

COMMISSIONERS MEETING
October 27, 2009

LOCATION

Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on October 27, 2009. President Dunbar called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Commissioners present were Peter Dunbar, Timothy Kearns and James Klair. Town Attorney Brynja Booth and a Star Democrat representative were in attendance. There were approximately twenty five (25) people in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of October 13, 2009 were approved as distributed.

MEETING – Trees

President Dunbar announced that a walk through was held on Friday, October 23rd with Asplundt Tree Service, Delmarva Power representative, Tree Committee Members and the Commissioners to discuss the tree trimming to begin shortly throughout town to clear the power lines. Scott stated that Delmarva Power has agreed to cut three trees down on the Strand at no cost to the town. All three trees need to be removed.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

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

1. A sign has been installed at the Recycle Center stating that recycling can only be done between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The garbage container in the Recycle Center has been moved from inside the center to the outside entrance. This has helped to prevent people from leaving household trash outside of the container.
2. The Banks Street tide gate was raised 8" (eight inches) to coincide with the height of the bulkhead giving the town an extra 8" (eight inches) of incoming tide before it overflows into the street.
3. The bid from Rathell Farm Equipment for a new backhoe in the amount of \$69,200.00 has been accepted. Rathell Farm Equipment was the low bidder and all specifications were met.
4. An excavator has been rented to clean out the ditches throughout town. Sediment has filled the ditches. The excavator has been rented for the next month and during that time some streets will have to be blocked off in order to load the dump trucks with the sediment for removal.
5. The Town of Oxford does rubble trash collection on the third Tuesday of every month. This includes lumber, debris, furniture, etc. The Town has not been collecting metal, however, Scott has requested including metal on rubble day. The metal can be recycled. The residents will have to separate the metal from the other rubble.

Scott announced that the water meter upgrade will be awarded to National Metering Services in the amount of \$255,537.60. Approval has been given by Maryland Department of the Environment to award the bid.

OXFORD FIRE COMPANY

Jan Mroczek gave the Oxford Fire Company report that consisted of the following:

- OVFC responded to four (4) fire calls, all were mutual assistance calls
- Two automobile accidents (one in Easton, one in Trappe)
- House fire in Easton
- Commercial building fire in Cambridge

During the same period OVFC responded to six medical calls.

Ms. Mroczek announced that OVFC is proud to announce that Ashlea Greenhawk has successfully completed her firefighter I training and is the newest fully qualified firefighter.

POLICE REPORT

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

- 5 Police Information
- 2 Assist the Fire Department
- 1 – Assist Other Police Agency
- 2 – Hit and Run (One resolved at scene, one attempting to locate driver)
- 1 – Suspicious Motor Vehicle (ID and moved on)
- 1 – Disorderly call at Basketball court (Advised and moved on)

Commissioner Klair questioned whether signs were to be installed at the basketball court. Chief Borga stated that his department is working with Scott to come up with wording regarding the use of the court and the hours of play.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Klair stated that an article appeared in the Star Democrat regarding EPA holding meetings on pollution in the Chesapeake Bay. There will be new maximums for TMDL's, which is the amount of pollution from waste water treatment plants. A meeting will be held on December 11th from 1:30 p.m. through 3:30 p.m. at Chesapeake College. Commissioner Klair suggested that Scott and possibly at least one of the Commissioners attend this meeting. Commissioner Klair commented that the work that has been completed over the past several years trying to resolve problems by going to a more efficient waste water treatment plant is going to pay some dividends. There is a chance that there may be money from the EPA to go along with the new restrictions. Scott stated that the town has sent in their application for its renewal for TMDL's. The town's permit for TMDL's is good through 2012. The application that is in the works at this time will not go into effect until 2012. We should hear results from the application by April of 2010. Scott advised that the town's consultant does not think Oxford will be affected by the new regulations due to our size.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Halloween

Commissioner Kearns announced that trick/treating will be on Saturday, October 31st from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Recycling

President Dunbar questioned whether any information has been given to the town on the curbside recycling proposed by the county. Scott advised that he has not heard anything but will contact Ray Clarke for an update.

ATTORNEY

Attorney Booth presented the Commissioners with a draft ordinance for review to establish standards for short term rentals. Attorney Booth stated that some of the standards included in the draft ordinance are: owners of a dwelling unit proposed for use as short-term rental shall apply for a short-term rental license from the Town Office, proof that all adjacent property owners (within 900 feet of the short-term rental) have been notified by certified mail, of the intention to conduct short term rentals on the premises, maximum occupancy shall be the lesser of 12 persons or two persons per bedroom excluding infants under 18 months of age, all pets shall be leashed or confined at all times, no more than two vehicles associated with a short term rental may be parked over night upon a public street, parking over night for more than two vehicles associated with any particular short term rental shall be off-street only, all short-term rental properties shall comply with the International Building Code, 2006 Edition, and no activity during any short term rental occupancy shall unreasonably disturb surrounding property owners. Attorney Booth suggested that the Commissioners look over the draft and make changes and send the draft to the Planning Commission for comments.

Commissioner Klair made a motion to send the proposed ordinance which is "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF OXFORD, TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE SHORT TERM RENTAL OF RESIDENTIALLY OCCUPIED PROPERTY IN CERTAIN ZONING DISTRICTS" to the Oxford Planning Commission for their comments. The Commissioners will review the Ordinance at the same time. Commissioner Kearns seconded motion.

Aye – Peter Dunbar

Aye – Timothy B. Kearns

Aye – James G. Klair

Attorney Booth requested an executive session to go over two property matters.

Resignation – Planning Commission - Theodore Lutkus

Commissioner Klair announced that a letter has been received from Theodore Lutkus giving his resignation as a member of the Planning Commission. The Commissioners regretfully accepted Mr. Lutkus resignation and stated that they will make an appointment as early as possible. President Dunbar requested that names be given to the Town Office if anyone is interested in serving.

Bernie Witter suggested Steve Selden for planning. President Dunbar suggested calling Mr. Selden and asking that he drop a note to the Commissioners if he is interested in serving.

Tree – Strand

President Dunbar thanked Heinrich Schmitz, 200 East Strand, for his complete cooperation in solving the problem of the tree limb hanging over the Strand, making boat delivery difficult for Oxford Boatyard.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ray Stevens – Restaurant Mills Street

Mr. Stevens stated that for the last few years the restaurant located on Mills Street has been vacant and a lot of questions were asked as to what is going to happen to the property. Mr. Stevens explained that someone has been found that wants to open a restaurant and he wanted to update the Commissioners as to what is being planned. Mr. Stevens stated that the couple opening the restaurant are from Venezuela and they have a restaurant in Rockville. The restaurant has received great reviews in the Washingtonian Magazine and the Washington Post.

The name of the restaurant will be "AL CARBON". Lunch and dinner will be served daily with breakfast served on week-ends. They are hoping to open as early as December but definitely by March 1, 2010. The food will be prepared on a wood fired grille inside of the building. Mr. Stevens stated that the prices will be very reasonable and they would be applying for a liquor license. Mr. Stevens commented that the couple has visited Oxford frequently and usually stayed at the Robert Morris Inn.

John Shannahan, 317 South Morris Street

Mr. Shannahan stated that he has spoken to property owners located near his property and they are all interested in a living shoreline. Mr. Shannahan commented that he was in touch with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and they are not interested in participated when the property is privately owned. Mr. Shannahan said he can not do this work alone and any suggestions would be appreciated. Mr. Shannahan explained to the Commissioners that another problem he is having is he is continuing to get serious erosion from 315 South Morris Street. He stated that he is polluting the bay and has asked for help for the past three and one half years to get this rectified. President Dunbar commented that the problem is between Mr. Shannahan and his neighbor. President Dunbar further commented that the town has received correspondence from the town attorney and has been advised that lawyers are involved and the issues are in the hands of attorneys. A final comment from Mr. Shannhan is that the potential buyer of his property had problems getting answers from the town. Attorney Booth stated that a letter was received from Mr. Shannahan's lawyer and there will be a response to this letter between now and the next town meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commissioners voted to go into executive session to discuss two property issues. 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, Timothy Kearns, Commissioner, James Klair, Commissioner, Scott DeLude, Public Works Superintendent, Brynja Booth, Town Attorney, James Borga, Chief of Police 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. Commissioner Kearns seconded motion.

Aye – Peter Dunbar

Aye - Timothy Kearns

Aye – James G. Klair

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Lord
Town Clerk