

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

February 12, 2008

LOCATION

Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on February 12, 2008. The meeting was called to order by President Kearns at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Commissioners present were Timothy Kearns and James Klair. There were approximately twenty (20) people present.

MINUTES

The minutes of January 22, 2008 were approved as distributed.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Scott DeLude, Public Works Superintendent, gave the Maintenance Report. The report consisted of the following:

- (1) We have received our GIS system for the Town of Oxford and have been working with Salisbury University to correct some problems. There will be a two (2) day class in mid May on the use of the system. The town computers need to be upgraded.
- (2) The top of the bulkhead at the Strand parking lot has been rebuilt because of deteriorating wood and sink holes between the ground and the water. The holes have been filled with rock and top soil.
- (3) Delmarva Power moved an electric line that was installed in the middle of the town's storm water system at 703 S. Morris Street. A new pipe has been installed and drainage should be corrected now that the line has been removed.
- (4) Easton Utilities is doing the towns waste water testing on a weekly basis for a savings to the town of \$2500.00 per year and the test results will be coming back on a weekly basis rather than monthly.
- (5) Rock fill has been placed at the street ends of First Street and Market Street. This should slow down the deterioration of the street ends.
- (6) The automatic grease system has been installed in all of the lift stations. This will break down the grease that comes into the sewer system and plugs up the pumps. This will help alleviate the majority of the station problems.
- (7) On February 1st the Banks Street lift station high water alarm went off. There was heavy rain that night and storm water had infiltrated into the sewer system to the point that the pump could not keep up. The infiltration was traced to a broken sewer line on Tilghman Street at a private residence. The homeowner was helpful and the line has been repaired.
- (8) The trees at the baseball field have been trimmed and the area cleaned up. The trees were in bad shape and were beginning to split apart because of the lack of maintenance.
- (9) Scott met with a tide gate salesman concerning the tide water back flowing into the Causeway Park. The company has a system that will stop the tide from coming in while letting the storm water out. Until the SHA streetscape project is finalized the tide gates are on hold.

Commissioner Klair advised that he has received questions regarding an outside light that has been placed at the Causeway pump station. The light is very bright and is shining in the windows of a residence across the street from the station. Scott stated that he will look into this and put in a lower wattage light if necessary.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Borga gave the Police Report. The report consisted of the following:

- 11 - Police Information
- 1 - Alarm (weather related)
- 3 - Suspicious Persons (ID and moved)
- 1 - Suspicious Motor Vehicle (ID occupants and moved on)
- 2 - Animal Complaints (referred to animal control)
- 1 - Identity Theft
- 1 - Warrant Service (suspect in theft case)
- 1 - Assist the Fire Department
- 1 - Check the welfare (all o.k.)

Chief Borga announced that the 2007 Impala is out of service due to problems with the transmission. The car should be back in service next week.

Commissioner Klair raised the question of how the town deals with barking dogs. Chief Borga stated that the town does not have any jurisdiction in dealing with this issue. Chief Borga further stated that he was aware of a problem that has neighbors upset and that this has been an ongoing problem and has been turned over to the Talbot County Humane Society. President Kearns suggested that it might be helpful to the police department if an ordinance was passed. The problem will be referred to Attorney Thompson.

EASTERN SHORE HERITAGE

President Kearns explained that Attorney Thompson was unable to attend the town meeting because of another obligation but has left information regarding passing a resolution or ordinance for the joining of Eastern Shore Heritage. President Kearns stated that there has to be at least one Public Hearing held by the Planning Commission, Article 66B, Section 3.07 states, "before recommending the adoption of ...any...amendment, a Planning Commission shall hold at least one Public Hearing". The Planning Commission shall make one publication and at least 60 days prior to the Public Hearing the Planning Commission shall provide copies of the amendment to all State and local agencies. The very earliest a Public Hearing would be able to be scheduled on an amendment would be the second town meeting in April. A joint Public Hearing could be held with the Planning Commission and the Town Commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS

USE OF STORAGE ROOM

President Kearns stated that a request has been made to use the storage area of the Community Services Building for exhibit space by local artist. President Kearns commented that there are concerns with using this space, sensitive files in the area, space is unfinished, and security issues. President Kearns explained that the town has the existing meeting room and hall space that could be used. Pat Jessup, representing Oxford Museum, stated that the museum and Oxford Library needs exhibit space. Marguerite Owen Webster commented that the storage room is a valuable public space that is not being used cost effectively, there are other ways to store documents rather than boxes and the space should be permanent exhibit space. Commissioner Klair stated that the Commissioners have every intention to utilize the space.

STREETSCAPE

President Kearns announced that the Commissioners received a letter from State Highway Administration responding to the Commissioners letter in early December. The Commissioners are not comfortable with SHA plans and will continue to negotiate with SHA. President Kearns stated that stormwater is one of the concerns the Commissioners have with the project. Commissioner Klair stated that a meeting will be set up as soon as all schedules are agreeable.

HOUSE IN DISREPAIR

The Oxford Historic Commission has sent a letter with pictures to the Commissioners requesting that action be taken against properties that are in disrepair. President Kearns stated that the Commissioners are continuing to talk with the town attorney regarding what can be done about the properties. Commissioner Klair committed that the Historic Commission denied permission to take down a house on Tilghman Street that had fire damage. The Commissioners are aware of the condition of the property and are trying to resolve the issue.

TALBOT COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A letter was received from Sandy Hale resigning as representative from the Town of Oxford for the Talbot County Economic Development. The Commissioners are looking for a replacement for Sandy as well as replacements for vacancies on the town boards.

MOORING FIELDS

Commissioner Klair announced that the Commissioners and Board of Port Wardens met to discuss mooring fields. A Public Hearing will be held on mooring regulations and hopefully a plan can be adopted this Spring.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

BILLS PAYABLE

At this time the regular meeting was reopened and the Commissioners went to Bills Payable.

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Lord
Town Clerk