

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

January 13, 2009

LOCATION

Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on January 13, 2009. President Klair called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Commissioners present were James Klair, Peter Dunbar and Timothy Kearns. Town Attorney David Thompson and a Star Democrat representative were in attendance. There were five (5) people in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of December 9, 2008 were approved as distributed.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Scott DeLude, Public Works Superintendent, gave the Maintenance Report that consisted of the following:

1. Town Park and Causeway Park have been fertilized and seeded by the public works crew. The fertilizer and seed cost \$1400.00. This will help the grass over the next year and fill in some of the bare spots that have been appearing. This should be done on an annual basis to keep the parks in good shape. This was done about nine (9) years ago.
2. The department has installed inline block heaters into the generators at Bachelors Point, Bonfield Ave. and the Causeway Park. The generators were not starting in cold weather during a power outage. The block heaters will allow the generators to start in cold weather. This should cut down on overtime expense since the generators should not fail.
3. Two new doggie boxes have been placed in town. One at the entrance to Causeway Park and the other at the Cross Street walking trail. The boxes have been plated with the town ordinance #102 requiring everyone to pick up waste from their animal. The problem of not picking up has increased.
4. The dump truck has had its yearly D.O.T. inspection and the cost this year was only \$189.00 compared to last years cost of \$1300.00. The decrease in cost is due to a monthly maintenance schedule.
5. On January 8th the town had a preconstruction meeting regarding the Arsenic Reduction System Installation. Construction will begin in March. The system will be finished by September 25, 2009. This will bring the town into compliance with Federal standards.
6. On January 12th Commissioner Dunbar and Scott met with Critical Area Commission on the implementation of the Cross Street walking path. Critical Area Commission has given the town information that will allow the path to be completed. This project was started in 1991.

President Klair questioned whether the town is using the best type of fertilizer and whether the fertilizer was used near the shoreline since there is a move to cut down on the use of fertilizers. Scott stated that he used the same type of fertilizer that the Town of Easton is using and the public works crew did stay away from the shoreline.

Mr. Witter, member of audience, asked if the Commissioners would explain what the Cross Street walking trail is. Commissioner Dunbar explained that this was an old unimproved street bed that years ago was used by the public and delivery persons. Property owners adjacent to this area did not want the public to use the area. After a court hearing the town was granted a ten foot strip for pedestrian use. The ten foot

path was marked with iron stakes but never improved. The plan is to improve the walking area and since part of the path is in the critical area buffer, the Critical Area Staff was gotten in touch with. The staff met with Scott and Commissioner Dunbar and the staff is satisfied that this is not a big deal. Commissioner Dunbar commented that the Commissioners would like to have public suggestions for a name for the walking path. The path has been used by the public so rights to use the path have been maintained.

President Klair thanked Scott for putting in effect maintenance schedules for equipment which will save the town money in repairs. Due to revenues being down this will help with the budget.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Borga gave the Police Report that consisted of the following:

- 18 - Police Information
- 4 - Suspicious Motor Vehicles (ID occupants and moved on)
- 1 - Suspicious person (ID and moved on)
- 1 - Alarm (Malfunction)
- 3 - Assist Other Police Agencies
- 1 - Prowler (gone on arrival)
- 2 - Assist the Fire Department

Chief Borga announced that a suspect has been identified in the recent car break ins, but asked that residents keep their cars locked and remove valuables.

OXFORD FIRE COMPANY

Jan Mroczek, President of Ladies Auxiliary, gave the report for the Oxford Fire Company. Ms. Mroczek gave numbers for the year ending 2008. The Fire Company responded to one hundred eight (108) fire calls. Fifty three (53) volunteers responded to the calls for a total of one thousand four hundred ninety (1490) personnel hours. The Fire Company responded to one hundred twenty one (121) ambulance calls. Thirty four (34) volunteers responded to the calls for a total of five hundred three (503) personnel hours.

Ms. Mroczek announced that in addition to enjoying the breakfast the 2nd Sunday of every month put on by the Oxford Fire Company, there will be a dinner the 1st Monday of every month. The first dinner will be February 2nd, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., and the first dinner will be a spaghetti dinner.

NEW BUSINESS

SHORT TERM RENTALS

President Klair announced that letters have been received from Mr. & Mrs. Hendrickson and Mr. & Mrs. Gil Anderson. Both Mr. & Mrs. Hendrickson and Mr. & Mrs. Anderson own property located at Robes Harbor Court. Both parties are concerned about short-term rentals. President Klair explained that the Commissioners have met with a group of citizens concerning short term rentals and information has been given to the Commissioners. The Commissioners will continue to review information and meet with counsel. Concerns seem to be parking, disregard for private property and the number of guest.

Commissioner Kearns remarked that he had a positive experience with a short term rental. The renters explained to Commissioner Kearns that they had a wonderful experience staying in Oxford, enjoying meals at Oxford Inn and were looking into purchasing real estate in Oxford.

Commissioner Dunbar commented that short term rental is a difficult issue to address, but the Commissioners are reviewing all information that they receive.

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

President Klair announced that the Planning Commission has two vacancies, Board of Appeals needs an alternate and Historic Commission needs an alternate. Anyone interested please call the Town Office.

President Klair stated that a letter has been received from County Manager, Andy Hollis, requesting that Oxford fill the position on Talbot County Parks & Recreation that is vacant due to the representative from Oxford resigning. Please call the Town Office if you have an interest in filling this position.

WWTP STUDY

President Klair announced that he and Attorney Thompson met with Mayor Willey of Easton to discuss Oxford's study for the future of its waste water treatment. A work session will be held on January 27, 2009 at the regular scheduled Commissioners Meeting with Oxford Town Commissioners, Talbot County Council, Lenny Gold, consultant for Oxford, Stearns & Wheler, Oxford's engineers, Easton Utilities and Attorney Thompson regarding the future of Oxford's waste water treatment facility. This work session will answer many questions that citizens may have and will be open for public discussion. At this time the town is trying to get the necessary information in the County Comprehensive Plan in order for the town to be eligible for grant money. There will be a work session with Talbot County Planning Commission on February 3rd and a Public hearing with Talbot County Council on February 10th. At this time the town is showing the possibility that the town may choose to use Easton, but this only shows the possibility not a final decision. If the town does use a force main to Easton, no one would be allowed to tap into the force main, this will not open development on Oxford Road. Attorney Thompson stated that if using a force main to Easton in the best environmental solution, there is no realistic possibility that anyone else would be able to use the force main.

LIVING SHORELINE

Commissioner Dunbar announced that he has received a draft of the plan for the design of the living shoreline at Town Park. There are a few things to clear up and then this plan will be presented to the public in February or March for comments.

MODIFY ZONING ORDINANCE TO ADD SECTION REGARDING VEHICLES

President Klair stated that the Planning Commission members were all in agreement that the draft proposal to modify Oxford Zoning Ordinance to add a section regarding parking and vehicles should not be adopted. Attorney Thompson commented that he had hoped the draft proposal would draw out other solutions to the parking problem. The problem in town is that there is one inconsiderate property owner that has five (5) vehicles parked on the street and anything that is adopted will have to be enforced throughout town. Any ordinance passed would not apply on Morris Street, since Morris Street is a state highway. Pam Baker, Chairperson of Planning Commission, commented that by passing a parking ordinance the problem may be moved to Morris Street. Chief Borga suggested adding something in an ordinance stating that not only must the vehicles be tagged and insured but they must also be operable. Two of the vehicles out of the five that are causing concern will not run. The Commissioners are going to review comments from the Planning Commission before any further discussion.

ATTORNEY

Attorney Thompson commented that he has been in touch with the town's bond counsel regarding the arsenic project. The loan questionnaire needs to be signed and a couple of questions answered by the town auditors and then forwarded to MDE.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commissioners voted to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue. The executive session was held under Section 10.508 Open Meetings Act, Maryland Code (1992 cum. Supl.) No. 2. Those in attendance were James Klair, Commissioner, Peter Dunbar, Commissioner, Timothy Kearns, Commissioner, Scott DeLude, Public Works Superintendent, David Thompson, Town Attorney and Lillian Lord, Town Clerk.

BILLS PAYABLE

The regular meeting was reopened. The Commissioners went to Bills Payable.

Commissioner Kearns made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Dunbar seconded motion.

Aye - James G. Klair

Aye - Peter Dunbar

Aye - Timothy B. Kearns

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Lord
Town Clerk