

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

December 11, 2007

LOCATION

Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on December 11, 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. Attorney, David Thompson and a Star Democrat representative were in attendance.

MINUTES

The minutes of November 27, 2007 were approved as distributed.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

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

1. Put a new radiator in the backhoe at the cost of \$995.00. The Maintenance Department installed the radiator, saving a \$500.00 service call.
2. The dry fire hydrant issue was handed over to David Wilson (Resource Development and Conservation Board). The Oxford Fire Company engineer did not know a permit was needed and he is currently working with MDE.
3. The barge at the end of East Strand owned by Apple Marine is there since permits have not been issued by DNR. Scott stated that he had spoke with residents in the area and they now understand the issue.
4. Placed a new "Stop" sign at Mears Yacht Haven exist.
5. On December 1st the waste water plant was started even though it is not running at full capacity because of the dry summer. Scott stated that the lagoon needs to be kept down in case of a wet winter.
6. The Maintenance Department has repaired a tow behind generator that the Oxford Fire Department gave the town approximately six (6) years ago. It cost around \$200.00 to get the generator in great running condition and the town now has a \$8000.000 generator that can be used for water/sewer leaks and night time work.
7. Engineers were out with their electrical engineer to go over the town specs and concerns for the arsenic reduction system. Ground breaking should be in May 2008.

Commissioner Klair asked the status of the WWTP upgrades. After a short discussion the decision was made to contact Lenny Gold, town consultant and Stearns & Wheler, engineers, to arrange a meeting with the Commissioners, Town Attorney, Scott Delude and Lillian Lord to go over the status of the upgrades.

Commissioner Klair commented that the burning of leaves may be a problem and asked if Scott could stockpile them. Commissioner Klair suggested picking up the leaves more often than the schedule calls for.

POLICE REPORT

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

- 1 - Unwanted person (civil dispute)
- 1 - Intoxicated Person (Moved on)
- 1 - Assist the Fire Department

1 - Alarm (malfunction)

1 - Warrant Service (arrested and released pending trial)

Lt. Maxwell commented that the lighting of the Town Park and the arrival of Santa Claus was well attended.

Lt. Maxwell stated the Christmas House Tour was successful with very good attendance.

Lt. Maxwell announced that Chief Borga is doing well and should be returning to work on Wednesday, December 12th.

BID OPENING - 0803 Truck

President Kearns opened bids received for Bid 0803, purchase of truck with salt spreader. Three bids were received. Bids were received from Preston Automotive in the amount of \$51,859, Bob Smith Automotive in the amount of \$52,917 and Elliott Wilson Trucks in the amount of \$55,260. Commissioner Klair made a motion to award the bid to the low bidder pending review by Scott and providing the bid meets all specifications. Commissioner Dunbar gave a second to the motion.

FLOOD WALLS

President Kearns announced that the Commissioners received advertising for flood walls. This is available in the town office. Annapolis has purchased this product to try and protect the historic area during flooding. The flood walls are used in place of sandbags.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING

President Kearns stated that a potential problem with the stairs in the town office has been brought to the Commissioners attention. It appears that the risers go from 6 1/2" to 8 3/4". The Commissioners are looking into ways to correct this problem as well as replacing the bad wood on the outside of the building.

Streetscape

President Kearns announced that the Commissioners are writing a letter to the SHA with concerns on the streetscape project. Concerns are the pincushion at Caroline Street, current plans show the elimination of S. Morris Street extended at what is referred to as the pincushion. Plans show curb and sidewalk from Caroline Street to Bonfield Avenue and it would be more appropriate to have this stretch identical to the stretch within the Historic District. Bonfield Ave. to Latitude Restaurant is heavily used and a sidewalk on the north side of Rt 333 to Latitude Restuarant should be incorporated. There is only four to five feet of width allotted for parking along the shoulder of Morris Street, this should be revisited and generally widened as it would impede traffic flow on Morris Street. Updated plans should show location of all crosswalks and vegetative bumpouts. Prior to the scheduling of an open public meeting the Commissioners want an updated set of plans addressing changes that have been suggested, along with changes resulting from SHA final design review. The plans should detail construction schedule options and a clear articulation of the financial costs the town will incur.

Commissioner Klair stated that a letter has been received from SHA Historic Preservation stating that there will be an adverse effect on Historic properties in town with some of the work that SHA is planning on doing.

Commissioner Dunbar announced that SHA had met with the town's tree committee and they will be sending a summary of that meeting to the town.

Broughton "Bo" Earnest

Judge Sidney Campen was in attendance. Judge Campen introduced, to be sworn in as judge of Talbot County Circuit Court, Bo Earnest. Judge Campen stated that it was a pleasure to introduce Bo, he has practiced law thirty eight years in Talbot County and is well suited to take on judge. Mr. Earnest will be sworn in on December 21st as Talbot County Circuit Court Judge replacing Judge Campen. Judge Earnest stated that he appreciated the opportunity to attend the Commissioners meeting. He wanted the town and its citizens to know he understands municipal matters will occasionally come before him and it is good to have the opportunity to observe a Commissioners Meeting. It is obvious that the Commissioners and town staff care about the town and he looks forward to working with everyone in the future.

Living Shorelines

Commissioner Dunbar stated that he has been doing follow up work on the grant that was submitted by RC&D, D. Wilson, for shoreline improvements. Commissioner Dunbar commented that the plan that was submitted was put together loosely and that the suggestion was made by Waterway Improvements to submit a more detailed plan. Commissioner Dunbar will continue to look into obtaining grant money for shoreline improvements throughout town.

Mooring Regulations

Commissioner Dunbar questioned the next step for the mooring regulations. Attorney Thompson recommended that the Commissioners review the document that the Port Wardens drafted and then meet with the Port Wardens. After meeting with the Port Wardens they should then go to the county. Commissioner Dunbar suggested that the Commissioners meet with the Board of Port Wardens at their next regularly scheduled meeting which is January 3, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. All Commissioners were in agreement to attend the Port Wardens meeting on January 3, 2008.

Oxford's 325th Birthday Celebration

Commissioner Klair announced that the co-chairpersons for the town's 325th celebration are Mr. & Mrs. David Webster.

Second Town Meeting in December

Commissioner Klair announced that the next Commissioners Meeting will be Tuesday, January 8, 2008. The second meeting in December is being cancelled since it falls on Christmas Day.

Bills Payable

The Commissioners went to Bills Payable.

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

Aye - Timothy Kearns

Aye - James Klair

Aye - Peter Dunbar

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Lord

Town Clerk/Treasurer