# Minutes of the Reorganization and Regular

# Town Council Meeting

# Monday, July 10, 2023

1. **Call Reorganization Meeting to Order**:

The meeting was called to order at 6:45pm by Mayor Bob Wood. Council members in attendance were Harry Ward, Benjamin Monastero and Jamie Draper with Joanne Plescia on Zoom. Community members in attendance are shown on the attached sign in sheets.

Jamie Draper was sworn in as the newest councilperson for the Town of Slaughter Beach.

Mayor Wood requested nominations for office; Harry Ward nominated Bob Wood to continue as Mayor and was seconded by Ben Monastero; Bob Wood nominated Harry Ward to continue as Vice-Mayor and was seconded by Jamie Draper; Bob Wood nominated Ben Monastero to continue as Secretary and was seconded by Harry Ward; Bob Wood nominated Joanne Plescia to continue as Treasurer and was seconded by Jamie Draper; Bob Wood nominated Jamie Draper as Councilperson At Large and was seconded by Harry Ward.

**All Motions carried unanimously, 5-0.**

Kathy McFadden, Town Clerk was directed to send out this information in the next Newsletter.

# Call the Regular Town Council Meeting to Order:

# Bob Wood called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Council members in attendance were Harry Ward, Joanne Plescia, Ben Monastero and Jamie Draper. The meeting was held via Zoom and in person, community members in attendance are shown on the attached sheets.

# Introduction of Officers FY24:

# Bob Wood, Mayor; Harry Ward, Vice-Mayor; Joanne Plescia, Treasurer; Ben Monastero, Secretary and Jamie Draper, Councilperson At Large.

# Approval of the June 12, 2023, Town Meeting Minutes:

**Motion: A Motion** was made by Harry Ward and seconded by Joanne Plescia to approve the June 12, 2023, Town Meeting Minutes.

# The Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

1. **Approval of the July 10, 2023, Meeting Agenda:**

**Motion: A Motion** was made by Ben Monastero and seconded by Joanne Plescia to approve the July 10, 2023, Town Council Meeting Agenda.

# The Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

1. **Correspondence:**

* All residents should have received notification from Comcast that they are offering discounted rates to anyone that might meet the poverty level. For more information, call your Comcast office.
* Artesian published a water quality report which is available for all residents to view, for a copy call 302 453 6850.
* Patrick, the new Manager at Dupont Nature Center is hoping to meet more residents and increase traffic to the Center. We will try to post his activities list on the board and share through the newsletter.
* On July 12th, this Wednesday from 5-7:30pm DNREC will be at the Lewes Public Library to accept public comments on works, don’t hesitate to join the conversation and attend.
* The Town received a letter of appreciation from Wheels for Meals who come through annually the first weekend of July, expressing thanks for those residents that were out showing support to the riders, and the consideration shown by drivers along our roads.
* MERR found a very large turtle on the beach and gave it a burial, they are always looking for volunteers so consider them if you find you have some free time in your schedule.

# Reports:

* 1. **Report/Tony Pratt:** The Mayor has a response to the USACE Section 1-11 study we received, and we hope to have feedback before the next meeting.

The Bay Beach Assn has been working on getting DNREC to push a feasibility study through as they have gotten an earmark of $4million from the state to match the federal funding.

**QUESTION;** Harry Ward asked if we have a copy of the profile the USACE and DNREC would be using for beach replenishment; ANSWER – Tony will look into this and get back to Council.

# Memorial Fire Company:

Chief, Kent Glasco, reported that the new boat has been sent for a checkup since it was sitting for too long out of the water; the fire company has been doing a clean out of the upstairs area they have opted to donate for the Slaughter Beach Historical Society to use; the new chair lift system they reviewed looks very promising and they will keep the Town updated on whether they can order it; they replaced the logo on the sign in front of the Station and responded to three fire calls this month. The August 5th crab feast sold out almost immediately and they have a large group coming the weekend of August 28th so would appreciate residents not taking parking spaces if that can be avoided over that weekend.

# Treasurer’s Report:

Joanne Plescia reported on the finances for the Town including the Cash, Profit and Loss Budget and Grants. Tax collecting is going well with only six property owners that have not paid. Further, we are still looking for an Auditor as the first response to our Request for Proposal was four times what we currently pay.

Joanne has prepared a limit for expenses that will be approved by individuals on Council and after some discussion Ben Monastero agreed that he would create a Policy to be voted on at the next meeting.

The Town Budget for FY24 had to be adjusted and we will have a full Budget to vote on next month.

A **Motion** was made to approve the Treasurer reports for June 2023, pending audit, by Harry Ward and seconded by Ben Monastero.

# Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

* 1. **Building Inspector’s Report:**

Ben Monastero read the report submitted by Bob Clendaniel (attached).

# Mayoral and Council updates:

* **Bob Wood** advised that he met with Fish & Wildlife about the detritus on the north end of Town. F&W suggested there may be a local use for the detritus and as talks continue, Bob will keep residents advised.
* Sussex County Association of Towns (SCAT) – meetings are not held during the summer months.

# Grants and on-going projects:

1. **Sea Grant** – Bob Wood may have two options for the set tanks and is requesting the water be tested for feasibility.
2. **OPRT (Outdoor Parks, Recreation and Trails) Grant** – Installation will begin in August; Joanne has applied for an additional grant in hopes of getting more money for plantings along a walkway.
3. **CRDS (Coastal Resiliency Design Studio)** – the group is continuing to work on a plan for growth, design and safety that will help our Town keep focused on priorities that will keep us safe from floods and other disasters. We hope to have a town-wide meeting with the students later in August.
4. **Sewer District –** Through the CRDS work, we have been advised on the Sussex County tentative plans for the sewer in Slaughter Beach and have been advised that we should NOT expect sewer to any home in the limits of Slaughter Beach before four years from 2023.
5. **Dumpsters–** The dumpster on Maryland Ave pulled down wires but the damage was quickly remedied by Republic. The next location is noted on your Calendar but if you need more information, contact the town office 302 424 7259.
6. **Phragmites\*** – Most contracts on file are from 2019 – please complete a new contract and drop off at the mailbox labeled 357 at the fire company parking lot on Bay Avenue. For the form, go to the town webpage – it’s under “Town Projects”.

# Open Questions/Discussion:

Patty M asked what we are doing proactively to prevent fires on the beach? The Chief replied that if you cannot reach a member of Town Council, call the fire department and they will follow up.

# Upcoming Events:

* August 14, 2023, at 7pm the next Town Council Meeting.

# Adjournment:

A **Motion** was made by Ben Monastero and seconded by Harry Ward to adjourn at 8:15pm.

# Motion passed unanimously, 5-0