

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

March 11, 2008

LOCATION

Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on March 11, 2008. The meeting was called to order by President Kearns at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Commissioners present were Timothy Kearns, James Klair and Peter Dunbar. Town Attorney David Thompson and a Star Democrat representative were in attendance. There were approximately twelve (12) people present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of February 26, 2008 were approved as distributed.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

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

1. Scott met with MDE/Sterns & Wheler on the progress of the arsenic reduction system. The first phase is done and hopefully phase two will start the beginning of May. The whole system is scheduled to be up and running by the end of this year.
2. The three (3) trains and both of the bridges in the parks have been rebuilt, cleaned and sealed for the upcoming season.
3. The Causeway parking lot has been rebuilt and graded for the runoff that the town experiences in this area. The cost of this project was approximately \$6,000, this includes the parking curbs that are currently being installed. After the heavy rain on Saturday night the parking lot did not hold any water.
4. The benches have been dug up and leveled and put back in the parks. The benches had tilted forward or backwards over the years and were uncomfortable to sit on.
5. The culvert at the Causeway Park has been repaired. A new culvert and drain has been installed so that in the future it can be cleaned out on a regular basis.
6. On 3/5/08 the Bonfield lift station alarm went off. The pump had jammed up and six (6) hours overtime was needed to get the pump started again.
7. On 3/8/08 the electric went out in town and set off all the alarms at the lift stations. Two hours overtime was used to reset the lift stations and check all the pumps. If we install the digital system, the alarms will be able to be reset and the pumps can be switched over to a secondary from a computer, saving overtime, man hours and having an immediate effect. Money has been requested for this in the FY09 budget.

Commissioner Dunbar requested information on the status of the drain pipe at 315 Morris Street. Scott stated that Oxford Landscaping advised him that they would be meeting with the property owner this week.

POLICE REPORT

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

- 4 - Police Information
- 2 - Animal Complaints
- 1 - Assist Other Police Agency
- 3 - Alarms (weather related)
- 1 - Theft of a Bicycle

Lt. Maxwell stated that he has been in touch with other police agencies and has found that metal is a prime source of theft as this time and a quick source of money. There have been three bikes stolen in Oxford recently.

Lt. Maxwell advised that Talbot County Humane Society is involved with the animal complaints.

NEW BUSINESS

PORT OF OXFORD FLAG

Commissioner Klair read a letter from Suzanne and Harwood (Woody) Martin. The letter stated that Mr. & Mrs. Martin have moved from Oxford and “in remembrance of the many happy times our family has spent as part of the Oxford community for the past 27 years, we would like to leave the Town with a small expression of our gratitude for its warmth and kindness.” Mr. & Mrs. Martin donated a Port of Oxford flag to the town. The Commissioners were very appreciative of this donation.

OXFORD DAY 2008

Sandy Hale has requested permission for the Confederate Military Forces Society to use the soccer field for camping if it should rain Friday evening or Saturday (Oxford Day). They will not dig holes for campfires, etc and the area will be left as found. The Commissioners were all in agreement to let the soccer field be used.

ARTIST COMMITTEE - 325TH CELEBRATION - OXFORD DAY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Klair stated that a request has been received from the Oxford Artist Group requesting a donation from the town. Commissioner Klair commented that the people working on plans for the 325th celebration would like to extend the celebration into next year. A request has been received from the Oxford Day Committee for a donation of \$1000. This is more than usual due to the 325th celebration. Commissioner Klair made a motion to give the artist group \$1000 to help with banners and burgees and to give \$1000 to the Oxford Day committee toward expenses for Oxford Day. Commissioner Dunbar seconded motion. All commissioners were in agreement to give the donations. It was also agreed by all commissioners that the town will not take ownership of the art work and will not store the work.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Commissioners announced that State Highway Administration wants to schedule a meeting to go over concerns regarding the streetscape project. This meeting will be held as soon as a date is picked.

102 TILGHMAN STREET

President Kearns announced that the Commissioners are trying to meet with the owners of 102 Tilghman Street to discuss their intentions for the property. Talbot County Health Department has written the town a letter requesting that the property be adequately secured. A copy of this letter will be sent to the owners.

RENOVATION OF EAST STRAND

The Commissioners received a proposal for renovation of East Strand from David Baker. Apple Marine has been doing shoreline work in this area and since work needs to be done to the street end because of Apple Marines equipment Mr. Baker is requesting that the last 24' of East Strand be converted into a grassy area and that the area between the grassy area and paved area be paved. East Strand now has a 16' wide paved area which gradually changes to loose gravel about 75' from the bulkhead so this improvement would involve approximately 50 feet of pavement. President Kearns expressed concern that the paved area might be used for parking areas and said that consideration should be given to making the

whole area grass. Scott stated this area is scheduled for complete road paving and water line replacement in FY09. Scott will meet with Mr. Baker to discuss future improvements.

OXFORD BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The Oxford Birthday Celebration Committee have requested that the celebration of the town continue into 2009 and have questioned the founding date of Oxford. Commissioner Klair announced that he received a draft proclamation from Marguerite Owen Webster with date of settlement of the town as 1660, dates for the ferry and including the date of 1883 that Water Church was founded. Waters is celebrating their 125th year this year. Commissioner Klair stated that the Commissioners passed a Proclamation on January 22, 2008 that reads, "the Assembly of Maryland decreed in 1683 A.D. that the Town of Oxford should be officially laid out and mapped; and, Whereas, the Court for Talbot County recognized the Oxford Ferry as a ferry service for the benefit of the public in 1683 A.D". Commissioner Klair explained that research shows that Lord Baltimore attempted to have Oxford recognized by the legislative body by proclamation. In November 1683, Lord Baltimore presented a legislative act that Oxford be recognized, which was enacted and became the founding date of Oxford. Commissioner Klair commented that Maryland Municipal League website states that Oxford was founded in 1683, Talbot County historians recognize 1683 as the founding date and previous commissioners agreed the founding date should be 1683. Attorney Thompson advised that the reason 1683 is used is that it is the most consistent date in research.

Marquerite Owen Webster stated that Augustine Herman's map of 1670 records transferring of housing in 1669 which documents the date as existence of a town. Ms. Webster advised that the activities planned for the celebration can not be done in one year.

Commissioner Klair stated that the town should go by the official date of 1683 but clearly recognizes the town was settled prior to 1669.

TALBOT COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

President Kearns announced that a replacement for Sandy Hale on Talbot County Economic Development Commission has not be filled, if anyone is interested in filling this position please let the town office know. Paige Bethke, Director of Economic Development has informed the Commissioners that she would be willing to attend a town meeting to discuss promoting business in Oxford. The Commissioners agreed to advise Oxford Business Association that Ms. Bethke is willing to work with them.

OXFORD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Commissioner Kearns suggested inviting Oxford Business Association (OBA) to attend the town meetings. Possibly, at least one member could attend to keep the Commissioners abreast of any concerns OBA may have. All Commissioners were in agreement that OBA will be notified and encouraged to attend town meetings and give a report.

REPORT LANE ENGINEERING - MEMO, R. HURLEY CRITICAL AREAS

Commissioner Dunbar stated that information has been received from Lane Engineering regarding plants and mitigation for 315 Morris Street. A memo also has been received from Roby Hurley, Critical Area Circuit Rider regarding this property. Commissioner Dunbar stated that he still has concerns over differences in the two documents. Attorney Thompson advised that there is a third report still forthcoming, a stormwater report and at this time an occupancy permit is still being withheld.

OXFORD FLAGS

Rose Cox, Bonfield Avenue, called the town office and suggested that everyone fly an Oxford Flag to celebrate Oxford's 325th birthday. Ms. Cox questioned whether there are restrictions on reproducing the Oxford Flag, if not she thinks she has a source where they can be purchased at a reasonable price. The Commissioners advised that there are no restrictions and Ms. Cox will be notified of this.

AUDIENCE

Jane McCarthy presented the Commissioners with two questions, (1) Are there any dates for streetscape work and (2) Will the town have to pay for any work at 315 S. Morris Street? The Commissioners responded no to both questions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commissioners voted to go into executive session to obtain legal advice and 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, Peter Dunbar, Commissioner, David Thompson, Town Attorney 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