## Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting

**Monday, February 13, 2023**

1. **Call Meeting to Order**:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mayor Bob Wood. Council members in attendance were Benjamin Monastero, Joanne Plescia, Harry Ward, and Larry Meinert attended 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.

1. **Approval of the January 9, 2023, Town Meeting Minutes**:

**Motion**: A Motion was made by Harry Ward and seconded by Joanne Plescia to approve the January 9, 2023, Town Meeting Minutes. **The Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.**

1. **Approval of the February 13, 2023, Meeting Agenda:**

**Motion:** A Motion was made by Harry Wood and seconded by Ben Monastero to approve the February 13, 2023, Town Council Meeting Agenda. **The Motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

1. **Correspondence:** Mayor Wood introduced the new Fire Chief for Memorial Fire Company, Kent Glasco who lives in Lincoln and came to Slaughter Beach after working for Ellendale and being in the service for about 25 years. The company has had many new volunteers join, and Mayor Wood pointed out that we, as a Town are very appreciative of the service each of the members bring to our Town and the security having them here gives to each of the resident’s.
2. **Special Report/Ordinance update:** Bob Clendaniel, Zoning Official, was introduced to explain changes being made to the Town Zoning Ordinance, (attached) which has only ever allowed one dwelling unit per lot, but in reviewing our Ordinance, it became clear that some might interpret the Ordinance incorrectly. With concerns expressed by the fire company, as well as sewer coming to the Town, we have tightened up the wording to make sure there is no misunderstanding. Several questions were brought up and addressed.

**Motion:** A Motion was made by Harry Ward to adopt the new wording of the Ordinance as shown in the paperwork of Ordinance 2023-01 (attached) and seconded by Joanne Plescia.

**Motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

1. **Mayor Wood** introduced a young couple from Ukraine, Marina and Vludmo (phonetic, not correct spelling) that have been living on Slaughter Beach with Gary & Joanne Plescia while they study English and get their paperwork in order. Please say hello and continue to make them feel welcome.
2. **Entry signs to Slaughter Beach** – Mayor Wood received a quote from Rogers to fix, repair and return each sign at the entrance to Slaughter Beach for approximately $2000 each as a maintenance issue and wanted resident’s to be aware so there are no surprises when the signs are taken away.
3. **Reports:**
	1. **Treasurer’s Report:**

Joanne Plescia reviewed the Treasurer’s Reports (attached). A **Motion** was made by Harry Ward to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented, pending Audit, and seconded by Ben Monastero. The **Motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

* 1. **Tax Collector’s Report**:

The collection is going very well with only 20 still unpaid. Harry Ward suggested we spread the list around Council to get 100% collected.

* 1. **Building Inspector’s Report:**

Ben Monastero read the report submitted by Bob Clendaniel, attached.

* 1. **The Memorial Fire Company:** Bill Tobin reported that he is no longer doing the day-to-day of the Ambulance however he is still Treasurer. The hall reservations contact has changed from Janet Swain to Jim McGee. And the fire company will arrange for a truck with lights to assist the Cedar Beach Road clean up scheduled for March 4, 2023. The fire company is planning to hold a 5K in 2023, dates to be determined.
	2. **Tony Pratt/Sand on the Beach/Bay Beach Working Group:**

Tony Pratt is a Consultant for Slaughter Beach working continually on the Town’s behalf with DNREC (Dept of Natural Resources and Conservation) and USACE (US Army Corps of Engineers). Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) which is attached to the National Defense Authorization Act. Tony will now work partly for the Bay Beach Association, and this will lower his monthly consultant fee to the Town of Slaughter Beach. He is working on the fast-track, 100% federally funded sand on the beach with Senator Carper’s office to push the USACE to move forward on their updated reports. Finally, the stabilization of the Mispillion via the USACE study which he is continuing to work on for the Town.

1. **Mayoral and Council updates:**

Sussex County Association of Towns (SCAT) – we couldn’t attend this last meeting but based on the follow up we didn’t miss anything important.

1. **Grants and on-going projects:**
2. **Sea Grant** – Bob Wood is working to put the tanks at the DuPont Nature Center, no further update.
3. **WIIN Project/PEW Charitable Trust** – This project has come to a close with the funding from the Pew Charitable Foundation and will now be managed by the Towns of Milford and Slaughter Beach.
4. **OPRT (Outdoor Parks, Recreation and Trails) Grant** – Joanne Plescia advised that after review of the proposal from Harbor Group the Town Council has approached Univ of Delaware about a landscape plan possibly early next week and expressed thanks to the fire company for use of the land.
5. **Flooding/DelDOT** – there are no updates, the Cedar Creek Bridge has been delayed and the website is the only place we are getting updates.
6. **State Police** did a study of the number of speeders that come along Bay Avenue in both directions – according to information they were able to collect, ten percent of the drivers on the road are speeding at a rate higher than ten percent over the speed limit.
7. **Sand on the beach –** DNREC cancelled the January meeting. We had been third in line to get sand, however, pricing changes affected DNREC’s budget, and they cancelled without formally notifying the Town. Bob Wood was able to corner Secretary Shawn Garvin at a meeting, and asked for help, any help, and we quickly had three bobcats on the beach moving the sand we have to shore up the dune in the most damaged area. It’s not what we wanted or expected, but it was something.
8. **Camera** – Bob Wood advised cameras are working as expected with one exception and the fire company is helping us to repair one, however, the original camera in that spot is still working.
9. **Sewer District –** Engineering has started, the orange dots along the roads is to help Sussex County engineering create a LIDAR map using airplanes. This is also what the white arrows painted on the roads are for – directionals for the pilots.
10. **Seaside Envoy Program** - Harry Ward has a meeting in person and over zoom February 21, Tuesday at 7pm at the firehall.
11. **Debris on the Beach –** We will have a handyman continue to pick up what is found on the beach, however Bob Wood asks that if it’s small debris, like a cinder block, please pick it up and dispose of it on your property instead of leaving it. Maintaining around your property, and the beach is part of land/home ownership, and we would be grateful if everyone did their part.
12. **Miscellaneous:**

Senator Carper held an open house to announce the WRDA bill’s passage at the firehouse in Bowers Beach January 18, 2023, at 10am and many of our residents were in attendance – thank you. We do expect many good things to come out of this and are happy to have the Bay Beach Association to pursue our interests from here on out.

1. **Upcoming Events:**
* Cedar Beach Road Clean Up March 4, 9:00am at the fire house.
* March 13, 2023, Town Council Meeting at 7:00pm
1. **Adjournment:**

A **Motion** was made by Harry Ward and seconded by Ben Monastero to adjourn at

8:29pm. **The Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**