

## **Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting Monday, January 13, 2020**

### **1. Call Meeting to Order**

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

### **2. Welcome** - Mayor Ward welcomed the community to the meeting

### **3. Approval of December 2, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Bob Wood to approve the January 13, 2019 annual meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Stephen Heyse. **The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

### **4. Approval of the January 13, 2020 meeting agenda**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Rebecca Craft to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Bob Wood. **The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

### **5. Special Speaker: Jason Lohr, Davis Bowen, Friedel**

*Jason presented information related to the status of two grant reports.*

- A. *Water Company Study – This study was funded to research the viability of the Town purchasing the SB Water Company. The study was begun out of concern that Slaughter Beach could be without water should the current owner pass without plans for the company. The study was commissioned/funded prior to its purchase in 2018 by Artesian Water. Three potential alternatives were developed and had the company not been purchased would have been recommended to the Council. The purchase made the study moot. No town dollars were spent on this grant funded study. Since its purchase, Artesian has been upgrading well heads and located all shutoffs. In addition, a local farmer has provided a 5-inch connection to his wells to the Fire Company enhancing water flow during fire emergencies.*

- B. *Wastewater/Sewer Study- This study was completed due to the Town's environmentally sensitive nature and the Town's goal to have a safe water supply/system. The study searched for viable alternatives to septic systems and the potential creation of a sewer system. With this grant-funded student, DBF determined that a gravity-based, grinder system would be the most viable option. Milton and Milford were researched as the areas where waste would be pumped to, although costs (at this time) are beyond the reach of the town. Ultimate costs at this time would be in excess of \$32 million. The rough (unofficial) cost per resident per year, if funding through the federal government became available, would be roughly \$1,000 per resident. The study was done proactively in order to be ready when federal regulations may require such systems in the future. Completion of the study and its acceptance by the USDA makes the Town acceptable for federal funds if they become available in the future.*
  
- C. *These two studies totaled \$50,000, with none of the funds coming from Town funds.*

## **6. Reading of Correspondence**

- a. *Mayor Ward sent a letter to the US Corps of Engineers inviting them to Slaughter Beach to discuss beach replenishment issues. Awaiting response.*
- b. *A letter of support was sent on behalf of the DE Bay Launch Service for an engine upgrade for one of their vessels.*
- c. *A letter was received from Mayr Archie Campbell supporting the beneficial use of dredged materials by the ACE*
- d. *Mayor Ward sent letters to the owners of the homes impacted by the October 2019 fires regarding demolition updates. No responses to date. Additional follow-up will be down as needed.*
- e. *A resident sent an email to Mayor Ward concerning neglected property located at 460 Bay Avenue. Non-confirming structural concerns were raised. Mayor Ward abstained from involvement due to his relationship with the homeowner who sent the email (his daughter). A suggestion was made to have the County continue to address the neglected property. Robert Wechtenhiser, a member of the Memorial Fire Company indicated he would speak with Chief Terry Jester due to possible fire hazards raised by the property. Kathy will speak with the county regarding additional actions.*

## **7. Reports:**

**Treasurer Report** – A hard copy of the treasurer's reports were submitted and are attached to these minutes. We are still waiting on grant funds to balance the income and expenses reporting. Stephen Heyse made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Pending audit. The motion was seconded by Bob Wood. **The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.**

**Building Enforcement Officer/ Floodplain Administrator** – A hard copy of the Building Enforcement Officer's report is attached to these minutes. A bill was submitted for Flood Plane certification. This report required no vote.

**Tax Collector Report** – the 2019 billings have gone out for a total amount of \$89,617. \$87, 171 has been paid with an outstanding balance of \$2,415.91 remaining.

**Town Street Committee report** – Mr. Dalton reported that speed signage has been repaired, but not installed yet pending response from DelDOT regarding placement of speed cushions. These cushions will allow emergency vehicles to go down the center of the road unimpeded. Dimensions are needed from the Fire Company. The budget for this purchase has previously been approved. Once all necessary signoffs have been received, invoices will be prepared for joint shipping.

### **Mayoral & Council updates**

**RASCL-** No report.

**SCAT-** Legislative updates included information related to funding for clean water and municipal street fund availability.

**ABC Outreach-** Outreach is being done the in the beach communities related to beneficial use of dredged materials.

**Water Study-** This information was provided during the presentation.

## **8. Old Business**

**Sand on the Beach** - No report.

**Wastewater** – Previously reported at the start of the meeting.

**Hydrology Study**- No report.

### **New Business**

**Signage Proposal**- A recommendation was made to remove all signage located on the 18 municipal streets owned/maintained by the Town and replace them with unified single signs. The Mayor has worked with DNREC and volunteers to create kiosk-style signage highlighting local wildlife and beach policies. A bid has been received in the amount of \$27,000 for 18 signs (42x31). Four different signs will highlight animal life including local birds, fish, horseshoe crabs and general information. Contributions to assist with purchase will be solicited. A motion was made by Kathy Lock to purchase the signs at a cost not to exceed \$30,000. The goal is to have signs installed by Memorial Day weekend. Bob Wood seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

**Tennis Court Electrical Repairs**- The work has been delayed due to weather concerns. Weather permitting, the repairs will be completed on 1/15/2020.

**Property Owner Database**-The Town encourages those in attendance to continue to communicate the need for local property owners to have their names placed on the community database. The database is never sold or shared and is used only to communicate by the town to property owners when emergencies arise.

**Fire Company Tower Meeting**-MR. Wechtenhiser confirmed Town Council involvement in the meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the potential Tower installation.

**Ladder Truck Donation**- Mr. Wechtenhiser notified the town that the Fire Company has been the beneficiary of a 65-ft. Ladder truck, donated by the Selbyville Fire Company. Members are currently being trained on how to the new truck. This asset will great enhance the company's ability to respond to local fire emergencies.

**Hero Recognition**- The Town is coordinating with the office of the Governor and DNREC to publicly recognize the efforts of the DNREC employee who saved a local resident from the October 2019 fire. Details will be announced when available.

**Ordinance Update**-Council will meet before the next council meeting to update and refine.

### **9. Open Discussion**

*The next council meeting will be held on Monday, February 10, 2020.*

**10. Adjournment** - A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kathy Lock and was seconded by Stephen Heyse to adjourn the meeting at 8:23pm. **The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**