



## Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting

November 12, 2018

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm in the upstairs meeting room of the Slaughter Beach Memorial Fire Company by Mayor Harry Ward. Council members present Ken Lewis, Bob Wood, Kathy Lock and Rebecca Craft were present. Community members in attendance are shown on the attached sign-in sheet.

### 2. Welcome and announcements

Mayor Ward welcomed members of the community to the meeting.

### 3. Approval of the October 8, 2018 meeting minutes

A motion was made by Ken Lewis to approve the October 8, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Bob Wood. **The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.**

### 4. Approval of the November 12, 2018 meeting agenda

A motion was made by Kathy Lock to approve the November 12, 2018 meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Ken Lewis. **The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.**

### 5. Correspondence

The Mayor discussed correspondence received regarding a deer that was caught on the basketball. The sender requested that a gate be used to control access in order to avoid this from occurring again. Since this has never happened before and since it was determined that the deer was able to get out of the situation without harm, it was decided that no action would be taken. DELDOT was called about removal of a deer that was killed by the side of the road that was unrelated to this event.

A second email was received asking if anything could be done to control speeders on the north end of the beach. The decision was made that the speed control sign would be moved to the north end of town to see if that made an impact.

A resident sent an email to the Mayor asking to start a discussion about a fundraising horseback event on the beach next fall. Funds would go to an equine rescue. Any approval would require the group to clean up the beach after the ride, that there be no dune crossings

by the animals and that riders would maintain control over the horses. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the idea was worth additional discussion. Harry will discuss with the resident and request a formal request to go before the council in a future meeting.

## 6. Reports

### a. Treasurer Report

The September Treasurer's report was provided to members of the council in advance of the meeting and reviewed by Kathy Lock during the meeting. A motion was made by Rebecca Craft to accept the October Treasurer's report, subject to audit. The motion was seconded by Ken Lewis. **The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.**

### a. Building and Enforcement Officer/Floodplain Administration Report

Hard copies of Mr. Clendaniel's report were provided to members of the council in advance of the meeting. A hard copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

### b. Tax Collector Report

Hard copies of the Tax Collector's report were provided to members of the council in advance of the meeting. A hard copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

### c. Town Street Committee Report

Mr. Dalton reported that the pavilion has been winterized and will reopen on April 1, 2019.

A bid was received from Jerry's Paving at a cost equal to last year's pricing. \$1200 has been budget and will be used as needed. Six inches of snow must have fallen before he will be called.

### d. Mayor/Council Member Updates

- i. Bob Wood noted that he is attending SCAT meetings, as he is able. There have been two in the last month including one with legislators.
- ii. Mayor Ward attended the Association of Beach Communities (ABC) meeting and the Association of Coastal Towns (ACT) meeting with Jim Bailey from Primehook. The purpose was to become familiar with the relationship between the two organizations and to discuss replenishment opportunities and to build relationships with state and federal agencies.
- iii. Conversations began with Secretary Garvin at the Boardwalk Ribbon Cutting related to looking at issues about the beachfront and the need for replenishment. Mayor Ward will follow-up. Discussion will have to be had with the Congressional delegation, but the state will also have to contribute to any costs.
- iv. Council members Lock and Craft, along with Mayor Ward and Bill McSpadden will be attending the Resilient and Communities League (RASCL) summit on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

- v. ACT indicated that they received good feedback related to Coast Day participation.
- vi. Kathy Lock suggested it may be time to consider salary increases for the town's employees since none have been received in several years. This will be added to the December agenda for discussion.

7. Old Business

a. Sand on the Beach

No major updates since the last Council meeting. The primary contact may have retired so Bob will research to determine who the new contact is.

b. Grant Updates

- i. Wastewater Grant – The professional engineering reports are 95% complete. Once complete they will be resubmitted in coordination with the Environment report (which is 50% complete). They have been sent for comments. Archeological comments are anticipated. Submission is planned for the end of November.
- ii. Water – A letter is needed but the report is 75% complete. USDA requires a contact person from Artesian be included. Submission is planned for the end of November
- iii. Boardwalk – DelDOT has requested that the project designed manage the construction, with the Town acting as the fiscal agent. Funds from the State will pass through at no cost to the Town. The agreement will include a clause to indemnify the Town in the event of damages. Funds are coming from TAP for this contract. Kathy Lock made a motion to accept LAS as the construction management and oversight at a cost not to exceed \$17,500. Becky Craft seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

The boardwalk groundbreaking went off as scheduled with 110-120 people in attendance. Staff from the Federal Highway Administration were impressed with the ceremony and beach involvement.

iv. University of Delaware Projects

- 1. Hydrology Study – Final negotiations between DEMA and the contractor are being completed. This project involves how water moves in the marshes and how that impacts flooding. The study will be ongoing throughout the next few months.
- 2. Landscape Architecture Design – No update.
- 3. Comcast Agreement – Negotiations continue between the town attorney and Comcast. The agreement, when reached will be non-bind should another provider come into town. The agreement is due in January 2019. A motion was made by Kathy Lock to accept the agreement with Comcast, as negotiated by Barrett Edwards.

The motion was seconded by Ken Lewis. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

## 8. New Business

- a. Emergency Operations Plan Update – The document has been submitted to review to DEMA and returned with comments/recommendations. Becky Craft will make the needed revisions and submit to the council prior to the next meeting. The subject will be added to the December agenda for additional discussion.
- b. Town Code Review – Sections of the Town Code are not online at the present time and need review prior to doing so. Kathy Lock has typed the document (which was previously only available in hard copy). Members of the council will review and make recommendations for revisions. These revisions will be presented to the Town attorney. Some areas of concern discussed included, building codes as they relate to garrows and how to enforce any of the sections that require such enforcement. The current Code, last revised in 2014, includes sections that are incomplete. Any updates need to take into account overlap with the Sussex County Code, ICBM, and State law. The goal is to get the entire Town Code online and easily accessible. Public hearings will ultimately be scheduled to include community input.
- c. CRS – Bob will discuss with Bob Clendaniel and report back at the next Council meeting
- d. I. G. Burton Bill/Sussex County Council - Kathy reported that Mr. Burton has submitted a bill to change zoning east of Route 1 to Low Density, for the purposes of conservation and agricultural uses. There will be opportunity for public comment. This change fits in with our CLUP recommendations.
- e. Greenhead 5K – The second annual run is scheduled to run on Sunday, May 5, 2019 with the Town hosting the event. A discussion was held wherein it was decided that 100% of the 2019 run will be donated to the Memorial Fire Company. The Mayor recommended that members of the company be made aware that fund recipients will be determined on an annual basis and that there is no guarantee that it will always be donated to the fire company. Fundraising will be started in January with Kathy and Bob leading the efforts, as they did last year. Dogfish Head has agreed to participate again this year and seem to be excited that the run will be held on Cinco de Mayo.
- f. FOIA Training – Bob Wood advised that he has attended annual FOIA training and will keep the council updated of any changes, if any occur.

## 9. Open Forum Discussion

Mayor Ward shared that Readers Digest published a short article online that named Slaughter Beach as Delaware's Best Kept Secret, with a link to the website.

Jackson Gingrich raised a question about an article he read about an oyster colony being set up off shore at Dewey Beach. Mayor Ward indicated he would follow-up at the next ACT meeting to see if anyone was familiar with this potential project.

Mayor Ward reported that the flood signage was close to being turned on and that DELDOT appears to have enough data to ensure the signs will signal when flooding has occurred on the roadways into Slaughter Beach.

Members of the community suggested the Town look into an additional security camera when the new boardwalk is completed.

Jackson Gingrich mentioned an article in the 11/9/18 Cape Gazette that seemed to indicate that an agreement had been signed for ocean beach replenishment, and how the town might want to start building relationships to ensure that Slaughter Beach also be considered in any replenishment projects. Mayor Ward indicated that no PPA has been signed and that article mis-stated the status.

Bob Wood will contact the beach grass supplier for the 2019 planting.

A dead Atlantic Sturgeon was found on the beach. This fish was thought to be extinct, so it is going to be sent to a DNREC lab.

Next Town Council Meeting: Monday, December 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Kathy Lock made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37pm. The motion was seconded by Ken Lewis. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.