

Commissioners Meeting
January 10, 2012

LOCATION

Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on January 10, 2012. Commissioner Dunbar called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

PRESENT

Commissioners present were Peter Dunbar, Carole Abruzzese and Gordon Graves. Town Attorney Brynja Booth and a Star Democrat representative were in attendance. There were approximately forty-five (45) people in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 13, 2011 minutes were approved as distributed.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

In Scott Delude's absence the maintenance report will be given at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Commissioner Dunbar commented that the work on the J Dock has been completed.

POLICE REPORT

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

- 1 motor vehicle tampering
- 5 police information
- 1 theft (-\$200.00)
- 1 Domestic (no assault-protective order issued)
- 1 assist the Fire Department
- 1 check the welfare (intoxicated person)
- 1 suspicious vehicle (ID & moved on)

Chief Maxwell announced the acceptance of Officer Michael Vichich's resignation, effected December 16, 2011. Chief Maxwell will be advertising for the position.

OXFORD FIRE COMPANY

David Baker, Secretary for the Oxford Fire Company, gave the fire company report stating that for the month of December, 2011 the Oxford Fire Company responded to a total of 21 emergency calls, 10 fire rescue calls, and 11 EMS calls. Three of the ten fire calls were working structure fires. All equipment was in working order and no injuries were reported.

All 2011 fire reports have been completed and forwarded to the Maryland State Fire Marshall's Office.

Mr. Baker, on behalf of the Oxford Fire Company, thanked all the people who helped make "Breakfast with Santa" on December 4th a huge success with over 500 people attending. In addition, the Oxford Ladies Auxiliary expresses their thanks to everyone who patronized their craft sale.

An invitation by the Oxford Fire Company was extended to the public for their Annual Awards Banquet, to be held on Friday, January 20th, with the general public invited to attend for the music and dancing at 9:00 pm. Reservations can be made by calling the Oxford Fire House.

Commissioner Abruzzese asked if the police car, donated by the police department, is being used. Chief Maxwell stated that the car is presently in the shop for repairs.

Commissioner Dunbar noted that the first KNOX box has been installed by a property owner in Morgan's Point. The "KNOX" box system enables the fire company to have access to homes and business in times of emergency preventing damage to unoccupied homes. Anyone interested in learning more about the systems can visit the Oxford Fire Department website.

OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTER

James Deerin reported that the Oxford Community Center should have their Certificate of Occupancy on January 20th. A grand opening and ribbon cutting will be held the first weekend in March. In addition, the next TAP production will be held in February with auditions starting on January 21st.

BID OPENING - Bid Number 1203 - Town of Oxford Water Main and Service Replacement/Roadway Resurface

President Dunbar opened Bid 12-03, a bid for service of the water main and replacement of roadway. A total of eight (8) bids were received. The following bids were received:

Metro Paving Corporation	\$256,000.00
Teal Construction, Inc.	\$207,055.00
Barker's Landing Excavation	\$130,850.00
Eastern Shore Paving	\$208,630.00
Retallack & Sons	\$134,500.00
Duvall Brothers	\$136,810.00
David A. Bramble, Inc.	\$164,100.00
Spring and Associates, Inc.	\$309,400.00

Commissioner Graves motioned to send the bids for review by Scott Delude, Director of Public Works before awarding a contract. Commissioner Abruzzese seconded the motion.

Aye – Carole Abruzzese

Aye – Peter Dunbar

Aye- Gordon Graves

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Dunbar announced that the Eastern Shore Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League will be holding a dinner on Tuesday, January 17, at Fisherman's Inn, Grasonville. MML is the only statewide organization in Maryland composed solely of municipal officials and devoted to the promotion of all branches of municipal administration.

At this time President Dunbar provided information on the introduction of an "Ordinance of the Town of Oxford to declare certain land surplus land, and to make said land available to the YMCA of the Chesapeake for the creation of a recreational aquatic and fitness center available for use by members of the Oxford area community and members of the YMCA."

President Dunbar stated that the Pool Committee has been working to bring a pool and fitness center to Oxford. The site currently proposed by the Committee lies at the end of East Pier Street, behind the Fire Department and next to the town lagoons.

At the December 13, 2011 Commissioners meeting, the Oxford Pool Committee and staff of the YMCA reviewed their partnership to build and operate a pool and fitness center. The Committee ended their presentation with a request for the Commissioners to consider making surplus town land available for this project.

A presentation by representatives from the YMCA and Pool Committee to review the conceptual plan for the Pool/Fitness Center in Oxford was held for the general public on December 20th at 7:30.

President Dunbar asked Brynja Booth, Attorney for the town, to review the procedures for introducing an Ordinance.

Ms. Booth in re-reading the ordinance explained the process, which would involve, if introduced tonight, at least one public hearing for comments regarding the ordinance. The hearing date or dates will then be advertised in the Star Democrat for public notification. After public hearing and public comments have been received, the Commissioners could then vote for or against the ordinance. If the Commissioners approve the ordinance, a lease agreement will then be prepared between the YMCA and the town. The lease would include a reverter clause that would return the land to the town if for any reason the Y could not meet the terms. The lease is identical to the Yacht Club and Community Center leases. Additionally the question has been asked as to why this issue would not be considered by a referendum? Ms. Booth stated that the law gives the Commissioners and the Commissioners only, the

right to declare this land surplus and to enter into a lease. This is not something that can be decided by a public referendum.

Commissioner Graves motioned for the introduction of the Ordinance for the Town of Oxford to declare certain land surplus land, and to make said land available to the YMCA of the Chesapeake for the creation of a recreational aquatic and fitness center available for use by members of the Oxford area community and members of the YMCA.”

Commissioner Abruzzese seconded the motion.

Aye – Carole Abruzzese

Aye – Peter Dunbar

Aye- Gordon Graves

President Dunbar asked the audience to please plan on attending the public hearing and review the documents regarding the pool and submit all questions and comments to the Commissioners.

The first informational meeting for the public outlining the plans for the pool and fitness center will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2012, 1:00 pm at the Oxford Community Services Building.

The Public Hearing will be a special meeting to hear comments, and will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 7:30 pm at the Oxford Community Services Building.

Notices for the above meetings will be posted in the Star Democrat and on the Oxford Web Site.

President Dunbar asked Ms. Booth if the Commissioners could vote on the Ordinance following the Public Hearing on the 15th. Mrs. Booth answered yes.

Environmental Concerns has surveyed the waterfront at the park and will be adding additional sand (moist) and rocks. The work will take place this month and replanting will take place in March.

The question was asked on how the warranty worked. Commissioner Dunbar stated the warranty is for a year and will extend for an additional year on the work completed now.

Letters from the Oxford Parks and Recreation Board and from FEMA were distributed to the Commissioners and attorney for review.

Commissioner Dunbar stated that the State Highway Department is preparing a plan extending the present road paintings and possibly parking areas.

ATTORNEY

Ms. Booth reviewed the amendment to the Sprint Lease Agreement and recommended the approval. The initial lease, signed in 1997, for the placement of equipment on the water tower, was for a five year period, with three 5 year extensions. The initial monthly rent is \$1,100.00 for the initial term and an increase of 15 percent for each successive renewal term. The amendment proposes to add additional equipment and increasing the base rent an additional \$100.00 a month.

Commissioner Abruzzese motioned for approval for the Sprint Amendment. Commissioner Graves seconded the motion.

Ms. Booth stated the Circuit Court has ordered the Town of Oxford to demolish the house at 106 S. Morris Street, owned by Mr. McManus. The appeal time has been completed and Mr. Delude has collected bids for the demolition and has scheduled the work for the end of January. As per the Court, the house must be removed by February 21st.

Commissioner Abruzzese asked where the funds for the removal of the house will come from. Ms. Booth stated the funds will be paid from Oxford’s general fund. However, all monies spent by the town will be paid back by a lien placed on the property.

On February 2nd, at 8:00 a.m., the Talbot County Economic Development Commission will meet at the Robert Morris Inn. Invitations are extended to the Commissioners and the public. An agenda should be on their web site a week in advance.

Ms. Booth stated that the guidelines regarding Modern Equipment for the HDC are being reviewed. Ms. Hanks, a member of the HDC, stated

Commissioner Graves asked President Dunbar to sign, as landowner, the agreement for a propane tank for heating purposes at the Oxford Community Center. In addition, Commissioner Graves stated that he will have a report at the next meeting regarding recycling. As a side note, the Town of Easton will be having a hearing on January 18 regarding mandatory recycling. The meeting will be held in the Easton Town Office.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A member of the audience asked for the meeting time and place for the Talbot County Economic Development Commission to be placed on the town calendar.

Ms. Baker asked if the Commissioners could post agenda items, such as the Pool Ordinance, at least two days before the meetings.

BILLS PAYABLE

The Commissioners went to Bills Payable.

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

Aye-Peter Dunbar
AYE-Gordon Graves
AYE-Carole Abruzzese

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Abruzzese
Commissioner