

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

February 22, 2011

LOCATION

Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on February 22, 2011. President Kearns called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Commissioners present were Timothy Kearns, James Klair and Peter Dunbar. Town Attorney, David Thompson and a Star Democrat representative were in attendance. There were approximately thirty three (33) people in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of February 8, 2011 were approved as distributed.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

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

1. The town had its third water main break of the season at the intersection of Market Street and Banks Street. Cost for repairs ran approximately \$500.00.
2. The playground trains at Town Park and the Causeway Park have been replaced with new models that were built by the Public Works Dept. The new trains are built from plastic decking boards that are becoming popular. These boards have a better structure and will not have splinters. The old trains were coming apart and were in need of replacement.
3. Scott attended a TMDL phase 2 class on February 9th in Easton. The state will be sending the Town a letter in the next month or so asking the town's plans for meeting the new nitrogen and phosphorus reduction. Oxford will be asked to give the state a plan "A" and a plan "B" and how the town plans on paying for the project. The plans will be due by the end of this year. The town will receive its new TMDL appropriations in June showing how much we have to reduce our nutrients. The only for sure thing is that we are going to have to do some upgrades to our plant to stay in compliance. Things that can help the town is BMPs (best management practices) such as mitigation of trees and our new living shorelines for filtration of sediments to the bay. Every town and state that discharges effluent into the bay is going through the same process as Oxford to clean up the bay. Some towns have already built multi million dollar plants and others have partnered with bigger towns to save money and remove discharge points and get better filtration of the nutrients going into the bay. Talbot County will be holding stake holders meetings next month to see where everyone is planning to go with the new rule. Scott will advise the date of the meetings as soon as he is notified of the dates.
4. There is a class on March 1st at the Oxford Fire Department on new green technologies for water systems and water quality. The class is put on by Maryland Rural Water Association. The class will show how we can save energy by using new methods of remediation and rehabilitation of our water system. The class is free to all employees and everyone in the Public Works Department will be attending. Scott asked that if the Commissioners are interested in attending to please let him know in order for seats to be reserved.

Scott announced that the Oxford Fire Company is letting the Public Works Department used the fire company on March 1st at no charge.

President Kearns announced that he and Commissioner Dunbar had met with the town of Easton to look into best management plans.

Commissioner Dunbar questioned what is Phase One and Phase Two regarding TMDL's. Scott advised that the meeting was Phase One and Phase Two will be goals that must be met in the next few years. By 2017 the town must show progress and by 2020 it must be in compliance.

Commissioner Klair reminded everyone that Oxford has been working with engineers, etc over the past few years regarding upgrades to the waste water facility. This information will prove helpful in discussions.

BID OPENDING – Surplus Generator

One bid was received for purchase of the town's surplus generator. The bid was received from Charles Wainwright in the amount of \$421.00. Scott will review the bid.

POLICE REPORT

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

- One Police Information
- One assist the Fire Department
- One DWI (arrested and released)
- One animal complaint (abated)

Chief Maxwell stated that the town did not have any problems during the recent high winds and snow.

Request to be on Agenda – Pool Committee

Lisa Johnson presented the Commissioners with a packet containing signatures for support of the Oxford/Y outdoor season pool with year-round wellness and recreation center. Signatures were obtained from all 21654 properties. Since some signatures are from out of town limits, Lisa explained that one hundred thirty four were received from people within the town limits. The Oxford/Y Pool Committee requested a date to conduct a working meeting with the Commissioners, hopefully within the next two months.

President Kearns explained that the Commissioners had met with representatives of the YMCA, and with the owners of the adjacent eighty (80) acre parcel, who are interested in preserving the entrance to town, and who are also willing to grant a right of way for a YMCA facility, provided that the town and the Conservation Group come up with a mutually acceptable long term plan for the eighty (80) acre parcel. They asked if the town would commit money for a land planner to work on a plan that includes the town's excess land and the adjacent conservancy group property. They are getting estimates of the cost from their planner, and the Commissioners will consider that expense as part of the upcoming budget.

Another foundation is considering donating some planning money as well, so that the Community Center, the baseball field, the soccer field, pool, parking, and passive use of the larger eighty (80) acre tract (possibilities discussed include walking trails, demonstration meadow, demonstration wetlands), can all be integrated in a useful way that serves the community.

The Commissioners have committed to participate in this process. It will not happen overnight, but there is the potential for something special with this as a recreation area, and the Commissioners believe that it is in the town's best interest to continue to look at the whole area, rather than doing it piecemeal, especially with the interest of the Conservation Fund in

joint planning for the entrance of the town, and the possible availability of its property as part of a long term conservation and recreational space plan. The attorney for the YMCA and the Town Attorneys continue to address details of the process, and are awaiting information from the Conservation Fund about how they want to proceed with the planning process. The pool committee's plans have been shared with the group, and the town is waiting for feedback.

Lisa Johnson, representative of Oxford/Y Pool, committed that this appears to be a win win situation for the town.

Commissioner Dunbar commented that he understood the fund raising for the pool will not begin until the Community Center completes their fund drive. Ms. Johnson stated that this was correct. Ms. Johnson advised that she will get a date in March for the Commissioners and the pool committee to meet.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Dunbar announced that Scott has sent in a grant proposal to Maryland Clean Energy Center for ARRA money to place a wind turbine on property at the town shop. This is stimulus money and the wind turbine would fully supply the Public Works Building and waste water treatment facility.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

GIS

President Kearns stated that MidShore Regional Cooperation has interns that will work at a reasonable rate taking information and putting it in the town's GIS system. The town is working with GIS information, but is not using the full capability of the system. President Kearns suggested that the town consider putting money in the FY2012 budget for interns. Commissioner Dunbar suggested that if anyone can help the town with ideas to please come forward.

Meeting with State Highway Administration

Commissioner Dunbar announced that Scott and the Commissioners will be meeting with SHA on Friday, February 25th to go over the SHA plans for slowing traffic down entering town at Latitude. The Commissioners met with SHA last fall and SHA was going to come back to the town with a plan to calm traffic. The area in front of the Community Center will also be discussed. One idea is to fill in the ditch adjacent to the state road making it more friendly for pedestrians.

Stormwater Ordinance

Commissioner Klair announced that the Public Hearing on the Stormwater Ordinance will be held on March 22nd. Attorney Thompson has written to the state to advise them of the town's concerns.

Blue Star Memorial

President Kearns commented that a date for discussion on the Blue Star Memorial is being arranged. The meeting will be advertised.

J Dock

President Kearns stated that a number of people that have their boat at "J Dock" are asking what the town is planning to do with the dock and will they be able to keep their boats there. Oxford Boatyard's lease with the town will expire the end of March. Attorney Thompson commented that the Commissioners should establish what the rent will be and if a person with a boat at "J Dock" wants to pay what the town is asking, they should probably be allowed to stay. Commissioner Klair asked Scott if he had gotten any estimates for work that needs to be done at the dock. Scott advised that Bailey Marine had given him estimated figures today. They

were \$200,000 for complete rehab of the dock. A patch that would last five years would run \$12,000. Scott advised the Commissioners that the town could continue to provide water and electric to the dock. Commissioner Dunbar suggested carrying the leases on a month to month agreement for the time being.

ATTORNEY

Attorney Thompson advised the Commissioners that he had received a note from the Board of Appeals questioning whether they are allowed to deliberate off the record. Attorney Thompson stated that the law is clear that zoning, special exceptions, variances, etc must be done in public. There are a few things that can go into executive session. Attorney Thompson will write to the chairperson of the Board of Appeals in order to clear up any questions the members may have. Commissioner Dunbar stated that as a former member of the Board of Appeals you use to be able to deliberate off the record, but the law changed. Attorney Thompson commented that the board members can have a discussion among themselves without the public commenting, but the discussion must be done in public.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

BILLS PAYABLE

The Commissioners went to Bills Payable.

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

Aye – Timothy Kearns

Aye – James Klair

Aye – Peter Dunbar

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Lord
Town Clerk