

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

May 24, 2011

LOCATION

Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on May 24, 2011. President Kearns called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Commissioners present were Timothy Kearns and Peter Dunbar. Town Attorney, David Thompson was in attendance. There were approximately twelve (12) people in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of April 26, 2011 were approved as distributed.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

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

1. Scott met with Eastern Shore Land Conservancy last week. Eastern Shore Land Conservancy is starting a new program called TOWN CENTER which helps towns recapture some of their open space areas that are in need of rehabilitation. Scott asked that ESLC include Oxford's Tilghman Street recreational dock facility as a possible candidate for one of their projects. This may help with the rehab of the dock area and make it into a more relaxing recreational like setting.
2. One of the town trucks was involved in an accident in Easton on May 11, 2011. One of our employees was headed to a class at Chesapeake College when the truck was rear ended at a stop light by a car. There were no injuries and the town employee was not at fault and no major damage was done to the town truck.
3. We have been experiencing high flows at the wastewater plant during the last two (2) weeks because of the very high tides that have overtaken the streets, bulkheads and manholes. We have purchased another tide gate for the outflow to Mill Street to try to alleviate the incoming high tides. The tide gate will be installed as soon as we get a low tide for installation. Scott noted that he has called SHA to help with two outflows on South Morris Street. Hopefully, SHA can install something to help with the daily tide flow.
4. The Public Works Department has flushed out all of the fire hydrants in town. This flushes out any old water and is done every year not only for water taste but to do maintenance on every hydrant and valve in our infrastructure system.

Scott reported that he will be meeting with David Edwards, SHA, to see where the Community Center ditch project stands.

POLICE REPORT

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

- Twelve Police Information
- One Trailer Permit violation
- One Malicious Destruction of Property (under investigation)
- One Warrant Service (Oxford criminal case)

- One Assist Other Police Agency
- One animal Complaint

Chief Maxwell reported that the Garden Tour and Quilt Show this past weekend was well attended and there were no problems.

OXFORD FIRE COMPANY

Pam Baker gave the Oxford Fire Company report for the period April 29 to May 12, 2011. For this two (2) week period there were two (2) fire calls with eight (8) personnel hours and fifty (50) miles traveled. There were five (5) medical calls with twenty seven point eight (27.8) personnel hours and eighty three (83) miles traveled.

REQUEST TO BE ON AGENDA – Jennifer Stanley – Oxford Kids Camp

Mrs. Stanley requested permission to hold a “Block Party” and invite the community. The event would take place on Friday, July 29 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Mrs. Stanley requested that Market Street be closed between Morris and Factory Street. There would be a DJ and a food booth. On the last Friday of Oxford Kids Camp traditionally there is a dance held. Since the Community Center will be doing renovations, the area can not be used, therefore the reason for permission to use Market Street. The Commissioners agreed to allow the use of Market Street for the “Block Party”.

Mrs. Stanley informed the Commissioners that there will be five portable toilets in the Park during Oxford Kids Camp. Mrs. Stanley stated that they would do their best to place the toilets as inconspicuous as possible. The toilets will be locked when the camp is not in session.

OXFORD ICE CREAM SOCIAL

President Kearns announced that a letter has been received from Jan Mroczek, representing OLA, requesting use of the Town Park on Sunday, September 18, 2011, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. to hold the annual Ice Cream Social. The Commissioners agreed to allow the Ice Cream Social to be held in the Town Park. Scott will attend the organizational meeting for the Ice Cream Social on June 20, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Community Services Building meeting room.

REQUEST TO BE ON AGENDA – Cathy Bitter – Plants on Strand

Mrs. Bitter explained how the area along the Strand where she planted liriopé around several trees have survived over the winter months. Mrs. Bitter also put in grass seed and some topsoil helping to control erosion. Trucks and cars are pulling off the road and causing areas to become compacted and other areas along the strand are beginning to have the pavement crumble. Everyone in the area would like to find a solution without more signs being posted. A visual barrier needs to be created according to Mrs. Bitter. Mrs. Bitter suggested installing granite block along the edge every ten to fifteen feet or installing plants along the roadway. After a short discussion, the Commissioners requested that Mrs. Bitter bring in pictures of what might be done to help protect this area and make it more safe for children using the beach area.

PARKS & RECREATION

Members of Oxford Parks & Recreation requested that everyone try and fly the American flag on Memorial Day and observe a moment of silence at 3:00 p.m. Monday, May 30th for a national moment of prayer.

Parks & Recreation requested that a sign be installed at the Custom House explaining what the Custom House is about. The goal of Parks & Recreation is to have this installed by July 4th in order to have a short rededication of the Customs House prior to the start of the bicycle parade.

RESOLUTION 1109 – Talbot County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Attorney Thompson read Resolution 1109 which is a Resolution adopting the Talbot County Hazard Mitigation Plan. By adopting this plan, Oxford will be eligible to receive federal disaster money. Commissioner Dunbar made a motion to adopt Resolution 1109. President Kearns seconded motion.

Aye – Timothy Kearns

Aye – Peter Dunbar

Resolution 1109 passed this 24th day of May 2011.

ORDINANCE 1013 – Stormwater Management

Attorney Thompson advised that changes have been made to Ordinance 1013 as requested by Maryland Department of the Environment. The ordinance was forwarded to MDE as required and approved by MDE following a few changes. Attorney Thompson remarked that he has some reservations relating particularly to redevelopment of commercial areas. Attorney Thompson suggested adopting the ordinance as required by state law and then make changes. President Kearns introduced Ordinance 1013 which is “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF OXFORD ADOPTING A STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE, PURSUANT TO THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, ENVIRONMENTAL ARTICLE, TITLE FOUR, SUBTITLE TWO”.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS STATUE UNVEILING

President Kearns announced that June 16 through June 19, 2011 the dedication of the Frederick Douglass statue will be held. Events will be held each day and the unveiling of the statue will be held on June 18, 2011- 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon on the Talbot County Courthouse lawn.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Kearns announced that a few more letters have been received regarding the location of the Blue Star Memorial.

ATTORNEY

Attorney Thompson requested an executive session following tonight’s meeting to discuss potential litigation.

LAND CONSERVATION

Commissioner Dunbar requested that Attorney Thompson contact the Land Conservation to get their response that they are in favor of the watershed and stormwater plan being worked on for the Park area. This is a proposal for NOAA that is due in the immediate future.

LIVING SHORELINE

Commissioner Dunbar mentioned that the bio-retention area at the Town Park Living Shoreline is not doing as well as expected. The area has been mowed. Scott advised that he will tell the Public Works Department to not mow that area.

MARYLAND PRESERVATION

Commissioner Dunbar announced that he had attended a meeting held by Maryland Preservation and Revitalization that was very worthwhile.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Dunbar requested an Executive Session following tonight's meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

COMMISSIONER JAMES KLAIR

President Dunbar announced that Commissioner Klair is still in the hospital for medical observation but is doing quite well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Tochko thanked the Public Works Department for installing the "One Way" sign on South Street.

Phyliss Rambo, Oxford Garden Club, thanked the town for the use of the Town Park.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commissioners voted to go into executive session to *discuss a personnel issue* and to *consult with counsel about pending or potential litigation*.

BILLS PAYABLE

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

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

Aye – Timothy Kearns

Aye – Peter Dunbar

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Lord
Town Clerk