## Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting

**Monday, September 12, 2022**

1. **Call Meeting to Order**:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mayor Bob Wood. Council members in attendance were Harry Ward, and Joanne Plescia; Benjamin Monastero and Larry Meinert joined via zoom. Due to the Covid-19 virus the meeting was held via Zoom 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 the public was specifically asked to contribute. For record keeping, residents must give their name and street address prior to addressing everyone in attendance.

1. **Approval of the August 8, 2022 Annual Town Meeting Minutes**:

**Motion**: A Motion was made by Joanne Plescia and seconded by Harry Ward to approve the August 8, 2022 Annual Town Meeting Minutes. **The Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.**

1. **Approval of the September 12, 2022, Meeting Agenda:**

**Motion:** A Motion was made by Joanne Plescia and seconded by Harry Ward to approve the September 12, 2022, Town Council Meeting Agenda. **The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

1. **Reports:**
   1. **Auditor’s Report:**

Tom Sombar of Sombar & Company reported on the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. The report gives MDNA Analysis which provides an overview of the net assets of the Town on June 30, 2022 compared to June 30, 2021. During the meeting Tom reviewed his report, answered questions and advised that despite having higher expenses the Town is in excellent financial shape.

* 1. **Treasurer’s Report:**

Joanne Plescia reviewed the Treasurer’s Reports, attached. Discussion about the CDs and interest rates but no decision has been made on where to put the monies at this time.

A **Motion** was made by Harry Ward to approve the August 2022 Treasurer’s Report pending audit and seconded by Bob Wood. **The Motion passed 5-0**

1. **Tax Collector’s Report**:

No report was shared as the majority of payments had not been received yet – most banks don’t issue checks until the week taxes are due – September 30, 2022.

1. **Building Inspector’s Report:**

Harry Ward reviewed the report, attached – an adjustment was made going back to April 2022 where a permit was issued for 411 Bay Avenue to be demolished and there was a $50 difference. Construction and permit requests slowed, three permits were issued in August.

1. **Streets Report:**

Jimmy Dalton reported that he received the speed sign for the north end of town, however the batteries needed to power the signs were damaged. Jimmy is keeping in contact with UPS and TrafficLogix and waiting on replacements. Joanne advised she would hold the check so they will not be paid until the battery problem is resolved.

1. **The Memorial Fire Company:**

Bill Tobin advised that the fire company had 34 runs, 22 transports, 2 refusals, and 6 cancellations with 9 volunteers participating.

This past Saturday night a large group attempted to have a party at the Pavillion without a permit and after discussing the problem with Bob Wood, the fire company is suggesting that we will put signs up in reflective material saying ‘no parking dusk to dawn’ to try to reduce the participation in these larger events that are being attempted in Town.

Bob Wood advised that the party was at about 150 people when Mike Erisman and his grandson, Ty, approached several people to advise that Mike would give them an hour before the Town called the police – and Bob believes this was a terrific deterrent.

Fire company, Rob W, advised there were about 50 people left when he pulled up close to ten pm. The state police were called by three different people but they never arrived. Bob Wood is hoping to meet with officers from State Police Troop 7 to discuss this as well as an increase in speeding in the Town limits.

Bill Tobin advised the Fire Company would appreciate support from the Town to dig out the ditches along Slaughter Beach Road with DelDOT and he will work with Bryan Shupe to get this started. After getting the State on board the fire company will need to approach the Federal agencies about installing a pipe for run-off.

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

Bob Wood reported that Tony has made some progress with sand on the beach – a permit has been issued for truck-haul sand for Slaughter Beach. We still do not know where this sand will be placed, however we do know it has to be done before March 2023. The WRDA Bill has made progress and is in Committee now, probably will be done by December. The USACE (Army Corps) has us on the list for work on the Jetty.

1. **Mayoral and Council updates:**

Resilient and Sustainable Communities League (RASCL) – Bob Wood will attend (virtual) this month.

Association of Coastal Towns – no update.

Sussex County Association of Towns (SCAT) – Bob Wood did the Friday breakfast meeting – speaker was from the DLLG and Archie Campbell, Mayor of Milford will be the leader of SCAT this next year.

Delaware League of Local Governments (DLLG) – no update

1. **Grants and on-going projects:**
2. **Sea Grant** – University of Delaware is working with us on a grant of $25,000 for our Town to raise oyster larvae, we are actively working to put the tanks in Slaughter Beach – no update.
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/area for state and federal funds. This is ongoing and at the moment there is no news.
4. **ARPA Funds** – we have the $130,000 in our accounts and we have until 2024 to use that money (see playground below)
5. **Stairs on the Beach** – Harry Ward advised this is done and stairs that were installed are all easily removed when DNREC announces sand is going to be placed.
6. **Job Descriptions** – Harry Ward advised he has roughed out job descriptions but hasn’t had time to finish them for final review.
7. **Roll-Off Dumpster** – Bob Wood advised this is still working well and Republic has not found any construction or trash – only yard waste as specified - so we thank all of you for following the restrictions – the next dumpster will be on Delaware Avenue North, September 29-October 2, 2022.
8. **Paving & Setting Streets off Passwaters** – Bob Wood advised this project is complete, the contractor will come back to spray for grass where he’s worked previously. The Town will also likely do four more streets this year.
9. **Cameras** – cables have been connected so cameras at the firehouse should be running before October.
10. **Detritus** – Until the USACE completes their Section 1-11 study we have no update.
11. **5G Wireless** – on hold until other beach towns move forward.
12. **Sewer District –** Bob Wood will attend the WIAC September 21st meeting that will decide if DNREC approves us as a sewer district. If this is positive, we will then be returned to Sussex County for pricing.
13. **Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)** – Joanne Plescia – no update.
14. **Seaside Envoy Program** - Harry Ward advised we have all but one slot, 341-380 Bay Avenue, filled for the Seaside Envoy program. Without applying pressure during the meeting, Patty Masten was asked to fulfill this final slot with backup from Joanne Plescia and Julia Geha as needed.
15. **Drainage Issues in the 590 Block** – Harry Ward met with DelDOT and outlined about 6-8 properties (DelDOT will need to do an elevation survey in that area). This is the only area where there is an elevation change from the Bay side (east) to the Marsh (west side). We are getting some push back and are not sure how many properties DelDOT will include in the survey but he has made progress.
16. **Artesian** – the grant comes up again in January so Artesian will resubmit for the grant.
17. **Playground Upgrade –** Joanne Plescia is going to submit for a grant from DNREC Parks & Rec for approximately $30 to 50,000 dollars and is hoping to couple that grant with ARPA funds or RTT money to upgrade the park in addition to the previously approved work of resurfacing the basketball and tennis courts.
18. **New Business:**

**Solar Lights on the Pavilion and Restrooms** – Harry Ward invited Fox Electric out to give a bid on replacing the solar lights that are no longer working. His estimate to rewire and add motion detector lights outside the restrooms and a foot spray to light the kiosk as well as two lights on the Pavilion on each corner (southern side) would run approximately (salt water resistant flood lights with motion sensors) $3,400. Harry recommends not replacing the solar lights as they are not providing security.

**A Motion** was made by Harry Ward to replace the lighting, as stated above, after another quote is received with a cost to not exceed $4,000 for the entire project and was seconded by Joanne Plescia.

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

1. **Upcoming Events:**

* Bob Wood advised we are to expect a Fall Brood of mosquitoes so they will be spraying again.
* Beach clean-up along Bay Avenue, September 11, 2022 -meet at 9am at the firehouse.
* 5K Greenhead race – September 18, 2022 at 8:00am, still accepting donations.
* September 29th Delaware Ave North yard waste dumpster
* Town Council Meeting October 10, 2022 at 7:00pm

1. **Open Forum**:
   1. **Question** – Joanne Plescia asked Bill Tobin about the Ambulance letter that states if you contribute $100 to the Ambulance Corps you don’t get a bill if you are taken to the hospital by the Slaughter Beach Ambulance.

This is separate from the Fire Department, donations to the Fire Company are tax deductible.

1. **Question** about Phragmites – Julia Geha advised the spraying will take place at the end of this week; maps have already been submitted to the contractor but we could add a few if you aren’t sure you are included.
2. **Adjournment:**

A **Motion** was made by Harry Ward and seconded by Joanne Plescia to adjourn at 8:40pm. **The Motion passed unanimously, 5-0**