

## COMMISSIONERS MEETING

November 13, 2007

### LOCATION

Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on November 13, 2007. The meeting was called to order by President Kearns at 7:30 p.m.

### PRESENT

Commissioners present were Timothy B. Kearns, James Klair and Peter Dunbar. Town Attorney David Thompson was in attendance.

### MINUTES

The minutes of October 23, 2007 were approved as distributed.

### MAINTENANCE REPORT

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

1. Made calls regarding rumble strips for Bonfield Ave. (very audible)
2. Installed new digital flow sensor in main lift station (no more floats in Main lift station).
3. Implemented new brush disposal at the town maintenance building.
4. Took down all but one tree by NOAA lab fence - overgrown (will do replanting of new trees in the future).
5. Installed heaters in all lift stations and wells (no freeze ups this year).
6. Installed main lift pump from Hills Electric (repairs). All pumps now up and running.
7. Rebuilt and installed the safety exhaust fan in main lift stations (taken out four years ago).
8. Request that the Commissioners advise their thoughts on the water, sewer and street plan given to them at the last town meeting.
9. The town lagoon has been shut down for the month of November as the dry weather has made room for storage (saving money).
10. The town dump truck was taken to Dick's Body Shop for repairs of the doors and windows that would not work. (Work completed November 1<sup>st</sup> now back in service).
11. Started getting bids for new automatic transfer switch for generator at shop (manual switch now).
12. Rebuilt eyewashes and showers in chemical labs (have not worked in five years).

Scott advised the Commissioners that he has looked into purchasing rubble strips and has asked Lt. Maxwell to help to gather information regarding the strips. Lt. Maxwell advised that he has been in touch with State Highway Administration and has been told that they would not install rubble strips unless there have been multiple accidents in the area that have been documented. Lt. Maxwell suggested adding an additional orange panel on the sign to the entrance of Oxford showing the speed limit. State Highway Administration will add the additional panel. Lt. Maxwell stated that the department has issued a couple of citations on Bonfield Ave and Tilghman Street. Lt. Maxwell suggested rearranging the police work schedule to see if the speeding can be corrected rather than installing rubble strips.

Commissioner Dunbar asked Lt. Maxwell to approach State Highway Administration again about putting rubble strips on the state road coming into Oxford. Commissioner Dunbar stated that the Oxford Business Association had approached him requesting that strips be put on the state road in order to reduce the number of tickets that are issued in town. President Kearns remarked that it is hopeful that when the street scape project is done the State Highway Administration will be agreeable to try and help to curtail speeding. Commissioner Dunbar remarked that the area where the Commissioners would like to see rubble strips is adjacent to Latitude which is outside of the street scape project.

Scott asked if the Commissioners had reviewed the plans to have property owners install the connection, water meter using town specifications rather than the Maintenance Department doing this work. The Commissioners advised that they have not had a formal discussion regarding this issue. Scott advised that if the town is going to continue to do this service the capital connection fees need to be increased.

#### FIRE HYDRANT INSTALLATION AT OXFORD FIRE COMPANY

Commissioner Klair made a motion to have the town install a fire hydrant in the southwest corner of the fire department. President Kearns seconded motion. Commissioners voted on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November 2007.

Aye - Timothy Kearns

Aye - James Klair

Aye - Peter Dunbar

Commissioner Dunbar requested that Scott look into the cost to loop the water line from the fire house to East Pier Street. At the present time the water line dead ends at the fire company and also dead ends at East Pier Street

#### PREVENT SPEEDING

John Guffey questioned why money should be spent to put up more signs or rubble strips to slow down traffic. The Commissioners explained that because of the foot traffic crossing the street at Latitude and the Community Center they feel it is a public safety issue, not the issue of whether it prevents someone from getting a warning or ticket for speeding. Commissioner Dunbar stated that when the street scape project is being done there will be pedestrian crosswalks marked, the Commissioners will be suggesting areas where the crosswalks are needed.

#### POLICE REPORT

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

- 4 - Malicious Destruction of Property
- 2 - Alarms (malfunction)
- 2 - Suspicious Persons (ID and moved on)
- 2 - Assist Other Police Agencies
- 10 - Police Informations
- 1 - Theft of Bicycle
- 3 - Alcohol Violations
- 3 - Criminal Summons served

Lt. Maxwell announced that two "DO NOT ENTER" signs will be installed on South Street. This is necessary because of the trees and poles blocking signs. There will also be two signs placed at Market Street and South Street "ONE WAY".

Lt. Maxwell requested that President Kearns look at the parking situation at the corner of Market St. and Factory Street with him to try and come up with a solution for parking at the residence on the corner.

Lt. Maxwell requested permission to place a yield sign coming out of Mears Marina. The Commissioners were in agreement that if a sign is to be placed there it should be a "Stop" sign.

Lt. Maxwell presented the Commissioners with year to date statistics of the police department.

## TREE REMOVAL - Rhonda Avenue

Jane McCarthy questioned whether the town has a plan to replace the trees that have been removed along Rhonda Avenue adjacent to NOAH. Attorney Thompson advised that he is working with Oxford Landscaping to replace the trees along Rhonda Ave. David Thompson explained that he owes the town thirty one trees for the clearing of his lot. The trees along Rhonda Avenue needed to be removed due to their condition. Attorney Thompson explained that when SHA does the street scape project they will be planting additional trees in town and Bachelors Point Road has been suggested as an area for planting.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Robert Morris Inn

President Kearns announced that he received a call from Ken Gibson stating that he and Wendy have made the decision to retire after operating the Robert Morris Inn for the past thirty seven years. The inn will be for sale but the Gibsons will continue to operate Sandaway.

### Laptop Computers for Police Vehicles

Lt. Maxwell announced that it appears that the town will receive money from Homeland Security to place laptop computers in the police cars.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### GIS - Salisbury University

President Kearns announced that on Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> a presentation was given by Salisbury University of the geographic information system that they are developing for the town. This should be in final form within the next few weeks.

### Maryland Department of Planning

President Kearns announced that Maryland Department of Planning has a new website that will be available in the next few weeks. The website is called Comprehensive Plans on Line and it will offer different opportunities to learn about comprehensive plans. The address is [www.mdp.state.md.us/welcome](http://www.mdp.state.md.us/welcome)

### Letter from K. Requardt

President Kearns read a letter from Ms. Requardt requesting that the town work toward reducing noise and light pollution.

John Guffey, neighbor of Ms. Requardt, advised that he is in the process of having an enclosure placed around the generator on his property to help with the noise created when the generator is running.

Commissioner Dunbar stated that when the Comprehensive Plan is being reviewed, noise and light pollution throughout the town should be addressed.

## STREETSCAPE

Commissioner Klair announced that on November 7<sup>th</sup> a meeting was held with SHA concerning streetscape. Several citizens attended this meeting along with the Commissioners, members of Streetscape Committee and State Highway officials. It was announced at the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting that a public meeting will be held in December at which time SHA will present their proposal for the streetscape. There are still a couple of issues that are up in the air, the Commissioners are trying to protect as many trees as possible and the Commissioners are still considering whether new street lighting should be installed. The Commissioners are waiting for information from the SHA engineers regarding cost and installation of new street lighting.

Commissioner Dunbar commented that SHA will be removing and installing new brick for sidewalks. Where there is brick now with several different patterns the new brick will be put down but will match the pattern that is existing presently. Concrete walks will be replaced

with brick in the Historic District. Commissioner Dunbar suggested that the old brick that is removed from the sidewalks should be saved in order to be used in other areas.

President Kearns stated that after visiting towns that are in the process of streetscape projects, questions have come up with regards to lighting and sidewalks. A detail set of plans for Oxford's project is available for review in the Town Office.

Commissioner Dunbar announced that SHA tentative plans are to put the project, which will have a design locked in, out to bid at the end of January and start the project this Spring. The project will take approximately one and one half years.

At this time the audience participated in a lengthy discussion regarding the streetscape project. A few of the concerns and questions were as follows: burying overhead services, disturbance to traffic during construction, street lighting, time that will be allowed for public meeting, could the public meeting be held on a Saturday and sidewalk patterns.

## LAWSUITS

Commissioner Klair reported that Ken Gibson, George Gaffney and Clarence Patterson have filed a lawsuit against the town for declaratory judgement concerning the short term rental issue.

Mr. MacFarland inquired as to how many lawsuits the Commissioners are involved in. The town attorney responded that the town is involved in only two (2) lawsuits, the one recently filed and referred to by Commissioner Klair, and a lawsuit filed by the owner of 106 Morris Street concerning the town charges for cleaning up a public nuisance on that property.

## BILLS PAYABLE

At this time the Commissioners went to Bills Payable.

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

Aye - Timothy Kearns

Aye - James Klair

Aye - Peter Dunbar

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Lord  
Town Clerk