## Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting

**Monday, June 20, 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, Becky Craft 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:**

Nothing to read.

1. **Approval of the May 9, 2022, Town Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Harry Ward and seconded by Joanne Plescia to approve the May 9, 2022, Town Council Meeting Minutes. **The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.**

1. **Approval of the June 20, 2022, Meeting Agenda**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Joanne Plescia and seconded by Harry Ward to approve the June 20, 2022, Town Council Meeting Agenda. **The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

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

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

A **Motion** was made by Harry Ward to accept the May Treasurer’s Reports pending audit and seconded by Becky Craft. **The Motion passed 5-0**

1. The Tax collector’s report included a Realty Transfer Tax of $2613.60 from one sale.
2. Joanne Plesciahas requested the Town accept an Audit Engagement letter from Sombar & Co with an increase of $50 over last year’s expense. A **Motion** was made to accept the Engagement letter from Sombar & Co to conduct the audit of the Town’s books, not to exceed $5,000 by Harry Ward and seconded by Joanne Plescia. **The Motion passed 5-0**.
3. **Building Inspector’s Report:**

Harry Ward reviewed the report, attached.

1. **Streets Report**

Jimmy Dalton advised that we are waiting for pricing from TrafficLogic for either repair or replacement of the street sign on the north end of Bay Avenue; and we have not yet voted on the costs for repaving the streets in Passwaters development

1. **Memorial Fire Company**

Bill Tobin advised we had 33 ambulance calls in May and so far this month we had 20 calls and our ambulance is broken down, so we are borrowing one from Carlisle. The Auxiliary appreciates everyone participating in their breakfast for Father’s Day.

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

Tony Pratt advised the group has approached County executives from Sussex and Kent to talk about sharing the costs involved in pursuing federal, state and county assistance for beach replenishment.

He further reported he is continuing to work with the Bay Beaches from Pickering down to Lewes and if the SHORRE Act goes through as written, our (Slaughter Beach’s) required monetary share would be only 10 percent of the full cost to replenish the beach. The Environment & Public Works committee hopes to rectify the two bills before the August recess which will give us direction going forward.

1. **Mayoral and Council updates**

Resilient and Sustainable Communities League (RASCL) – Bob Wood, this organization slows down during the summer – no update

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. The most recent speaker was from Comcast who is putting out a program that will offer $30 toward an individual’s internet bill based on your income. The homeless bill at the state level didn’t make it through. The marijuana bill didn’t make it through. House Bill 426 would expand use of RTT (realty transfer tax) money for both land acquisition and recreation – this would be useful to 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, we are actively working to put the tanks in Slaughter Beach
3. **WIIN Project/PEW Charitable Trust** – there have been town meetings to develop a more purposeful study for use of the Mispillion and Cedar Creek watersheds to potentially increase perceived value of our Town for state and federal funds.
4. **Stairs on the Beach** – Harry Ward advised he has requested railings at Maryland Ave. A request was made for a railing at Sussex Avenue as well.
5. **Yard Waste Dumpster** – will be placed at West Virginia on the 24th.
6. **Paving & Setting Streets off Passwaters** – The County grant for $100,000 that has already been deposited in our accounts will potentially be used to finish these six (6) streets in addition to other projects. An RFQ was sent out in May and Council will vote on the four possibilities at the next meeting.
7. **Town Speed Cameras** – Gary Plescia is working on the replacement of the two cameras at the fire house.
8. **Detritus** – Larry Meinert advised that the engineering report proposed use of the detritus but the salt content in the detritus made that option impossible. We then proposed that the detritus is a major threat to the wildlife in the environment, suffocating horseshoe crabs and possibly other creatures, but the DNREC response was less than positive. Bob Wood advised that it seems the town has been moved up on the list for possible work on the jetty which could help the problem – as soon as we have more information, we will share.
9. **5G Wireless** – on hold until other beach towns move forward.
10. **Sewer District -** Mayor Wood advised our Application and Notice of Intent was submitted to the Water Infrastructure Advisory Council (WIAC) and we discovered we did not make the June meeting. We are hopeful to be on the September meeting Agenda. Sussex County has already started looking for financing, but obviously nothing can be done until the approval is given by WIAC.
11. **Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)** – Harry Ward advised we have all but 4 (four) slots filled for the Seaside Envoy program. The program was sent via email blast to the town contacts on file. If you don’t receive town emails, request to be added by emailing townmanager@slaughterbeachde.com
12. **Grant Proposal Writer –** Julia Geha advised we have a meeting in a week with Jenny Egan who is a potential person to take the position, or to give advice on how to find someone.
13. **Drainage Issues in the 590 Block** – Harry Ward advised that he is asking DelDOT to review a proposal from the town advising there is elevation fall from west to east across the road, causing flooding in a more specific area than they are describing – and we would like an elevation change to assist the water in draining in the other direction. Harry believes they will call back by the end of the month.
14. **Artesian –** They are interested in having an 80,000-gallon water tank behind the current wells as an emergency back-up, it would be on the ground, not in the air. They have sent it as system improvement and are waiting to hear if it will be allowed. If they can get the water tank, they will be happy to install fire hydrants on the south end of Bay Ave.
15. **Playground Upgrade –** Bob Wood advised that we were approached about a 50/50 match grant to improve the park, basketball and tennis courts. More on this in September.
16. **New Business**
17. Homeowner/landowner has submitted a request to combine lots 502 and 503 to become one address of 522 Bay Avenue, Milford, DE 19963. Mayor Wood and Zoning Official Bob Clendaniel have no objections.

A **Motion** was made by Harry Ward to combine Parcels 330-9.00-6.11 and 330-9.00-6.08 in the Marvel Subdivision, west side of Bay Avenue, referred to as Lot 502 and 503 for owners’ purposes and seconded by Becky Craft. A Resolution 22-04 will be shared with homeowner for Sussex County.

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

1. **Elections –** Kathy McFadden is the Town Clerk at townclerk@slaughterbeachde.com – Becky Craft advised that we had three seats open and three people submitted interest in those seats, so no need for an election. The three offices open were filled by Joanne Plescia, returning; Bob Wood, returning; and Ben Monastero. Just prior to the July Monthly Town Council meeting, the Council will self-select who will hold which position.
2. **Upcoming Events:**
* The roll-off dumpster for landscaping will be on June 24th.
* Memorial Fire Company Craft Show hosted by the ladies Auxiliary to be held on July 2nd.
* Town Council Meeting July 11, 2022 at 7:00pm
* 5K Greenhead race – September 18, 2022, 8am – we are looking for volunteers!
1. **Public Comments**:
2. Question was asked about whether tube worms are moving along the beach and causing a problem with the surf and our sand. Bob Wood will talk to Tony Pratt for an answer.
3. Question was raised about tying down propane tanks on Slaughter Beach. Southern Shores charged a resident over $300 to tie-down their propane tank. Other residents advised Poore’s and Shagrin didn’t charge, Bob Wood will be following up.
4. To be on the mail list for the Sailing Club, message 09sbsc@gmail.com
5. To be on the mail list for Sea Envoy, message secretary@slaughterbeachde.com
6. **Adjournment:**

**Motion**: A Motion was made by Bob Wood to adjourn the Meeting and was seconded by Harry Ward at 8:00pm.**The Motion passed unanimously, 5-0**