

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

August 9, 2011

LOCATION

Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on August 9, 2011. President Dunbar called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Commissioners present were Peter Dunbar, Carole Abruzzese and R. Gordon Graves. Town Attorney Brynja Booth was in attendance. There were eight (8) people in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

MAINTENANCE REPORT

1. Scott met with Talbot County on the Watershed Implementation Plan last week. MDE is releasing the new TMDL appropriations in mid September for the county. Oxford's appropriations will not be released until the county receives theirs. MDE representative Richard Eskin would like to have a meeting with Oxford, St. Michaels and Trappe in late August to discuss the upcoming appropriations and how they will affect the towns. Scott requested dates that the Commissioners would be available.
2. The State Highway Administration has requested more information on the Community Center ditch project such as hydrology flow from the Oxford Fire Company. The town has spent approximately \$3000 trying to move the project forward. A letter was written to SHA asking them to let us proceed with the project this fall. Specifications, hydrology of the surrounding parcels and other pertinent information has been given to SHA.
3. The tennis court fence is in the process of being repaired from the storm damage. The work should be completed no later than Friday, August 12th. The damage was covered by insurance.
4. There were two water leaks over the last two weeks. One leak at 101 Bayview Avenue and one at 106 Bonfield Avenue. Both leaks were due to old galvanized service lines.
5. A request has been made to install a "NO TURN AROUND" sign at the beginning of East Division Street. Many people are driving down the street not realizing that it is not a thru street.

Attorney Booth will work with the Commissioners, Trappe and St. Michaels to arrange a date for a meeting with Richard Eskin, MDE to discuss TMDL appropriations.

President Dunbar has written a letter to State Highway Administration regarding filling in the ditch in front of the Community Center. President Dunbar has including diagrams of what the town's plans are for the ditch and recommending that construction begin in the Fall. Copies of this letter are being sent to Richard Colburn, Adelaide Eckardt and Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio.

Commissioner Graves stated that he was approached by a citizen requesting placing convex mirrors at the corner of South Street and Morris Street. It is difficult to see oncoming traffic on Morris Street when approaching Morris Street from South Street. Commissioner Graves asked that Scott look into the feasibility of putting convex mirrors at this location. Chief Maxwell and Scott will work together in contacting SHA and Delmarva Power to see if there is any problem with placing the mirrors in the SHA right of way and possibly attaching them on Delmarva Power poles.

Scott Delude requested an executive session following tonight's meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

POLICE REPORT

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

- One Assist Other Police Department
- Ten Police Information
- One Alarm (malfunction)
- One Suspicious Vehicle
- One Suspended Driver (arrested and released on bond)

Chief Maxwell announced that the first annual Coast Guard Day at the Causeway was well attended.

Chief Maxwell announced that the Tred Avon Regatta will be held this week-end.

Chief Maxwell presented the Commissioners with information gathered by the Oxford Police Department and State Highway Administration on the speed of cars approaching town in the area of Latitude Restaurant and Oxford Fire Company. The town is working with SHA in trying to slow cars down in this area. SHA has completed some work in this area to calm traffic, but there does not seem to be a big difference in the speed of cars since the work has been completed. President Dunbar suggested a meeting with SHA to see what they will do and discuss what the town would like to do.

President Dunbar remarked that he was pleased to find out while attending the first annual Coast Guard Day that five Coast Guard families have moved in town. Thanks to Henry Hale for working with owners of properties to find available rentals for the families.

OXFORD FIRE COMPANY

Pam Baker, Oxford Ladies Auxiliary, gave the Fire Company report that consisted of the following:

For the period of July 14 to July 28, 2011 there were seven (7) fire calls with fifty three (53) personnel hours and one hundred one (101) miles traveled. There were seven (7) ambulance calls with twenty three point five (23.5) personnel hours and sixty five (65) miles traveled. The Fire Company will be holding a breakfast on Sunday, August 14th. The ladies auxiliary invites everyone to come out to the Farmers Market on Wednesday where they will be selling homemade bread, bake goods, jams, etc.

NEW BUSINESS

J Dock

Commissioner Abruzzese announced that a request has been made to allow the Tred Avon Yacht Club to use slips at the "J Dock" on Friday, August 12 and Saturday, August 13 during the regatta. After a short discussion the Commissioners agreed to allow the use of "J Dock" at no charge to the Yacht Club, but will have a hold harmless agreement signed by the Yacht Club.

Oxford's Tree Scape

President Dunbar announced a letter was received from Dr. Lelde Schmitz regarding the goal of safeguarding Oxford's tree scape. Dr. Schmitz's letter will be given to Parks & Recreation for recommendations. Attorney Booth stated that she has information that she will bring to the Commissioners Meeting from the Town of St. Michaels regarding trees.

COMMISSIONERS

Town Clock

Commissioner Graves announced that SHA approved the location on the corner of Market Street for the placement of a town clock. There is approximately \$3,400 in the clock fund. The money for the clock will be through private fund raising. The cost of the clock is approximately \$13,000.

J Dock

Commissioner Abruzzese stated that she has been gathering information on the town's boat slips in order to plan the use and fees for J Dock. Refacing of the bulkhead and replacement of some of the pilings must be done. President Dunbar asked that Scott get in touch with Eastern Shore Land Conservation about the possibility of putting a grassy area between the parking lot and the slips. Scott stated that putting in a grassy area would count in helping with TMDL's. The Commissioners requested that Scott go forward with getting a bid out for the work that needs to be completed.

Recycling

Commissioners Graves announced that he will be meeting with Allied on August 23rd to discuss recycling.

Office Closed

The Commissioners agreed to close the town office on Wednesday, August 24th and Thursday, August 25th to allow staff to work with the auditors.

President Dunbar requested an executive session following tonight's meeting for a legal issue.

Attorney Booth stated the need for an executive session to go over two real estate matters and a code enforcement issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Odle

Robert Odle, 204 S. Morris Street, introduced himself to the Commissioners and then referred to a letter providing details of 106 South Morris Street as to mold contamination. President Dunbar interrupted Mr. Odle at this point and explained that there would be no discussion regarding the property that Mr. Odle and the town are currently in litigation over. Upon Mr. Odle's insistence, President Dunbar gave Mr. Odle five minutes to speak with the understanding that the property in litigation would in no way be discussed. Mr. Odle again mentioned the mold contamination and Attorney Booth interrupted Mr. Odle again explaining that the property in litigation should not be discussed and reminded Mr. Odle that there is a hearing scheduled for September 8th.

Rich Lesser

Rick Lesser, Green Energy Designs, explained that Jim Dewar, 106 North Morris Street, went to the Historic Commission's meeting in August to get approval to install solar panels on his home. At the meeting the Historic Commission advised Mr. Dewar that they were in the process of reviewing their guidelines and how they will apply to solar panels. The Historic Commission members said they were waiting for the Commissioners to respond to their request for guidance. Mr. Lesser stated that HB117 guarantees homeowners the right to put a system on their roof if the home is not on the Historical Register. Mr. Lesser questioned the time frame of getting guidelines in place. President Dunbar explained that there seems to be confusion regarding the guidelines that are in place presently and the Commissioners will clear up this matter with the Historic Commission as quickly as possible.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commissioners voted to go into executive session to go over a personnel issue, discuss two real estate issues, code enforcement and obtain legal advice.

BILLS PAYABLE

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

Commissioner Abruzzese made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Graves seconded motion.

Aye – Peter Dunbar

Aye – Carole Abruzzese

Aye – R. Gordon Graves

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Lord