**Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting**

**Saturday, June 5, 2021**

1. **Call meeting to order**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:00pm by Kathleen Lock, Mayor. Council members in attendance were Gary Plescia, Bob Wood, and Ivan Lanier. Due to the Governor’s mandate because of the Covid-19 virus, the meeting was held via Zoom and in person at the Slaughter Beach Volunteer Memorial Firehall.

Community members in attendance are shown on the attached sheet and the Mayor acknowledged and thanked everyone for their attendance and support.

1. **Welcome and Announcements.**

The Mayor introduced the purpose of an Annual meeting and proceeded to begin a round-up of all that has been done over the last twelve (12) months and how the Town has been managed by the current Council to-date.

1. **General Statistics**
   1. **Population and Market Conditions**:

Bob Wood, Vice Mayor shared statistics (attached) based on the Census and advised that the number of full-time residents, while not shared by the Census, has definitely increased due to the pandemic. Sale prices for new and existing homes are higher than they have been in the previous twelve months with no sign of weakening.

* 1. **Finances**

Gary Plescia, Treasurer reviewed our current assets and YTD budget (attached) advising that the Town is in excellent financial condition even with the unexpected expense of adding sand to the beach.

1. **Staff Updates:**
   1. Mayor Lock advised that all positions in the Town are currently filled with an additional position of Town Manager that was approved earlier in the year running smoothly.
2. **Elections.**

The Mayor advised that the two open positions for Town Council were not contested and Ivan Lanier and Larry Meinert submitted to run again so they are automatically remaining on Council.

1. **Fire Hazard – Phragmites Update**

Ivan Lanier, Secretary, is working with the US Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as the Memorial Volunteer Fire Company to address the hazard phragmites cause to homes along the Delaware Bay Coast. As an invasive species it seems the only treatment is spray followed by mowing and digging out by the roots. Secretary Lanier further advised that the homes backing to the Milford Neck Wildlife Refuge will shortly receive letters asking that they approve spraying in conjunction with the spraying over Federal lands and reminded homeowners with phragmites to complete the online form and send it in for participation in Town spraying.

The Ordinance allowing the Town to penalize home/landowners that do not contain the Phragmites on their properties is going to be enforced now that the Town has staff to accommodate follow up with County officials.

1. **Road Repair**

Vice Mayor, Bob Wood advised that four streets will be completed in the next calendar year, based on monies expected from grants. The Town has not selected which roads, but is appreciative of the work Jimmy Dalton has done for the Town. Once monies are received announcements will be shared during Town Meetings.