

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

May 22, 2007

LOCATION

Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on May 22, 2007. The meeting was called to order by President Hale at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Commissioners present were Henry Hale, Timothy Kearns and James Klair. There were approximately ten (10) people in attendance including Town Attorney, David Thompson.

The minutes of May 8, 2007 were approved as distributed.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

President Hale read the Maintenance Report as prepared by Richard Copper, Interim Superintendent of the Public Works Department.

1. Weekly water and wastewater test were taken and completed.
2. Pumping stations and wells were checked daily.
3. Performed general maintenance throughout town (filled pot holes and removed trash).
4. Recycle Center checked and cleaned twice weekly.
5. Watered trees and plants at Recycle Center.
6. Picked up cold mix and patched pot holes on Tilghman Street parking lot and boat ramp.
7. Water and sewer lines located at 200 South Morris Street.
8. A broken sewer clean out at the Oxford Firehouse was repaired.

Commissioner Klair asked the status of the trash receptacles with lids that are to be placed in the areas where cans have been damaged. Mrs. Lord advised that Richard Copper has decided to use a barrel type container and order plastic lids. The receptacles and lids will be black. They will be easier for the maintenance department to handle and will be more cost effective. Commissioner Klair suggested placing the town seal on the containers.

Commissioner Kearns requested that Richard Copper be notified that there are several areas in town that need potholes filled.

POLICE REPORT

Lt. Patrick Maxwell gave the Police Report in the absence of Chief Borga. The report consisted of the following:

- 10 - Police Information
- 1 - Suspicious Motor Vehicle (ID and moved on)
- 1 - Suspicious Person
- 1 - Assist the Fire Department
- 2 - Accidents (no injuries)
- 2 - Assist other Police Agencies

Commissioner Klair questioned whether the Oxford Police ever patrol the Oxford Cemetery. Lt. Maxwell stated that the cemetery is out of the town limits but the police do make periodic checks. Lt. Maxwell commented that recently the Oxford Police were called under mutual aid to the cemetery on a complaint. Lt. Maxwell advised that he had spoken with Richard Newton, Oxford Cemetery Board, and suggested that they ask for Oxford to have some jurisdiction. Commissioner Klair also questioned whether there have been any complaints about hunting in the cemetery area. Lt. Maxwell explained that there had been some calls regarding the cove and leaving boats in the area. Lt. Maxwell stated that Department of Natural Resources was notified since one boat had broken loose and was drifting in the area of private docks.

OPEN REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

President Hale opened the "Request for Qualifications for Arsenic Removal" which were due May 22, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. Only one RFQ was received. This was from Stearns & Wheler. The RFQ will be reviewed by Richard Copper and Lenny Gold, consultant for the Town of Oxford before it is awarded.

REQUEST TO BE ON AGENDA - Fletcher Hanks

Fletcher Hanks explained that he was attending tonight's meeting to report to the Commissioners as a concerned senior citizen with a interest in the town. Mr. Hanks had several issues that he brought to the Commissioners attention.

(1) Pollution problem of Town Creek - Mr. Hanks suggested increasing the flow at the head of Town Creek by establishing an open pipe from the bulkhead at the end of Pier Street into the Tred Avon River to the head of Town Creek. Since there is a difference of 15 minutes from tide change in the Tred Avon and Town Creek, this would give water flow for 15 minutes into Town Creek,

(2) Build a commercial seafood buying station along with boat slips to accommodate commercial boats in the area of the Strand between Mears Marina and the Tred Avon Condominiums This will reduce damage to bulkheads on Town Creek from the wake of commercial boats and reduce the burning of fuel by the commercial boats.

(3) Pass a law to make it illegal to deposit crab bait in any of the waters adjacent to the Town of Oxford including Robes Harbor.

(4) Build a hurricane barrier around Oxford on the Tred Avon River.

(5) Pass a law prohibiting the use of weed-killer in Oxford.

NEW BUSINESS

OXFORD CEMETERY

Commissioner Klair speaking as a member of Oxford Cemetery Board stated the cemetery board would like to enter into a memo of understanding with the Town of Oxford giving permission to the Oxford Police Department to patrol the cemetery property and to assist if there are any problems. Commissioner Klair further stated that the board is aware that there would be cost involved for this additional patrolling and are willing to give a donation or work out payment with the town. Commissioner Klair stated that he would reclude himself from any decision as to whether the town wants to enter in an agreement.

Lt. Maxwell stated that he did not see any problems with the police department patrolling the cemetery area. Attorney Thompson asked Commissioner Klair to have the Cemetery Board write to the town requesting assistance. If the Town Commissioners are in agreement that the police should patrol the area, Attorney Thompson will write a memo of understanding.

OXFORD - 325TH BIRTHDAY 2008

Commissioner Klair announced that Oxford will be celebrating its 325th year in 2008 and the possibility of having volunteers to form a committee to celebrate should be explored. Commissioner Kearns stated that interest was shown at the Oxford Business Association to come up with a celebration. Commissioner Klair asked that anyone interested in helping with the celebration contact him.

The ferry will also be 325 years old in 2008. There is a ferry race planned for Saturday, September 22nd. There will be three ferries in the race. There will be ferry rides available following the race and proceeds from the day will be divided among Oxford Fire Company Building Fund, Richardson Museum and Cancer Fund.

TOP BUSINESS WOMEN

Commissioner Klair congratulated Captain Judy Bixler as being named as one of the top one hundred (100) business women in the State of Maryland.

STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

Susan Lippy, State Highway Administration, spoke with Mrs. Lord on 5/21/07 and advised that the street scape project is being reviewed by the local district engineer and as soon as his review is completed a meeting will be held with the Town Commissioners. Funding is available and the project is moving forward.

MOORING FIELD

Attorney Thompson advised that he has been in touch with Adrian Baker, Natural Resources Police Captain who is in charge of the State's mooring program. Mr. Baker was informed in February 2007 that Oxford wished to establish a group mooring area and be designated as local government authority with local mooring field regulations. Captain Baker advised that this is a larger issue than just Oxford and his office is working on the issue. Attorney Thompson stated that he is trying to move forward with this and is aware that the Port Wardens want to establish a mooring field.

In answering questions from the audience it was explained that a mooring field will regulate where the moorings can be placed and how they are maintained. There will also be a permit application and a fee. Existing moorings will be grandfathered.

Captain Bixler, Oxford Ferry, presented the Commissioners with photographs and a broken piece of chain from a mooring buoy that was not properly installed. The unit pulled apart and was in the ferry slip on the Bellevue side. There was no identification on the unit. This could have caused considerable damage to the ferry and put the ferry out of service for a long period of time. Captain Bixler stated that he is very concerned that the buoys are not being installed in the proper manner.

President Hale stated that the Commissioners are concerned with the problems and that is the reason money was put in fiscal year 2007 budget for the purchase of a boat in order to inspect and approve dock permits, boat lifts and hopefully moorings. The town was unable to find a boat in the price range that was put in the budget.

WATERWAY IMPROVEMENTS

The town has received notification that grant requests for fiscal year 2009 are being accepted by Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The town is putting in a request for funding to dredge the end of Market Street and Town Creek.

FIREFIGHTER I CLASS

President Hale announced that the Oxford Fire Company will be hosting a Firefighter I class starting on September 11, 2007. Applications can be picked up at the town office and from the firemen.

FINE ARTS FAIR

Commissioner Klair reminded everyone to attend the Fire Arts Fair this weekend and enjoy beautiful art work and delicious food.

TOWN ELECTION

Commissioner Klair announced that the Town Election for Commissioner will be held on Tuesday, June 19th. Peter Dunbar is running unopposed.

PARKS & RECREATION

Nancy Wallace , member of Parks & Recreation, announced that plans are being made to plant the large pot containers with grasses. This will make maintenance of the containers easier.

Nancy Wallace announced that plans are being made for a July 4th celebration. There will be a children's parade beginning at 11:00 a.m. The children will start at the Oxford Post Office and go to the Town Park. There will be music, games and a box lunch available from Oxford Market. Ms. Wallace requested that the Commissioners approve paying postage to mail out flyers to let everyone know about the celebration. Flyers will only be mailed to residents and the celebration will be for the town. President Hale volunteered to see if Oxford Fire Company would do the mailing since they have bulk rate available to them. The town will reimburse the fire company the cost of mailing.

AUDIENCE

Jane McCarthy questioned, why will Morris Street have to be milled down before paving? It was explained that this needs to be done to help with drainage, meeting ADA requirements and sidewalks.

VARIOUS BOARDS

Commissioner Klair announced that board members are needed. At this time there are vacancies on Planning, Port Wardens and Appeals. If anyone is willing to volunteer, please notify the town office.

SIGNS

Captain Bixler announced that the green sign at the ferry dock has been removed and a new sign with the town seal has been installed in its place. Many passengers on the ferry have commented on how nice the new sign looks.

Captain Bixler stated that a group is working with State Highway Administration to have a new sign installed at the entrance to Oxford.

BILLS PAYABLE

The Commissioners went to Bills Payable.

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

Aye - Henry Hale
Aye - Timothy Kearns
Aye - James Klair

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Lord
Town Clerk/Treasurer