

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

July 12, 2011

LOCATION

Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on July 12, 2011. President Kearns called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF APPOINTED COMMISSIONER

President Kearns announced that an executive session was held on June 29, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance were Tim Kearns, Peter Dunbar, Brynja Booth and Commissioner-elect Gordon Graves. This meeting was held to choose a replacement for the vacancy created by Jim Klair's resignation, due to health issues, as commissioner. After discussing the names submitted an agreement was reached to appoint Carole Abruzzese. Following the executive session a special meeting was held on July 11, 2011 to announce the appointment of Carole Abruzzese. At this time Carole Abruzzese was introduced to the audience. Mrs. Abruzzese will be filling out Mr. Klair's term.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of June 14, 2011 were approved as distributed.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESIDENT

Commissioner Dunbar explained the rotation of President of the Commissioners. Ordinarily the Commissioner serving his third year is voted in by the fellow Commissioners to serve as President. This would have been Jim Klair's year to serve as President. President Kearns made a motion to appoint Peter Dunbar as President for the coming year. The Commissioners voted unanimously that Peter Dunbar serve. At this time Mr. Kearns stepped down.

SWEAR IN PRESIDENT

Mary Ann Shortall, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Talbot County, gave the oath of office to Peter Dunbar as President of the Town Commissioners for the fiscal year 2012.

SWEAR IN COMMISSIONERS

President Dunbar gave the oath of office to Commissioner-elect R. Gordon Graves and appointee Commissioner Carole Abruzzese.

Commissioner Graves thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve the town. Commissioner Abruzzese announced that she has just retired from Londonderry as executive director and is looking forward to serving as a commissioner.

President Kearns thanked Jim Klair and Tim Kearns for their six years of service to the town.

The cost to the town is estimated at around \$20,000 for damage to the tennis court, brush removal and man hours used. The storm was not classified as a tornado so there is no financial help.

2. A request has been made by a resident of the Strand to pick up the trash cans through town on weekends to keep the trash down. A list of dates for the next two months of special events was given to Scott where trash may be a problem. Scott advised that the town picks up Oxford Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, 4th of July, July 24th weekend, August 12th weekend and August 27th weekend. Scott advised that he has not noticed an over abundance of trash on any days except the 5 that are already being picked up. Trash is collected every Monday and Thursday morning through town at the present. To save in overtime the waste water treatment plant is shut down on weekends during the summer. The extra cost of dumping trash cans would take the savings from the town. An extra employee on weekends to do trash would cost the town with benefits an extra \$15,000 per year.

President Dunbar remarked that it appears that Scott does not feel the extra pick up is necessary and the Commissioners will go along with Scott's recommendation.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Maxwell gave the Police Report that consists of the following:

- Twenty One Police Information
- One DWI (arrested and released pending trial)
- One No Drivers License (arrested and released pending trial)
- One Drug Arrest (marijuana)
- Two Noise Complaints
- Two Open Doors
- Three Check the Welfare (all persons(s) o.k.)
- Two Animal Complaints
- Three Assist the Fire Department
- Two Thefts (bicycles)
- One Alarm (weather related)
- Two Suspicious Vehicles

OXFORD FIRE COMPANY

David Baker, secretary Oxford Fire Company, reported that for the period of June 9th to June 23, 2011 there were two (2) medical calls with 4.7 personnel hours and 26 miles traveled. The Fire Company held a chicken BBQ sale July 3rd and a Fire Company breakfast July 10th. The Fire Company would like to thank all those who made both a success. Mr. Baker reminded everyone that Oxford Ladies Auxiliary will have a booth at the Farmers Market every Wednesday through July and August with jams, bake goods, etc for sale.

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE 1013 – STORMWATER

President Dunbar read the title of Ordinance 1013 which is "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF OXFORD ADOPTING A STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE. PURSUANT TO THE

Aye – Peter Dunbar

Aye – Carole Abruzzese

Aye – R. Gordon Graves

Ordinance 1013 passed this 12th day of July 2011.

VACANCIES ON VARIOUS BOARDS

President Dunbar announced that there are several vacancies on various boards. If anyone is interested in serving please notify the town office. Commissioners Graves commented that there is a great amount of talent in town and citizens should get involved with the town.

PARKS & RECREATION

President Dunbar stated that Pat Ingram, Chairperson of Parks & Recreation, wrote a letter thanking the Public Works Department for building the new entrance to the Custom House. She also thanked the Public Works Department and the Oxford Police Department in helping with the activities on July 4th.

COMMUNITY CENTER

President Dunbar announced that the Community Center thanked the town for waiving a portion of their Building Permt fee. Construction has stated and the Center has raised approximately 90% of their goal for funding.

REQUEST USE OF CAUSEWAY PARK

A letter has been received from Lucas M. Pullen, Officer in Charge, U.S. Coast Guard Station Oxford requesting use of the Causeway Park on Saturday, August 6, 2011 to hold a birthday celebration of the founding of the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard was founded under the hand of Alexander Hamilton on August 4, 1790. There will be activities for families of the Station as well as the community. Community involvement is welcomed and if interested call BMC Lucas Pullen at 410-226-0581. BMC Pullen is hoping that this will become an annual tradition in the Town of Oxford for many years to come. The Commissioners were all in agreement to allow the use of the Park on August 6, 2011 for the Coast Guard celebration.

BOATYARDS/MARINAS

President Dunbar stated that in his trips throughout town he has noticed the improvements the boatyards have made with landscaping, etc to their businesses. In appreciation of this President Dunbar asked that a letter be mailed stating the Commissioners appreciation of their hard work in keeping Oxford a beautiful spot.

TREE DONATION

Brian and Julie Wells, 102 Tilghman Street, have written a letter advising the Commissioners that they were awarded the prize for Best Exterior Makeover in a nationwide contest. Mr. &

MDE ASSESSMENT

Attorney Booth explained an assessment fee that MDE has placed on Oxford for violations of the discharge permit for the lagoon system. "The Commissioners take their responsibility to comply with the Town's discharge permit very seriously. Unfortunately, the Town's lagoon-based wastewater treatment system was originally constructed in 1963. Between February, 2008 and December, 2009, there were a number of days upon which Oxford's self-reported effluent sampling reflected values that exceeded its discharge permit limits. Many of the violations occurred in months where there was significant rainfall within several days of the testing, which resulted in high flows. The pattern reflects the susceptibility of older lagoon systems to environmental extremes and pressures.

The Town discussed their violations with MDE, and in response to some of their suggestions, the Town spent over \$30,000 to build and install an improved aeration system, which has improved the dissolved oxygen balance. MDE has agreed that \$20,000 is an appropriate assessment in this case.

Oxford has worked hard to keep its aging lagoon system compliant with increasingly strict permit requirements. Unfortunately, with state funding, at least in the recent past, limited to upgrades for large plants, we have been unable to identify a cost effective upgrade path for the lagoon system. We have had a significant engineering analysis of the replacement system options and continue to look for environmentally beneficial and cost effective solutions."

President Dunbar stated that the system will have to be replaced which is a major cost in the next few years. The town has been in touch with others to see how they are handling the same issues as the Town of Oxford.

Attorney Booth presented the Commissioners with a settlement agreement for President Dunbar's signature. Commissioner Abruzzese made a motion to have President Dunbar sign the settlement agreement. Commissioner Graves seconded motion. Commissioners voted on this 12th day of July 2011 to sign the settlement agreement.

Aye – Peter Dunbar

Aye – Carole Abruzzese

Aye – R. Gordon Graves

Attorney Booth requested an executive session following tonight's meeting to go over legal issues.

AUDIO SYSTEM

President Dunbar announced that he has invited a representative for a new audio system for the meeting room to give a demonstration to the Commissioners. A date where all commissioners can attend is trying to be reached. The recording system used presently is not adequate.

CHOPTANK RIVER KEEPERS

A member of Choptank River Keepers noticed particles in Town Creek and reported it to MDE.

clock. Commissioner Graves would like to renew the project and stated that more money will have to be raised. The clock was to originally be incorporated into the streetscape design. A thought today is to raise enough money for a pedestal clock and put it in front of Town Hall or on the corner where the museum is located. The town of Ridgely just put in a clock which cost \$18,000 and was done through the Historical Society. Commissioner Abruzzese stated that the clock project was started in memory of the late Commissioner Ronald Fox. Commissioner Abruzzese remarked that his family is excited that the project is going forward.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Skip Case stated that he had submitted a letter to the Commissioners on June 28th regarding speeding and asked the status of his letter. Mr. Case will be on the Commissioner agenda at the next meeting. President Dunbar explained that Chief Maxwell and Patrolman Vichich are putting together a spreadsheet to go to State Highway Administration, some backup needs to be done before talking with SHA. We are also gathering some data from Latitude.

RECYCLING

Mary Crabb questioned the status of the curbside recycling. Ms. Crabb also told the Commissioners that the recycling station is being used after hours. There is not suppose to be any use of the recycling station after 7:00 p.m. The Commissioners agreed to get information out to see how many residents are interested in curbside recycling. The cost could run anywhere from \$4.00 to \$10.00 monthly.

CLEAN UP AFTER STORM

Dick Deering thanked the Public Works Department for the excellent job of cleaning up the tree damage following the storm a few weeks back.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Ben Uchitelle congratulated the new Commissioners. Mr. Uchitelle stated that in St. Louis where he served as mayor they took Public Comment at the beginning of their meetings and suggested that Oxford try this. Mr. Uchitelle also stated that the Police Department in St. Louis uses bicycles when patrolling and thought Oxford could benefit from this.

Commissioner Abruzzese requested that when someone in the audience is speaking that they give their names in order for her to learn the residents names.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commissioners voted to go into executive session to obtain legal advice. Those in attendance were Peter Dunbar, Commissioner, Carole Abruzzese, Commissioner, R. Gordon Graves, Commissioner, Brynja Booth, Town Attorney and Lillian Lord, Town Clerk.

BILLS PAYABLE