment

Motion: A motion was made by Jackson Gingrich to adjourn the meeting. Kathleen Lock seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously, 4 – 0. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Stieffenhofer

**Glenn Stieffenhofer
Secretary**

