Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting Monday, October 9, 2023

# 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, Jamie Draper in person with Ben Monastero and attending via zoom. The meeting was held via Zoom and in person, community members in attendance are shown on the attached sheets.

# Approval of the September 11, 2023, Town Meeting Minutes:

**Motion: A Motion** was made by Harry Ward and seconded by Jamie Draper to approve the September 11, 2023, Town Meeting Minutes.

# The Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

1. **Approval of the October 9, 2023, Meeting Agenda:**

**Motion: A Motion** was made by Ben Monastero and seconded by Harry Ward to approve the October 9, 2023, Town Council Meeting Agenda.

# The Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

1. **Correspondence:**

Bob Wood advised he received a letter from a student at Sussex Polytech High School asking if there was more he could do to help keep the beach clean; the Bookmobile has returned and will be back on October 18 at 12:45pm - we thank Kathy McFadden for helping to arrange this; there was a report of a raccoon that didn’t look healthy in the 500 block so be mindful when walking along Bay Ave; tree giveaway in Georgetown by the Sussex Conservation District 23818 Shortly Rd November 9th from 1-4pm.

# Reports:

* 1. **Treasurer’s Report:**

Harry Ward reported on the General Ledger, Grants and Profit & Loss Budget for FY24 to-date (reports attached) as well as RTT to-date. Tax collection is going smoothly.

A **Motion** was made to approve the Treasurer’s Reports pending audit or review by Harry Ward and seconded by Jamie Draper.

# Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

* 1. **Building Inspector’s Report:**

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

* 1. **Report/Tony Pratt:**

Weather prevented the planned boat trip but Tony will work with Brian Bogle who is managing the Section 1-11 (the jetty/Mispillion River) study for USACE (US Army Corps of Engineers) on a new date. Further, Tony did a “recon” of all the beaches from Pickering to Lewes (for the Bay Beach Association) and submitted the report earlier on this day to DNREC (Dept of Natural Resources, Environment and Conservation). Tony also spoke with DNREC and supplied a link to the 2023 priority list which shows Slaughter as third on the list of priorities and after this or any storm DNREC will re-evaluate what needs to be done. Ben requested that we set up reporting protocols so these reports consistently reach all of the council members for review and reporting to residents is cohesive.

# Memorial Fire Company:

Chief, Kent Glasco advised they responded to six fire alarms in the month of September with one in the district and 36 ambulance alarms with more than half in our district. The fire company decided against the power stair chair; however, we have the power chair stair on demo and are looking for a home or two to run practice drills. A member of the audience offered dual training for stairs and elevator – thank you to the residents at 422 Bay Avenue. The fire company will participate in the Milford Halloween (3rd Wed night in October every year) parade next Wednesday and Chief Glasco will be taking the position of 1st VP of the Sussex County Fire Chiefs Assoc, for which the Council offered many congratulations.

1. **Mayor & Town Council Updates:**
2. **Cybersecurity** – Jamie Draper has enrolled the Town Council and employees with access to the computer system in a program offered by the state to educate all on “phishing” and other scams that make each town susceptible to ransomware.

# Old Business

# Grants and on-going projects:

1. **Oyster larvae project**: Bob Wood advised that he has reached agreement with Buddy Webb who owns a piece of property along the water for placement of the oyster larvae tanks, now we present to request our permit at the December meeting.
2. **OPRT (Outdoor Parks, Recreation and Trails) Grant** – Bob Wood advised the project is almost complete and on Sunday we will have a ribbon cutting, everyone is welcome.
3. **CRDS (Coastal Resiliency Design Studio)** – We expect an update from the group in November and will post the preliminary report to the website for all to see.
	1. **Phragmites** – Spraying was completed. If you want to be sprayed next year and haven’t submitted a permission form, please go to the website, slaughterbeach.delaware.gov under “town projects”, “phragmites eradication”.
	2. **Sewers** – Bob Wood advised he met with Sussex County, Davis Bowen & Friedel and the fire company about next steps for the sewer project. The project will be run under the road on the Bay side along Bay Avenue, primarily because we don’t have access to easements due to water lines in the area. We don’t have details on other streets off Passwaters yet. Every homeowner will be responsible to plumb from the house to the street – this will be gravity fed to a pod, so no need for electrical or maceration pumps. There will be a public meeting, likely in January to answer questions that resident’s would like to ask.

1. **New Business:**
	1. **Lanternfly** – Bob Wood advised after a training in Milford, we found we do have Lanternflies on Slaughter Beach. Handouts are available, contact the town office for a copy of what to look for and how to eradicate.
	2. **Dog Barking** - we have had complaints and we do have an Ordinance in place. We remind all residents that if you have a problem with a neighbors’ dog, you should contact the homeowner direct. Town Council prefers to not get involved. We will contact animal control to see what other towns are doing.

# Upcoming Events:

* October 15, 2023, Sunday at 10am opening of Memorial Park
* October 18 – Bookmobile returns at 12:45pm
* October 27, 2023 at Sussex Ave – Roll of Dumpster
* November 13, 2023 next Town Council Meeting at 7pm; guest speaker from International Dark Sky to discuss lowering lights; https://darksky.org

# Adjournment:

A **Motion** was made by Ben Monastero and seconded by Harry Ward to adjourn at 7:33pm.

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