



Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting

Monday, August 12, 2024

1. **The Regular Town Council Meeting** was called to order by Bob Wood, Mayor at 7:00pm. Council members present in addition to Bob Wood; Joanne Plescia, Jamie Draper with Harry Ward and Ben Monastero on zoom. The meeting was held via zoom as space was limited due to a planned event in the firehall. Community members in attendance are listed on the attached sheets.
2. **Approval of the July 8, 2024, Town Meeting Minutes: A Motion** was made by Jamie Draper and seconded by Joanne Plescia.
The Motion carried unanimously 5-0.
3. **Approval of the August 12, 2024, Meeting Agenda: A Motion** was made by Joanne Plescia and seconded by Jamie Draper.
The Motion carried unanimously 5-0.
4. **Correspondence**
Bob Wood reported we received the letter for Municipal Street Aid; Bridgeville is having a festival and invited Bob to attend; and he received an invite to The Assn of Water Companies luncheon which we don't participate in; a FOIA request which was responded to after we communicated with our town lawyer to be sure we were within the law.
5. **Reports:**
 - a. **Report/Tony Pratt:** Reference the **Section 1-11** project with the US Army Corps of Engineers, conversations reference the potential dredging of the Mispillion River and repair to the jetty continue. At this time they are completing their study of the problems we face and until that is complete, there is no movement forward. Reference the **Bay Beach Association's** work to garner funding for beach replenishment for Slaughter Beach and many other members, they have accumulated funding and the governor has signed the "Design Agreement" with the US Army Corps of Engineers. USACE will now move to the designing stage so there is not yet a "plan" for replenishment.
 - b. **Treasurer's Reports:**
Joanne Plescia has changed the form of reporting so property owners can see the different accounts, General Fund which is supplied by tax dollars and RTT (Realty Transfer Tax) which is restricted funding. The break out of the reports were presented and no questions were asked. **A Motion** was made by Harry Ward to approve the Treasurer's Reports for July 2024 pending audit or review and seconded by Jamie Draper.
The Motion carried unanimously 5-0.
 - c. **Building Inspector's Report:** Ben Monastero read the report submitted by Bob Clendaniel (attached).
The Zimmerman family requested to merge the two lots they own on Bay Avenue; 330-9.00-33.00 and 330-9.00-34.00 and Bob Clendaniel recommended the Council



approve. Jamie Draper made a **Motion** to approve this merge of the two lots described above, which was seconded by Joanne Plescia.

The Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

The Smith family requested to merge the two lots they own on Bay Avenue, 230-4.00-24.00 and 230-4.00-24.01. Bob Clendaniel recommended the Council approve.

Joanne made a **Motion** to approve this merger of the two lots described above, which was seconded by Jamie Draper.

The Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

6. New Business:

- d. Bob Wood advised that the sign in front of the Pavilion restrooms needs repair in addition to a sign we want to put up for the Draper Recreation Area. Bob suggested we do both in similar colors as those recommended by the WIIN project and either do the same/similar as what is currently at our entrances with a primary color of blue or use the green in that color palette. Harry recommended we be consistent with a color scheme going forward.
- e. Emergency Operations Center in Sussex County would like to have a hurricane preparedness meeting for residents/owners here on Slaughter Beach. They would want approximately 50 people so we will likely push it to September and invite all residents to join.

7. Mayoral and Council Updates:

- f. FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) arrived in Slaughter Beach with a representative from DEMA and representatives from Sussex County Planning and Zoning in addition to Bob Clendaniel to have a **Community Assistance Visit**. They requested more than 40 files on homes in town to review for discrepancies and spent a day going over files in addition to three home visits. We are waiting for the report on their findings, which will potentially affect our flood insurance.
- g. **The Coastal Resiliency Design Studio** (CRDS) has given us copies of their final report. We have copies in the office that can be signed out for residents to borrow and read if interested.

8. Old Business:

- h. **Thriving Communities**, US Dept of Transportation managed by Main Street America – the TOSB has received a subgrant award for \$90,000 that will help us arrange for public outreach and meetings with communities that would be affected by the addition of a wider street, or construction of a high walkway that would allow for safe passage of pedestrians and mobility impaired visitors to Slaughter Beach and Milford. We expect work to be in mid to late Fall.
- i. **FEMA** (Federal Emergency Management), **BRIC** (Building Resilient Communities **DTA** (Direct Technical Assistance) – We are the first town in Delaware to be awarded this assistance and our first meeting is this week. Based on historical findings, having this assistance is directly related to getting financial assistance for some of our larger and more expensive projects.
- j. **Roll off Dumpster** was on Evans last month and went smoothly. Council will consider adding dumpsters at the beginning of the program next year to assist all owners in getting rid of garden cuttings. Bob Wood also mentioned he is looking for grant assistance to go toward this project.



- k. **Sewer/Wastewater Management** – we are on our third contact, however now it seems to be a permanent person for the job. If you have questions or need assistance from Sussex Engineering, they have a new email address solely for our use: SlaughterBeachSewer@sussexcountyde.gov The Memorial Fire Company has signed an agreement with Sussex County to allow for the pump house and access. A tentative map has been shared with Bob Wood and he will have it available for residents to see upon request.
- l. **Slaughter Beach Historical Society** still has “SB” stickers to give out, these were donated by a resident. And they are running the photo contest for the next calendar – if you haven’t yet, you can submit up to three photos for consideration to sbhistory.org for the rules and application.

9. Upcoming Events:

- m. Next Dumpster, August 30-September 1, 2024
- n. Town Council Meeting September 9, 2024 at 7:00 pm
- o. September 14th, annual beach cleanup is organized by Harry Ward, email to register – vicemayor@slaughterbeachde.com
- p. US Coast Guard Auxiliary will have a boat safety course, September 21, 2024 from 8am – a sign will be in the box at the firehall and we will include in the weekly email.
- q. Bookmobile, fire department parking area, September 18, 2024, 12:45-2pm
- r. To be on the mailing list for the Town updates, message townmanager@slaughterbeachde.com
- s. To be on the mailing list for the SB Sailing Club, message 09sbsc@gmail.com, Harry Ward

10. Open Forum Discussion:

11. Adjournment

A Motion was made by Joanne Plescia to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Jamie Draper at 7:49pm.

The Motion carried unanimously 5-0.