

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

July 28, 2009

LOCATION

Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on July 28, 2009. President Dunbar called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Commissioners present were Peter Dunbar and James Klair. Town Attorney David Thompson and a Star Democrat representative were in attendance. There were approximately eighteen (18) people in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of July 14, 2009 were approved as distributed.

MICHAEL WILLIAMS 1952 – 2009

President Dunbar extended the Commissioners sympathy to the family and friends with regards to the death of Michael Williams. Michael was a lifetime resident of Oxford and will be missed.

MEETING WITH PAIGE BETHKE – Talbot Economic Development

President Dunbar announced that the Commissioners met with Paige Bethke, Talbot County Economic Development, on Thursday, July 16, 2009. During the meeting vacant businesses and identification of neighborhoods were discussed.

MEETING WITH OXFORD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

President Dunbar announced that the Commissioners met with OBA representatives, Judy Bixler and Susan Campbell prior to tonight's meeting. Discussion of a welcome to Oxford sign took place.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

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

1. The arsenic system start up is scheduled for August 13th which is two (2) weeks ahead of schedule.
2. The Public Works Department has installed new sewer risers on Rte 333 at the Causeway. The new paving left the sewer tops about four inches (4") below the roadbed.
3. The new dump truck had to have a new windshield installed. A branch hit the windshield, replacement cost \$300.00.
4. The Public Works Department cleaned out the entire sewer line from Schooners Restaurant to the Banks Street lift station. There were two (2) grease back ups in the last month that caused the lift station to become overwhelmed with wastewater. The line will be cleaned out every other month in the future in hopes to stop any future problems.
5. The backhoe has had its yearly maintenance, cost \$712.03.

All the sewer lift stations were drained and the sludge removed last week as part of the town's sewer maintenance for the year. This schedule was started two (2) years ago and the pump clog ups have all but disappeared. The cost for this service is \$900.00.

Commissioner Klair asked if State Highway Administration has agreed to do anything with the drop off from the new paving to the shoulders. Scott advised that he has been talking with a SHA representative and they are coming down to look at the problem and will hopefully take care of same.

The Commissioners requested that Scott do some publicity regarding the arsenic system when it goes into operation. Scott advised that he will get in touch with the Star Democrat and also put something in the town's newsletter.

A proposal has been received from Oxford Lawn & Landscape, Inc. to assist the town in handling the brush collected from the monthly pick-ups. Proposal #1 – Chipping the brush at the town's shop, cost per day is \$832 including labor and chipper. Additional time (if requested) will be billed at \$104 per hour. Material can be up to 12" in diameter, all other wood can be hauled away at \$125 per load. Proposal #2 – The town will dump the brush at the Evergreen Road location to be chipped. \$25.00 per small truckload, \$75.00 per large truckload. Must be organic matter only, only exception is the brown paper recycle bags. Proposal #3 – Oxford Lawn & Landscape Inc. collects brush for the town. Under normal conditions the task can be completed within one – eight hour work day. Under heavy loads (severe storms, fall leaf pickups, etc) the additional amount will be charged per hour. The cost per day is \$980.00 including labor and chipper. After a short discussion, the Commissioners and Scott agreed to Proposal #2. Oxford Lawn & Landscape will be notified.

President Dunbar suggested that Scott install two signs under the existing street signs, made the same as the signs designating marinas, shops, etc. for "Cross Street Walkway". One sign should be placed at the corner of Bonfield and Richardson Street and the second sign at the corner of East Street and Harrison Street.

Commissioner Klair explained that a complaint regarding a Sawtooth Oak has been received from the owner of 313 North Morris Street stating that acorns cover her property in the fall and the roots of the tree are going into the foundation of her home. Scott advised that he had looked at the tree and can not see any reason that the tree should be removed. President Dunbar also stated that he felt the tree is healthy and should be left alone. As soon as Commissioner Kearns looks at the tree and if he is in agreement that the tree should remain just as it is the owner of 313 North Morris Street will be contacted.

President Dunbar requested that Scott look at the town slips in order to survey the need for repairs and condition of the finger piers. The size of the slips and the size of the boats occupying the slips need to be looked at. Scott advised that the Public Works Department has rebuilt three of the finger piers at the Causeway. Scott stated that the town has a request in for grants for the Ferry Dock and the Tilghman Street Boat Ramp.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Borga gave the Police Report that consisted of the following:

- Three suspicious motor vehicles (one was a prank against the Ferry Boat captain by his brothers) Two other ID and moved on
- 1 – Alarm (weather related)
- 4 – Assist the Fire Department
- 4 – Police Information
- 1 – 2nd degree assault (arrested and released pending trial)

- 1 – Driving with no license (arrested and held on \$2500.00 bond, pending trial)

Attorney Thompson presented a Resolution to the Commissioners for their review that is “A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF OXFORD APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MARYLAND STATE POLICE, THE OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES PERTAINING TO THE TALBOT COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE”. Attorney Brynja Booth worked on this Resolution for Oxford and has prepared resolutions for three other jurisdictions.

Attorney Thompson presented an Ordinance for the Commissioners review which is “AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF OXFORD AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH MD. CODE ANN. CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ARTICLE SECTION 2-105”. Attorney Thompson explained that one question to be answered by the insurance company is, when a policeman leaves his jurisdiction to aid another jurisdiction are they insured? The insurance company has not called back with this information.

A call was received from a holder of a trailer parking permit for the Tilghman Street parking area. He questioned whether a few spaces could be reserved for trailer parking. The Commissioners agreed that this is not necessary since when permits are sold the purchaser of the permit is informed that the spaces are on a first come first serve basis.

OXFORD FIRE COMPANY

Steve Mroczek, Oxford Fire Company, gave the fire department report that consisted of the following: the fire company responded to four (4) calls and two (2) boat rescues. The company responded to six (6) ambulance calls. Mr. Mroczek asked if the town would include information in their next newsletter for the fire company. Mr. Mroczek was told that the town will include information for the fire company. The next newsletter will be the end of September 2009.

REQUEST TO BE ON AGENDA – Dan Cole, Oxford Pool Committee

Mr. Cole thanked the town for their help regarding the pool. Mr. Cole explained that the site on Second Street that the Commissioners suggested for the pool committee to look at for the pool location will not work. Members of the committee feel it is not a good location and that there would be residential concerns with this site. The committee would like to focus on the land beyond the Commercial Park adjacent to the lagoons. Mr. Cole commented that it is beginning to be a challenge to hold the interest of the pool committee and the residents since this project has been going on for so long. The pool committee is requesting that the Commissioners approve the site beyond the Commercial Park. President Dunbar stated that the pool committee needs to present their plans to the Commissioners and possibly a workshop should be held. Commissioner Klair commented that this should be done relatively soon or interest in the pool is going to be lost. Commissioner Klair stated that if the town designates town land as surplus land, not needed, for current public uses, that land may be made available to the pool committee after the legal surplus land process has been met. To provide ability to use town property at cost would depend on approvals from Planning and Zoning. Attorney Thompson commented that the Commissioners have the responsibility to protect and preserve town land for all citizens. The land for the pool will have to be designated as surplus property. Attorney Thompson stated that the land the pool committee is considering must be defined with a legal description and then a Public Hearing will be held, proper steps must be followed for the town to make land available to a semi private entity. President Dunbar asked that the pool committee gather all information necessary and attend the next Commissioners Meeting. There was a discussion of a workshop outside of a regular town meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Use of Town Park

The family of Michael Williams requested the use of the Town Park on Sunday, August 2, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in order to hold a Memorial Service for Michael. The Commissioners were in agreement to approve this request.

Executive Session

Commissioner Klair requested that an Executive Session be held following tonight's meeting to discuss possible litigation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Living Shoreline

President Dunbar announced that there are brochures available in the Town Office, (1) Living Shorelines, A guide for waterfront property owners, and (2) Living Shorelines for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Available in the Town Office is Angler Environmental's detailed engineers conceptual plans needed to complete the grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Dave Wilson is putting together the reports needed. Step One is to solicit comments, Step Two is to use the plans as a starting point to solicit grant money and Step 3, to submit a grant request to Chesapeake Bay Trust. President Dunbar stated that he has been advised that Talbot County may have money to help with the Living Shoreline.

Available in the Town Office is drawings for the Shoreline Protection Project for the Oxford Laboratory for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This project is very similar to the design for the Town Park. NOAA is ready to put their project out to bid and construction should begin early Fall.

Nancy Wallace is in the process of locating sites that can be visited to see completed living shorelines. As mentioned at many prior meetings, President Dunbar stated that the purpose of obtaining grant money for the shoreline is due to the condition of the seawall. Attorney Thompson stated that the law states that you must investigate living shorelines before any other options. President Dunbar stated that this is an excellent project and needs a good design. This would be a good demonstration to other property owners. President Dunbar stated as he has many times before that all he is doing is bringing a project to the town that will correct the problems and give the town a much better small beach area than what is located there now at no cost to the town. There has not been any approvals given by the Commissioners to approve the actual project.

ATTORNEY

On-Street Parking

Attorney Thompson presented the Commissioners with an ordinance for consideration to address some parking issues that we have in town. Market Street is an area where it appears there is one resident taking more space on the street than is needed. Attorney Thompson read the Ordinance in its entirety. This is "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF OXFORD TO ADD SECTION 8.00 A. TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF OXFORD TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS FOR ON-STREET PARKING WITHIN THE TOWN". Attorney Thompson commented that he regrets that this ordinance must be done but when neighbors are not acting like neighbors and when an owner has five to eight cars parked on the street, there is a problem that needs to be addressed. This ordinance may not be

perfect but in one location the situation has become intolerable. The ordinance will be referred to planning commission. President Dunbar stated that the Commissioners have been looking at the situation for over a year and now feel action has to be taken.

Storm Water Ordinance

Attorney Thompson advised the Commissioners that he will provide them with a revised Storm Water Ordinance by the end of August 2009.

Zoning Map

Attorney Thompson advised the Commissioners that there is a revised zoning map that corrects zoning areas (LDA to IDA) that needs their review.

Planning Commission – Mooring Buoys

President Dunbar stated that he has responded on his own behalf to several questions of the planning commission concerning mooring buoys and the related proposed annexation. His written answers are available to the public.

Attorney Thompson commented that the Port Wardens have been working on mooring buoy regulations since 2007. The latest draft dated 7/19/09 is available to the public for review. This is a draft and there may be many changes. There will be a Public Hearing advertised and scheduled where comments will be taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commissioners voted to go into executive session to discuss potential litigation and to discuss a personnel issue. The executive session was held under Section 10.508 Open Meetings Act, Maryland Code (1992 Cum. Supl.) No. 2. Those in attendance were Peter Dunbar, Commissioner, James Klair, Commissioner, Scott DeLude, Public Works Superintendent, James Borga, Chief of Police, David Thompson, Town Attorney and Lillian Lord, Town Clerk.

BILLS PAYABLE

The regular meeting was reopened. The Commissioners went to Bills Payable.

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

Aye – Peter Dunbar

Aye – James Klair

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Lord
Town Clerk

