## Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting

**Monday, October 11, 2021**

1. **Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Vice Mayor, Robert Wood. Council members in attendance were Joanne Plescia and Ivan Lanier in person. Kathleen Lock and Larry Meinert attended via zoom. Due to the Covid-19 virus, the meeting was held in person as well as via Zoom link.

Community members in attendance are shown on the attached electronic and paper sign-in sheets.

Vice Mayor Wood acknowledged and thanked everyone for their attendance and support, and requested everyone remain on mute, however, questions asked by those on zoom should be put in the chat and would be addressed at every opportunity with time limitations.

1. **Approval of the September 13, 2021 Town Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Joanne Plescia and seconded by Ivan Lanier to approve the September 13, 2021 Town Council Meeting Minutes. **The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.**

1. **Approval of the October 11, 2021 Meeting Agenda**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Joanne Plescia and seconded by Kathy Lock to approve the October 11, 2021 Town Council Meeting Agenda. **The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

1. **Reports:**
2. **Treasurer’s Report:**

Joanne Plescia reviewed the Profit & Loss July through October 2021 report, which was available in the room and shared on the Zoom call for all to see. The Treasurer then reviewed the General Ledger/Cash Report.

A **Motion** was made by Ivan Lanier to approve the Treasurer’s Report pending audit, and seconded by Kathy Lock.

**The Motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

1. Building Inspector’s Report:

Ivan Lanier advised that Bob Clendaniel issued three permits and worked 14.00 hours.

A **Motion** was made to approve the Building Inspector’s Report by Joanne Plescia and seconded by Ivan Lanier.

**Motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

**A question was raised** asking if we can share who Bob Clendaniel issues permits to each month and how much they are charged. The answer is we don’t share that information and will check the Town bylaws to see if it is required.

1. Tax Collector’s Report:

Joanne Plescia advised that there was no report from Angela Tibbett yet.

1. Town Street Committee

Jimmy Dalton advised that four streets have been chosen for road repairs; Yerkes, Evans and North and South Delaware.

1. Memorial Fire Company Report

Bill Tobin was pleased to report that the 5K and Oktoberfest brought in $14,483.50 to the fire department and he expressed his thanks on behalf of all the men and women that work for Station 89 and Slaughter Beach.

He further advised that the number of calls the fire company answers has grown significantly in the last year, with 252 calls to-date and 15 in the last month alone.

The fire company has received the donation of the big rake that will help to smooth sand and keep the beach clean in the area most used by the public.

Last, he advised the fire company is donating a safe for the historical society to use in the firehouse and that will be delivered sometime in the next week to his home and then will be brought to the fire house for their use.

1. Mayoral and Council updates

Resilient and Sustainable Communities League (RASCL) – Bob Wood is continuing to attend these meetings and will advise when there is something to share.

Association of Coastal Towns, The Mayor expressed her appreciation that these larger ocean front communities are recognizing the value in partnering with us to get sand and protect our waterfront, for the wildlife as well as the residents. She is excited to see if this new pressure will help in our efforts to get sand on the beach for the next migrating season.

Sussex County Association of Towns (SCAT) – Bob Wood attended and shared that these meetings are proving enlightening as the guest speakers are often sharing information that can be used to help us with our grant applications and furthering our goals of saving the town money while improving our environment.

Delaware League of Local Governments (DLLG) –

1. **Grants and on-going projects**
2. **University of Delaware Hydrology Study** – There is no final report yet.
3. **Sea Grant** – Mayor Lock advised that we have been awarded the grant for $15,000 to build an oyster spat (oyster larvae) somewhere on the Mispillion watershed – we don’t have a contract yet, and we will sub-contract that to the University of Maryland Environmental Finance under Jenny Egan.
4. **Anchor Engineering** QEA, The final report was delivered just this afternoon and not all of the Council has had time to review in its entirety. The Mayor did advise that the salt content is too high for the detritus to be useful as we had hoped, however recommendations were made for coping with it and possibly de-salinating it – at an additional expense. Removal would be approximately $400,000 to $500,000. We will put the study up on the website for residents to review at their convenience.
5. **WIIN Project/PEW Charitable Trust** – this is a study of the watersheds of Cedar Creek and the Mispillion River and their economic benefits to the surrounding areas, which includes setting up oyster farming possibly near the Nature Center. No update.
6. **Sand on the Beach** – Tony Pratt, the Town’s Consultant advised he is continually working on a many-faceted approach to get our needs up the DNREC chain and get us the fill we need as fast as humanly possible. Tony worked in DNREC for years and has many friends there and in the Army Corps of Engineers, as well as in County and State Government. He is happy to answer questions and assures all that he is working hard to accomplish the goal of getting sand to our beaches.
7. **458 Bay Avenue –** court date is November 8, 2021.
8. **5G Wireless** – We are watching the problems that Dewey is facing after putting up their towers and waiting to see what the City of Lewes does with their draft Ordinances, but everyone is delayed based on the reaction of citizens in Dewey.
9. **Phragmites –** Dave Morgan finished his spraying for all those that submitted contracts to the Town.

**Question** from Tim Casey concerning phragmites that have grown and are not drying out from being sprayed. Advised we will double check the address is on the spray list and follow up with Dave, and the homeowner this week.

1. **ARPA** – Ivan Lanier advised Council is continuing to look at options for how ARPA funds can be spent.. The initial report has to be finalized by October 31, 2021.

**Question from** Patti Masten – why would you need to look at options when we all agreed to this based on you using that money to lower our costs in getting a sewer system. The Mayor answered that she never locked ARPA funding to the sewer but simply addressed that as a possibility. .

1. **Sewer District** – The Mayor reported that Sussex County has advised holding tanks will be an option for those needing new septic tanks now that we are under consideration for a sewer district.
2. **Updating the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)** – Joanne Plescia will be spearheading this review and working with the Fire Department to closely examine our emergency management capabilities .
3. **DelDot Infrastructure Possible Plans** Larry Meinert reported that we toured the area of the 500-600 block and discussed the flooding and possible mitigation. The main thing they will consider is putting ditches to help with drainage. If they do it, they would have to put together a budget and get back to us first – this would affect people’s property and these are things we would need to discuss. The other areas we discussed are the exit roads from Town. The curve on the north end is recognized as a problem so they are going to consider raising that section of road to prevent future flooding. On Slaughter Beach Road work is less likely because there is Marsh on both sides of the road and DNREC is less likely to allow construction to raise the road.
4. **Street Repair Vote to Approve Contract**

**A motion was made** to approve the lowest bid contract for paving four roads in Town; Evans, Yerkes, and North and South Delaware for the 2022 calendar year by Joanne Plescia and seconded by Larry Meinert.

**The Motion passed 5-0.**

1. **Copperthwaite Property and Easement Discussion/Vote**

The homeowners were not in attendance to present the proposal to Council and it was agreed to put off any vote on the consolidation. The Council also discussed potential conflicts with the HOA and DNREC. Council requested that the homeowners review the loss of beach access with the HOA as well as DNREC before re-submitting their request to Council.

1. **Special Meeting.**

**A suggestion was made by Kathy Lock that we reschedule a formal report from our Auditor, Sombar** at a special meeting – potentially late in October.

1. **Upcoming Events:**

* Town Council Meeting November 8, 2021 – depending on how Covid-19 is spreading in our area, we may move to Zoom only for this meeting.
* We will wait to hear about rescheduling the flu shots via the Fire Department
* Road will close for two weeks at the culvert (turn) on Bay Avenue to Cedar Beach Road, exact dates not given yet.

1. Open Forum Discussion:

Curtes Esposito, 279 Bay Avenue, requested that the Town consider a name change for South Delaware Avenue to Vineyard Avenue. He offered to get a plaque explaining the background for this name (Wilson Marvel Vineyard was the first Mayor of Milford and much more), and to coordinate with the State on placement, name change, etc. Council had a positive reaction and will review at the next meeting for public comment.

1. **Adjournment:**

**Motion**: A Motion was made by Ivan Lanier to adjourn the Meeting and was seconded by Joanne Plescia at 8:37 pm. **The Motion passed unanimously, 5-0**