

Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting Saturday, June 1, 2019

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:04AM in the upstairs meeting room of the Slaughter Beach Memorial Volunteer Fire Company by Vice Mayor Ken Lewis. Council members present were Rebecca Craft, Ken Kathleen Lock and Bob Wood. Community members in attendance are shown on the attached sign-in sheet.

2. Welcoming & Announcements

Vice Mayor Lewis thanked those in attendance and proceeded with the update of annual events.

3. Election

Notification was provided that there would be no election this year since there were only two candidates who filed for the two positions available.

4. Finance

At the end of April, the town had \$749,835 cas on hand in the various accounts. Approx. \$600,000 was restricted RTI funds for infrastructure and public safety use only. We are running close to budget this year.

A question was asked about public safety on the beach. Ms. Lock advised that we contract with off-duty members of the Delaware State Police to provide speed control on an annual basis.

Out tax base this year is \$71,561, including trash and recycling. Approx. \$70,000 has been received.

5. Trash

Bids were sent to 5 providers with only three sending in bids. The status will be updated at the regular town meeting on June 10th. The garden waste pickup was so successful, we will host a second on June 15th at Cedar Avenue.

6. Community Networking

Members of the town council continue to work with area organizations to enhance our visibility in the beach community: RASCL, SCAT, ABC, ACT. We have developed a consultancy relationship with Tony Pratt to have the Town's voice heard on matters related to beach replenishment and inlet restoration.

The Council continues to communicate with the Army Corp of Engineers as it relates to the Philaport dredge project. No funds for the project are included in the President's budget but we are communicating with our elected officials to be included in any beach replenishment projects that may result from the dredging.

We continue to communicate regularly with the Memorial Fire Company, DE Bay Launch Service, DNC, DNS, as well as Sussex County

7. Grants

Numerous projects continue to be funded by state and federal grants obtained by the Council.

8. Renovations

The Town is continuing regular maintenance and repair to the pavilion, bathrooms, and recreational equipment located in the parking lot across from the fire station. Roof repairs will be made to the pavilion, the bathrooms have been painted and new signage has been completed.

9. Boardwalk

The boardwalk has been dedicated and used regularly both by the general public and local schools. The council will continue to work with the Delaware Nature Society to ensure that equipment is maintained.

10. 5K

This year's 5k resulted in a contribution of \$16,501 to the Memorial Fire Company. Plans are already underway for next year's race on May 3, 2020.

11. Legal Status

The Town is not currently involved in any outstanding legal actions, nor are any anticipated.

12. Phragmites

Every year we spray and anticipate doing so again this year. Funds used to pay for this have come from the Department of Agriculture and Fire Suppression funds.

13. Roads

The main road from bridge to bridge is state-owned and maintained. The town controls 18 access roads and will be enforcing the No Overnight parking rules starting July 1.

The council is investigating paving of Passwater Drive since it is currently undergoing a building boon.

14. Emergency Operations Plan

The town published an emergency operations plan to the town website this year. It was coordinated with Sussex County and DEMA during the writing.

15. Beach Grass Replenishment

This year the town benefitted from a community group planting project, as well as the annual town giveaway. We will continue the grass giveaway as long as possible.

16. Number of New Homes Built

This data is not available but anecdotally, we are becoming quickly built out.

17. Email and Phone Database

We encourage members of the community to provide current email and telephone numbers to the council for inclusion on a town-wide database to be used in the case of emergencies.

18. Change in IT

We have hired a new IT Manager for the town who assists in the maintenance of town data, as well as the community database.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57AM.