



Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting

Monday, October 14, 2024

1. **The Regular Town Council Meeting** was called to order by Bob Wood, Mayor at 7:03pm. Council members present in addition to Bob Wood; Jamie Draper and Harry Ward with Ben Monastero on zoom. Community members in attendance, in person and online, are listed on the attached sheets.
2. **Approval of the September 9, 2024, Town Meeting Minutes: A Motion** was made by Harry Ward and seconded by Jamie Draper.
The Motion carried unanimously 4-0.
3. **Approval of the October 14, 2024, Meeting Agenda: A Motion** was made by Jamie Draper and seconded by Harry Ward.
The Motion carried unanimously 4-0.
4. **Correspondence**

Letter from Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester discussing the progress of beach project labelling CBRA zones – we responded that we would like a seat at the table when this labeling is being discussed in future.

Senator Carper had a meeting about WRDA 2024 and we have asked for consideration of monies toward our sewer project.

A resident was putting siding on their house and believed they didn't need a permit. They did, and we would appreciate all residents submitting for a permit regardless of what they may think – we have been under scrutiny by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) after the CAV (Community Assistance Visit) and it has potential to cost us our participation in the NFIP.

 - a. **Tony Pratt** discussed the Management Plan, which is not costing the State of Delaware any money for a feasibility study. He also highlighted the need for attention to the detritus issue and the potential for a seat at the table in the management group for the upcoming Mini Bond Bill. Tony expressed optimism about the new administration and secretary of DNREC (Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control) and mentioned concerns about the economic study conducted by DNREC. Association of Coastal Towns and Bay Beach Association are looking at drafting a response to DNREC reference the cost share that has been proposed for beach replenishment.
 - b. **Memorial Fire Company** – Kent shared a big thank you from the fire company for all of the generous donations that allowed them to purchase beds, recliners and a fridge for Station 2. He reported that October has been a slow month with only 8 fire calls and around 30 EMS calls to-date. Further, the fire company will be participating in the Milford Halloween Parade on October 16th and Santa Claus will be visiting the firehall again this year (date to be announced). We had great turnout for flu shots, so thank you to all that participated. Finally, there are 9V battery operated smoke detectors available and some will be kept in the office to distribute.
 - c. **Treasurer's Reports:**



Harry Ward presented the general fund, operating account, RTT (Realty Transfer Tax) account and grants ending October 14, 2024.

A Motion was made by Jamie Draper to approve the Treasurer's Reports ending October 14, 2024 pending audit or review and seconded by Ben Monastero.

The Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

- d. **Building Inspector's Report:** Ben Monastero read the report submitted by Bob Clendaniel (attached).
 - e. **Cybersecurity Grant** – Jamie Draper advised this grant (\$3,600) would allow us to have backups and better security for the privileged information we retain on the office computer – waiting on final approval.
- 6. New Business:**
- f. **The Emergency Operations Center** in Sussex County held an informational meeting here on September 25, 2024 at 6:30pm in the firehall and on zoom. It was well attended and has led to a follow up meeting for Seaside Envoys to discuss how we can share this information in the easiest way possible, October 23, 2024.
 - g. **FEMA** (Federal Emergency Management Agency) **CAV** (Community Assistance Visit) visit – if you received a letter about tying down your propane tanks, please take care of it at your earliest. Other letters and memos that were sent are less detailed because we are waiting for clarification from Sussex and FEMA on the notes that were submitted on your properties. Please ALWAYS submit a permit if you want to work on your home – the files get pulled during these visits and if we don't show permits, we could end up on probation on the FEMA backed flood insurance NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program).
 - h. **Town Cameras** – Bob Wood advised if we want cameras that can read license plates, we would be looking at spending about \$30,000, in addition to monthly charges. Council is considering this upgrade but no decisions have been made.
- 7. Mayoral and Council Updates:**
- i. Bob Wood wants everyone to be aware that Ted Becker, previous Mayor of Lewes, has passed away. This is considered a huge loss for the Bay Beach Community.
 - j. **SCAT – Sussex County Association of Towns** – we were not able to attend but the topic wasn't going to affect our decision making, as it was an opportunity for someone running for Governor to present his plans.
 - k. **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:**
- l. **Thriving Communities**, US Dept of Transportation managed by Main Street America – no movement. Hoping for a "pop-up" in November for residents of Slaughter Beach.
 - m. **Roll off Dumpster** - Final roll off is end of October. Council is considering adding dumpsters next year for the first and final roll-offs – if you have an opinion, please message someone on Council or town manager.
 - n. **ARPA** – We have \$17,000 and a decision has not been made.
 - o. **BRIC DTA** – Three years of technical assistance from FEMA.
 - p. **Sewer/Wastewater Management** –If you have questions or need assistance from Sussex Engineering, they have a new email address solely for our use:



SlaughterBeachSewer@sussexcountyde.gov A tentative map has been shared with Bob Wood and he will have it available for residents to see upon request.

- q. **Water Refill Station** – to refill bottles – will be set up for next season instead of putting it in for the last months of this season.
- r. **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.
- s. **Red Water Tags** – to highlight where your shut off is, are available in the town office. townmanager@slaughterbeachde.com

9. Upcoming Events:

- t. Next Dumpster, October 25 weekend.
- u. Town Council Meeting November 11, 2024 at 7:00 pm
- v. Bookmobile, fire department parking area, November 20, 2024, 12:45-2pm
- w. To be on the mailing list for the Town updates, message townmanager@slaughterbeachde.com
- x. To be on the mailing list for the SB Sailing Club, message 09sbsc@gmail.com, Harry Ward

10. Open Forum Discussion:

A question was raised about 261 Bay Avenue and the amount of trash on the lot – in addition to the plumbers reporting that they are installing two kitchens. Bob Wood has followed up with the homeowner and has confirmed there are not two kitchens and Council has been invited to walk through the property after clean up is completed the first week of November.q1`

The homeowner next door advised there is a power line (theirs) that is touchable from the deck of the new home. Bob Wood will follow up with DelMarva Power.

11. Adjournment

A Motion was made by Harry Ward to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Jamie Draper at 8:02pm.

The Motion carried unanimously 4-0.