## Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting

**Monday, May 9, 2022**

1. **Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Acting Mayor Bob Wood. Council members in attendance were Joanne Plescia, Harry Ward and Larry Meinert. Due to the Covid-19 virus the meeting was held via Zoom link and in-person. Community members in attendance are shown on the attached sign in sheets.

Mayor Wood thanked everyone for attending and requested everyone remain on mute unless asked for input from the public. For record keeping, residents must give their name and street address prior to addressing everyone in attendance.

1. **Correspondence:**

Mayor Wood advised there was a letter from Comcast/Xfinity advising of another rate hike, attached.

1. **Approval of the April 11, 2022, Town Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Harry Ward and seconded by Joanne Plescia to approve the April 11, 2022, Town Council Meeting Minutes. **The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.**

1. **Approval of the May 9, 2022, Meeting Agenda**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Joanne Plescia and seconded by Larry Meinert to approve the May 9, 2022, Town Council Meeting Agenda. **The motion carried unanimously 4-0.**

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

Joanne Plescia, reviewed the Treasurer’s Reports, attached.

A **Motion** was made by Harry Ward to accept the Treasurer’s Reports pending audit and seconded by Larry Meinert. **The Motion passed 4-0**

1. **Building Inspector’s Report:**

Harry Ward reviewed the report, attached.

1. **Streets Report**

Harry Ward advised Jimmy Dalton and Harry moved the speed/flashing light from Maryland Ave further south on Bay Ave. The flashing sign in the 600 block needs a new battery which will run approximately $400, and the recommendation is to replace the battery, AND order another one of those signs so we have it on hand, approximately $3000.

1. **Memorial Fire Company**

Bill Tobin advised DNREC has asked to put in three wells to test salinity in the water. Council recommended that Artesian be informed as well.

The Election will be held at Station 2 on Slaughter Beach Road, July 2, should an election be needed.

1. **Tony Pratt/Sand on the Beach/Bay Beach Working Group**

Tony Pratt reported he had a meeting today with representatives from Kitts Hummuck down to Lewes, in addition to our Senators/Legislators at the State and Federal level, DNREC and USACE – specifically for the Bay Beach communities and beach nourishment. The SHORRE Act which appears to be getting

through easily, will have the potential to remove the weight that has been “cost-sharing” which is one reason DNREC hesitates to approve replenishment as it would be a major part of their annual budget and Bay communities do not have the money to contribute and bring costs down. A new study of the bay beaches is being done by DNREC now.

1. **Mayoral and Council updates**

Resilient and Sustainable Communities League (RASCL) – Bob Wood, this organization has meetings every few months and we haven’t heard about one recently.

Association of Coastal Towns – no update

Sussex County Association of Towns (SCAT) – Keeps the Town up to date on legislative agenda and voting status inside the state, presents educational programming. Last meeting included an educational program on the Inland Bays which we’ll share with the WIIN participants. The marijuana bill has been passed on one side, but the Governor is against. Homeless Bill of Rights doesn’t seem to affect our town.

Delaware League of Local Governments (DLLG) – no update

1. **Grants and on-going projects**
2. **Sea Grant** – a grant of $25,000 for our Town to raise oyster larvae
3. **WIIN Project/PEW Charitable Trust** – no update
4. **Stairs on the Beach** – Harry Ward advised the stairs have been installed at all entrances and the Council is considering adding a railing to the tallest steps at Maryland Ave.
5. **Town Speed Cameras** – Gary Plescia has posted an update to Council advising that this effort stalled but is back on track. He’s working with the fire company on placement on Bay Avenue.
6. **Detritus** – Bob Wood advised the new sand covered the detritus but now it’s appearing again. The Mayor has discussed the jetty deterioration with USACE. We’re working on it.
7. **5G Wireless** – on hold until other beach towns move forward.
8. **Sewer District -** Mayor Wood advised our Application and Notice of Intent was submitted to the Water Infrastructure Advisory Council (WIAC) and we expect they can take it up at their next meeting in June 2022.
9. **Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)** – Joanne Plescia advised that we have done comparisons to other EOP’s in our region but what we don’t have is the on-the-ground response for security and safety. I am suggesting block captains for communicating in emergencies. More to come.
10. **Grant Proposal Writer –** Larry Meinert has suggested we send out an RFP (request for proposal) to find someone to be a proposal writer for our Town. We haven’t moved forward. Julia Geha offered to contact Jenny Egan to ask how we might move forward.
11. **Drainage Issues in the 590 Block** – Mayor Wood advised that DelDOT has responded to our request for a review and solution to this problem. Harry Ward advised the initial response from DelDOT was a ditch from 563 to Beach Plum. Harry Ward will get back to DelDOT about another option.
12. **Artesian –** the new well is performing, and they are interested in having an 80,000-gallon water tank behind the current wells as an emergency back-up. They have sent out for bids to construct same.
13. **New Business**
14. Homeowner/landowner has submitted a request to combine lots 13 and 15 to become one address of 109 Isaacs Shore Drive, Milford, DE 19963. Mayor Wood and Zoning Official Bob Clendaniel have no objections.

A **Motion** was made by Harry Ward to combine Parcels 230-4.00-45.00 and 230-4.00-46.00 in the J Howard Isaacs Subdivision, Northeast of Bay Road/Simpson Avenue, referred to as lot 13 and 15 for owners’ purposes and seconded by Joanne Plescia. A Resolution 22-03 will be shared with homeowner for Sussex County. **The motion carried unanimously 4-0.**

1. **Elections –** Anyone interested in running for office can start the process by submitting a Notice and if you need details, contact Kathy McFadden, Town Clerk at townclerk@slaughterbeachde.com or call the town office. Our election will be located at **Slaughter Beach Fire Company TWO** on Slaughter Beach Road. Councilpeople up for re-election are Bob Wood, Joanne Plescia and third position.
2. **Upcoming Events:**
* The first roll-off dumpster for landscaping will be on May 27th.
* May 28th the Coast Guard will offer boat safety checks at the fire company parking lot.
* May 28th the Town will advertise the Annual Yard Sale on Slaughter Beach, no rain date 9am.
* May 31st will be the bulk item pick up by Republic Services, NO construction related materials and if you have a fridge or A/C – you **MUST** have a tag that says freon has been removed.
* June 4th will be the Annual Town Meeting at 10am – must file to run for office by this date.
* June 13th will be the next Town Council Meeting, zoom and in person.
* June 19th Father’s Day breakfast by the ladies Auxiliary at the firehouse, $10 per person.
* Memorial Fire Company Craft Show hosted by the ladies Auxiliary to be held on July 2nd.
* Town Election is July 2nd at the SLAUGHTER BEACH ROAD fire house, details are on the website.
* 5K Greenhead race – September 18, 2022 – we are looking for volunteers!
1. **Public Comments**:
2. To be on the maillist for the Sailling Club, message 09sbsc@gmail.com
3. To be on the maillist for Town “Captains”, message secretary@slaughterbeachde.com
4. Town Council will consider hiring a company to clean up debris on the beach after the storms.
5. **Adjournment:**

**Motion**: A Motion was made by Joanne Plescia to adjourn the Meeting and was seconded by Harry Ward at 8:22 pm.

**The Motion passed unanimously, 4-0**