

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

December 13, 2011

LOCATION

Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on December 13, 2011. President Dunbar called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Commissioners present were Peter Dunbar, Carole Abruzesse and Gordon Graves. Town Attorney Brynja Booth and a Star Democrat representative were in attendance. There were approximately twelve (12) people in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS

President Dunbar announced that the Commissioners held a meeting with the Oxford Pool Committee on Friday, December 9th at 2:00 p.m. This notice was posted.

The Commissioners met with Scott Delude and a representative from George, Miles & Buhr on Friday, December 9th at noon to discuss drainage issues along Mill Street.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Scott Delude gave the Maintenance Report that consisted of the following:

1. The "J-Dock" project should be completed by Wednesday. The facing has all been installed and the remaining twelve (12) pilings are being replaced today. The docks should be available by Christmas. Scott asked the Commissioners if the fence should remain at the dock with the one opening or should multiple openings be added for the watermen, or should the fence be removed.
2. A truck is the shop having the tie rods replaced. The salt water that the trucks are driven through on a regular basis caused the tie rods to go bad. The cost for repairs will be \$1000.00.
3. Scott has been in contact with Sherrl Russell, Delmarva Power, to see if some street lights can be added to the poles out as far as Latitude 38. This would be part of our traffic calming and would create more of a town feel as you enter town.
4. The Liberty Tree plaque has been placed down at our new tree at the Ferry Dock. Written on the plaque is the history of the Liberty Trees. The plaque can be moved as the tree grows.
5. Sprint telephone wants to amend their contract allowing use of space on the water tower at Tilghman Street. They want to add a microwave dish on the tower and pay the town an additional \$100 per month for the space. Scott advised that there are some redesigns that we would like to ask Sprint to do to the existing wires on the tank and this seems like a great opportunity to get the work completed. The new agreement from Sprint has been sent to the town attorney for review.

The Commissioners were in agreement that the fence at "J Dock" be removed since there are no other areas where the town leases slips that have a fence.

The Commissioners agreed to have Chief Maxwell and Scott look at the area from Hel's Half Acre Road entering town to see where additional street lights should be installed.

POLICE REPORT

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

- Fourteen Police Information
- Two Animal Complaints
- One Assist the Fire Department
- One check the welfare (all o.k.)
- One DWI (arrested and released pending trial)
- One Car Fire (Vehicle Totaled)
- One Open Door
- One Intoxicated Person (ID and taken home)
- One 911 Hang up (weather related)
- Two Alarms (weather related)
- One Paper Service

Chief Maxwell reminded everyone to be cautious while doing Christmas shopping. Make sure packages are stored in the trunk of your car while shopping at other stores.

Chief Maxwell requested an executive session following tonight's meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

OXFORD FIRE COMPANY

There was no one present from the Oxford Fire Company to give their report. Firefighter Tim Kearns was in attendance and commented that the fire company responded to a fire this a.m. where heat from a burning barn caused an explosion of propane tanks.

President Dunbar announced that Breakfast with Santa at the fire house was a huge success. There was a large attendance at the fire companies Prime Rib Dinner on Monday evening, December 12th.

COMMUNITY CENTER

William Ritchie, President of the Oxford Community Center, announced that work is going well on the renovations to the Community Center. There have been some delays, but the work should be completed by January 5th. The fund raising has went well but the goal has not been reached by \$300,000. There is a match of \$150,000 – dollar for dollar match – by a group of people.

A letter was received from Mr. Ritchie, Oxford Community Center, thanking the Oxford Police Department for patrolling the area during construction. The police department was also thanked for the way they handled the arrest of a wanted person that was working for the contractor at the Community Center.

Attorney Booth advised that a response was received from the county regarding the underground tank that had to be removed at the Community Center. The county is requesting additional information.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Oxford Pool and Fitness Center

President Dunbar stated that the Oxford Pool Committee in partnership with the YMCA is putting together a conceptual plan for the Pool/Fitness facility in Oxford to be presented at a meeting on December 20th at 7:30 p.m.. The meeting is open to the public where the public will be able to ask questions and make comments. It is time for moving forward and making a decision of whether or not it is in the town's best interest to lease surplus land for a pool and fitness center. On January 11, 2012 the Commissioners hope to introduce an Ordinance declaring certain land surplus land, and to make the land available to the YMCA for a pool and fitness center. Following the December 20th meeting, comments can be given to the Town Commissioners. If the Ordinance is introduced on January 11th, the Ordinance will then be advertised and a Public Hearing held where additional public comments can be made.

J-Dock

Commissioner Abruzesse suggested opening the boat slips up at the "J Dock" since work will be completed before Christmas. The watermen at the Causeway will be given the chance to move their boats to "J Dock" if they desire a larger slip and quicker access out of Town Creek. All Commissioners agreed that the Town Office should begin leasing of "J Dock".

Tree Maintenance

Commissioner Abruzesse requested that Scott begin working on a maintenance program for the trees in town. Commissioner Abruzesse agreed to work on this with Scott.

Living Shoreline

President Dunbar announced that the living shoreline at Town Park is in need of some work. There were some invasive plants growing and when removed it has left areas unprotected. Environmental Concern has looked at this and will be doing some work. Work will include movement of rocks and will be corrected at no cost, it will probably take three to four days to complete the work.

Swing at Town Park

Commissioner Abruzesse thanked Scott for installing the new swing at the Town Park.

Single Stream Recycling

Commissioner Graves announced that Allied Recycling has been in touch and given an estimated figure of \$5.02 per household for single stream recycling. This price is subject to the town making recycling mandatory. They hope to have an accurate figure later in January. With households recycling, it is possible that household trash removal would be needed only once a week.

ATTORNEY

McManus Property

Attorney Booth announced that Mr. Odle had his case against Mr. McManus on October 21, 2011 and at that hearing the court granted Mr. Odle's petition and ordered that the house be removed. The order was not signed until November 30th. Mr. McManus has until December 30th to appeal, if there is no appeal the house has to be removed by court order by February 21, 2012. Attorney Booth has asked Scott to get bids for that work, knowing that if it is appealed nothing will happen, but if there is not an appeal we need to be in a position to comply with the court's order. If the town incurs any expense the property will have a lien put on it and collected at tax sale.

Court of Special Appeals

Attorney Booth announced that the Court of Special Appeals has set the oral argument for the annexation question on January 3, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in Annapolis. This is an oral argument

whereby each side has twenty minutes with a three judge panel, there is no witnesses, there is no other comments other than the attorneys given oral arguments. This is open to the public.

COMMISSIONERS MEETING – DECEMBER 27, 2011

The Commissioners agreed to cancel the Town Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 27, 2011 due to the Holidays.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gilbert Snow reminded everyone of the Court of Special Appeals date of January 3, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in Annapolis for oral arguments on the annexation question.

Nancy Wallace questioned whether the Commissioners were going to respond to the letter that was attached to the Blue Star Memorial petition. President Dunbar commented that he needed to review the letter and petition, this was received during his illness.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commissioners voted to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue.

BILLS PAYABLE

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

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

Aye – Peter Dunbar

Aye – Gordon Graves

Aye – Carole Abruzesse

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Lord
Town Clerk