Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting Monday, December 11, 2023

# The Regular Town Council Meeting to Order:

Bob Wood called the meeting to order at 7:00pm wishing everyone a Happy Holiday season. Council members in attendance were Joanne Plescia and Jamie Draper in person with Bob Wood, Ben Monastero and Harry Ward 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 November 13, 2023, Town Meeting Minutes:

**Motion: A Motion** was made by Harry Ward and seconded by Joanne Plescia to approve the November 13, 2023, Town Meeting Minutes.

# The Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

1. **Approval of the December 11, 2023, Meeting Agenda:**

**Motion: A Motion** was made by Jamie Draper and seconded by Joanne Plescia to approve the December 11, 2023, Town Council Meeting Agenda.

# The Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

1. **Correspondence:**

Xfinity sent a notice that their rates are increasing, and the town received two Christmas cards, and the Milford Police Dept is having their grand opening, all are invited.

# Reports:

* 1. **Treasurer’s Report:**

Joanne Plescia reported on the General Ledger, Grants, and Profit & Loss Budget for FY24 to-date (reports attached) as well as RTT to-date and tax collection to-date.

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

# Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

* 1. **Building Inspector’s Report:**

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

* 1. **Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP)**

Harry Ward advised we submitted our CLUP update for the Town of Slaughter Beach with only a few changes to it, including sewer. We should get some feedback from the County of Sussex on it shortly.

* 1. **Waste Collection FY25**

Joanne Plescia advised we received three bids and found that only two offered a Monday option and our current company did not offer a move to midweek. We have returned to them asking for Monday as well as mid-week from each so we can compare fairly

Bob Wood asked that all residents comment on whether or not we would move away from Monday as it could save us approximately $100,000 over the course of the next five years. All comments should be put in writing and sent to any Council person with a copy to Town Manager if possible.

Harry Ward reminded all that going forward we will be moving to automated trash and recycle collection making the trash enclosures at the street no longer viable – bins have to be moved to the street and MUST BE FIVE FEET AWAY FROM OTHER OBJECTS as the electronic arms cannot see obstructions.

* 1. **Town Maintenance Person:**

Bob Wood advised that Mike Erisman and his grandsons have officially retired and we are looking for someone or several people to take over those responsibilities for next season – sincere thanks to Mike, Patti and their family for the years of hard work. Please message interest to the town manager.

# Memorial Fire Company:

Kent Glasco, Fire Chief, advised he has been voted in for another year of service; the new boat is in the water but not in full service yet – probably the first of the year. The parking lot was re-striped and the fire company extended thanks to the Town for their generosity.

There was one report of a dog attack on Bay Avenue and the dog was not euthanized as it was considered legal defense of the home.

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

Tony Pratt advised he followed up with USACE (Section 1-11 study) after the boat trip hosted by Captain Dave of the Mispillion River jetty and they are working on cost-design/alternative screening. Further they agreed that the southern portion with the debris (often referred to as detritus) should be included with their analysis but nothing in writing at this time.

1. **Mayor & Town Council Updates:**

# Old Business

# Grants and on-going projects:

1. **Oyster larvae project**: Slaughter Beach has a signed lease to locate the tanks and we believe we are very close to getting the DNREC permit.
2. **CRDS (Coastal Resiliency Design Studio)** – CRDS came to town to present at the SHMO meeting.
3. **Detritus** – sand has covered it up, but it’s still there.
   1. **Sewers** – Bob Wood advised there is no update other than they expect completion in about three years, possibly less.
4. **New Business:**
   1. **State Hazard Mitigation Officers** (SHMO’s) from the mid-Atlantic region met in Rehoboth Beach and the host from DEMA included a visit to Slaughter Beach November 29th as one of their field trips. This was a terrific win for our town thanks to Danielle Swallow.

Harry Ward shared that the Council was pulled aside by the gentleman from West Virginia asking how he could get volunteers active in his state – as we were clearly pro-active and we showed great initiative.

# Upcoming Events:

* December 14 – Dark Sky will offer a short presentation followed by a town social starting at 6:30pm
* January 8, 2024 – Town Council Meeting, 7pm; zoom and in person.
* January 10, 2024 – Bookmobile 12:45-2:15pm, firehouse parking lot.
* January 31, 2024 – Bookmobile 12:45-2:15pm, firehouse parking lot.

1. **Open Forum**

* SB Historical Society has about 20 calendars left as well as a few large and some small flags still for sale.
* Dupont Nature Center is offering walks through December – check the board outside the fire hall.

1. **Adjournment:**

A **Motion** was made by Joanne Plescia and seconded by Jamie Draper to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 pm.

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