

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

March 9, 2010

LOCATION

Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on March 9, 2010. 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.

MEETINGS

President Dunbar announced that he had been to a meeting relevant to the Eastern Shore Conservancy up at Chesapeake College and had made some contacts. President Dunbar also attended a session with the Maryland Department of the Environment on tributary strategies which related to the total maximum daily load function (TMDL) that all towns are going to have to contend with over the next few years. Commission Dunbar attended the session for the purpose of getting an idea to what the MDE's schedule was and to see if the town could find some funding support.

The Commissioners had a workshop with the Historic District Commission in February and met with the Planning Commission on March 2 to talk about the draft comprehensive plan and upcoming stormwater management ordinance.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

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

1. Scott met with the Oxford Board of Port Wardens and asked them about bidding out the engineering for the rebuild of the existing ferry dock and boat ramp at the foot of Tilghman Street. The town has two \$25,000 grants for engineering work that they received in May of 2009.
2. The Public Works Department has completed the second outhouse enclosure and placed it at the Causeway Park. It has been faced towards the tennis courts so that the rear can be easily accessible for maintenance. Scott stated he would like to send a thank you letter from the Commissioners to Lewis Autobody for helping out with the placement of the outhouses on his rollback.
3. Scott received a request from one of the residents in town to move a street light from the corner of East Street to the corner of Bonfield Avenue. The current placement of the street light is hindered from trees blocking its light and would be more useful on Bonfield Ave. Delmarva Power has said they would move the light for free if the town is interested in having it moved and would send a letter to them saying it would help with lighting. Commissioner Klair asked if Scott thought it would be an improvement. Scott replied that he thought it would. President Dunbar stated he would investigate situation at night.
4. The Public Works Department has been working hard in collecting brush and debris as a result of the recent snow storms. President Dunbar expressed his amazement in the amount of debris collected by the town and expressed his gratitude. This was received by warm applause from the audience.

STORMWATER

President Dunbar attended a meeting regarding stormwater management. At that meeting, President Dunbar found an RFP for small watershed grants and within that was a potential for grants for improving stormwater management and restoring green infrastructure to implement low impact development practices. He added that local resident Richard Walhgren had brought to the Commissioners' attention problems of stormwater in the areas of Pleasant Street, the Causeway Park tennis court/parking area, and Willows Avenue. The grant program would help

the town develop a new approach through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship. The application is due by May 17, 2010 and the town can get technical support to help write it.

TOWN CREEK

President Dunbar also reported that the town has been given the opportunity from the federal side of the Oxford Lab to look at the impact to Town Creek of the newly mapped discharge into the creek. People have been concerned about possible flushing action and nutrients there, along with various pollutants. President Dunbar suggested that the Commissioners check their calendar to see if they can plan a meeting with the Oxford Lab around March 25, 2010.

POLICE REPORT

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

- 5 Police Information
- 2 Alarms (checked out OK)
- 1 Vandalism
- 2 Suspicious Subjects (checked out OK)

OXFORD FIRE COMPANY

A member of the fire company announced that Fire Chief Michael Greenhawk was not in attendance to give the fire company report. He suggested that the members of the audience refer to the fire company's website for information on what the fire company did in February.

Request to be on Agenda –Oxford Pool Committee

Lisa Johnson, member of the Oxford Pool Committee and representative for the Pool Committee's President, Dan Cole, presented the Commissioners with the latest update from the committee. With her were YMCA President Robbie Gill and engineer, Sean Callahan. She stated that some members of the committee approached the YMCA and met with them to see if they wanted to collaborate with the Oxford Pool Committee to create a small satellite YMCA facility in Oxford. YMCA President Robbie Gill took that idea and presented it to the board of the YMCA and together they felt the collaboration would be a benefit to Oxford. Ms. Johnson noted that because the YMCA has the expertise with insurance, maintenance, liability, staffing, etc., the collaboration may change the program for the project to include a workout facility and larger footprint than what was originally discussed. The project would be developed and managed jointly with a new advisory board comprised of community volunteers involved in this project. The project will be entirely privately funded and there will be no use of town funds for the project, nor will it change the tax base.

Mr. Gill next spoke indicating his excitement about this project. He stated that the YMCA has been in Talbot County since 1954 and has 12,000 members with 400 of those members living in Oxford proper. The Y looks to do the most good for the most people and hence saw this as a way to service not only the residents of Oxford, but the greater community as well. The YMCA would provide financial assistance. The project would be privately funded from a construction standpoint and then fall under the operating hospices of the YMCA. There would be a fee based structure with assistance, if needed. Mr. Gill felt the Oxford pool could provide a rallying point to bring the community together such as providing children in the area an opportunity to learn to swim and water therapy for older adults. Commissioner Klair asked if one were a member of the YMCA, would one be a member of the Oxford pool, as well? Mr. Gill responded that the YMCA is an inclusive organization so the Oxford pool would fall under the YMCA's umbrella and hence would not be exclusive to only Oxford residents. President Dunbar stated that in the past, the proposals were that the Oxford pool would be a facility that would be operated and built by the Oxford Community Pool group. With the YMCA's involvement, Commissioner Dunbar asked if the YMCA's facility would be a facility within this existing pool association or would this be a YMCA facility, as seen as a YMCA facility whereby one would have a responsibility for operation and workouts. Mr. Gill responded that the town would lease the land to the YMCA for a dollar a year for a hundred years and then the YMCA would be responsible for the on-going operation related to that. There would be an advisory board of residents who would be involved that would provide the vision in making sure the pool and facility are providing those services and programs to serve the community. Commissioner Dunbar asked if the capital costs to do this project would be the responsibility of the Oxford

Pool Committee. Mr. Gill responded that the YMCA would utilize its resources to work with volunteers to raise the funds. The YMCA would be involved in the planning of how much money would need to be raised and how to go about doing it. President Dunbar when asked if Mr. Gill if there would be legal agreements between the YMCA and the Oxford Pool Committee. Mr. Gill responded that the Oxford Pool Committee would become the YMCA advisory board for the Oxford pool in essence. The only difference would be that the Oxford Pool Committee has been carrying the load of the project for a long time to get to this point. The YMCA would provide long term stability, insurance, liability, maintenance, etc. Commissioner Klair asked if the pool would be open to all Talbot County YMCA members. Mr. Gill responded that it would.

Sean Callahan briefly spoke on some of the engineering aspects of the project. He noted that there was a fair amount of ground down behind the commercial buildings out by the town's lagoon that is a fairly high, dry piece of land in which the swimming pool could go. The plan would be to come in through a service lane which would access off the cul-de-sac and would come down into the town's land. President Dunbar asked if any thought had been given to coverage and impervious surfaces and asked if everything could fit in one acre. Mr. Callahan responded that they would not be creating that much coverage. Pool committee member Jennifer Stanley spoke stating that the pool committee needed some kind of endorsement on the piece of property they are looking at to place the pool. President Dunbar noted that he was sympathetic to that statement but past sites seemed to be acceptable until more thought was given to the sites and short comings were found. He felt that until the Commissioners would really think about this location and get some feedback from various people he could not really endorse the area. Commissioner Dunbar asked if the committee could go back and work something out and present the Commissioners with an expanded conceptual plan so that the Commissioners could best understand what was going to happen. He added that the Commissioners would be open for comments and options from town members. Commissioner Kearns added that he saw two issues that needed to be addressed: 1) how the plan was going to change with the new numbers, and 2) verification that whatever the pool committee is planning doesn't hinder the use of the rest of the land. Commissioner Klair added that the Oxford Pool Committee could have a link on the town's website to the pool committee's website as well.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Klair reported that the Commissioners had received a memo from the Oxford Historic District Commission as a result of the Commissioners workshop with them. The HDC presented the Commissioners with an historic district guidelines addendum for modern equipment. Commissioner Klair noted that the Commissioners will look over the revised version of the guidelines and will get back to the historic commission as soon as they can.

Commissioner Klair suggested that the Commissioners present a certificate of appreciation to Chris and Kate McKelvy, owners of the Oxford Market, in appreciation of their service especially during the past snow storms that the town has experienced. The Commissioners agreed to put together a proclamation to be sent to the McKelvys and will approach local resident Nadine Russell for help with that project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commissioner Kearns reported that as soon as architect Dennis Still gets back from vacation they would get together to go over the drawing of the elevation of the stairs in the Oxford Community Services Building.

President Dunbar reported that the town has a draft of the easement pertaining to the Living Shoreline project. The Commissioners have also received comments from the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission on the Ferry Dock project. The commission questioned the removal of two trees on the property. Ferry Captain Tom Bixler interjected that this project is always being referred to as the "Ferry Dock project" and that the project does not involve either Captain Bixler or the Oxford Ferry. President Dunbar concurred that the town is not doing anything to the ferry and that this project will take place between the ferry dock roadway and the Oxford Yacht Club, on town property at the end of North Morris Street. He added that the project had been sent in as the "Oxford Bellevue Ferry Landing Project".

ATTORNEY

Attorney Brynja Booth reported that she and Attorney David Thompson have been working on Oxford's Comprehensive Plan. They plan on attending the Planning Commission's next meeting to discuss any comments the Planning Commission may have. A draft of the comprehensive plan has been sent to the State for their public review commencement. Attorney Booth stated she hopes to have a joint work session with the Planning Commission and Commissioners in the new future.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commissioners voted to go into executive session to discuss legal issues. The session was held under Section 10.508 Open Meetings Act, Maryland Code (1992 Cum. Supl.) No. 2. Those in attendance were //////////////////////////////////

? made a motion to adjourn the meeting. /// seconded the motion.

Aye – Peter Dunbar

Aye – Timothy Kearns

Aye – James G. Klair

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Willoughby
Assistant Clerk for
Lillian Lord
Town Clerk