

# **TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING August 8, 2019**

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Fred Janci, Mayor; Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor; Robert Bilicki; Robert Williams; Peter Peyton; David Goauk; Katherine Bilicki  
**COUNCIL ABSENT:** None  
**TOWN CLERK:** Missy Wallace-Wessells

## **TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

- I. Call to Order** – VM Puchalski called to Order the Town Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on August 8, 2019, in the Wachapreague Town Hall.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance** – Mayor Janci lead the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Public Comments** – Mayor Janci opened the floor for Public Comments.
  - Aileen Joeckel questioned if anything was received by Front Row Properties concerning the modifications proposed. Clerk Wessells stated nothing new has been requested. Mayor Janci stated what has been approved is only a conceptual plan.
  - A. Joeckel also discussed the parking space behind Town Hall and if a contract has been approved for use by the Bilicki rental. A discussion ensued and concluded there is no change to the town owned property. Any changes to the town will be presented to the Planning Commission and approved by the citizens.
  - Mayor Janci introduced Wachapreague resident Vera Vdravkovich. She has a background in the procedures of funding in regards to higher education institutions. She suggested due to VIMS growth in our town and lack of tax revenue, to approach and associated institutions requesting their assistance. She suggested discussing with Dr. Snyder locally and Dr. Wells in Gloucester, Virginia ideas for inclusion of Wachapreague with VIMS in projects. Ms. Vdravkovich suggested asking for assistance to attract people to our area, such as eco tours, small nature museum, etc. and become more interactive. Other council members spoke of how open they are to show people around when approached. R. Williams stated VIMS conference room is the location for RAFT meetings. R. Bilicki stated a possible restriction on growth may also need to be reviewed. A. Joeckel suggested a visitor's center is needed for guest to come and visit. It was decided to approach VIMS about becoming more interactive with the Town of Wachapreague and begin working towards projects. V. Vdravkovich agreed to assist with this.
  - A. Joeckel stated grants are available for museums and tour guides through Virginia Tourism. R. Bilicki stated Allen (owner of store across from hall) has offered to allow a vignette to display the history of the town for visitors. Citizens have donated items to display. Mayor Janci suggested discussing the idea of a place for people to visit within the VIMS property and include the town's history.
- IV. Council Meeting**
  - Mayor Janci asked if everyone has reviewed the minutes from July 6, 2019. R. Williams stated one correction needed to be made: Powell Park-correction of mulch for cemetery needs to state park. After the correction a motion was made by R. Bilicki and seconded by VM Puchalski to accept the minutes. A vote was taken and all approved.

**V. Review of Financial Report**

Mayor Janci reviewed the financials with the Town Council.

- **Incomplete Financials for FY 2018-2019** –

Mayor Janci stated these financials are looking good and nice end to the year in both Town and Port. They will be continued until the final is completed.

- **Town Of Wachapreague-**

Mayor Janci asked if there are any questions or concerns with the financials for the Town of Wachapreague ending July 31, 2019. The budget is currently at 8.5% through the year. A discussion concerning the garbage truck and expenses were discussed. A motion was made by K. Bilicki to approve the Town financials and VM Puchalski seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all approved.

- **Port of Wachapreague-**

Mayor Janci asked if there are any questions or concerns with the financials for the Port of Wachapreague ending July 31, 2019. A motion was made by K. Bilicki and seconded by D. Gouak to approve the Port financials. A vote was taken and all approved.

- **Money Market-**

Mayor Janci noted on the agenda was “Money Market Investment”. Treasurer MJ Tatum was called and put on speaker to discuss this topic with the council. Treasurer Tatum explained the positive return on the investments. She stated the money will be available immediately if needed. She suggested Shore United Bank which has a 2% interest rate on investments. After a lengthy discussion, the council decided to move forward with the investment. A motion was made by K. Bilicki and seconded by P. Peyton to invest in the money market account with Shore United Bank and allow Treasure MJ Tatum to use her discretion on the amount of money to invest from the Town’s and Port’s checking account. A roll call vote was taken with 6 yes and 1 abstain.

**VI. Unfinished Business**

***A. Marina***

- Vice Mayor Puchalski stated everything was going well.
- VM Puchalski stated the dredging route was being evaluated for upcoming dredging of the marina. The area of the Lewis property’s culvert was being examined for repairs as well as Church Street. Mayor Janci will be speaking with a contractor about the spoil site leveling and driveway.

***B. Town Maintenance/Garbage (Repairs)***

- D. Gouak state maintenance crew signed the new job descriptions. The only complaint was that both was needed when taking brush to landfill because branches get stuck. This was approved.
- D. Gouak thanked Richie Puchalski for his help with replacing the radiator in the bush truck and belts on the grass cutters.
- He stated the clutch on trash truck was adjustable and saved lots of money. The vehicles are old and suggested looking into replacement. A discussion concerning the problems with vehicles. It was discussed that grants are available for equipment. The council will look into options and arrange a trip to evaluate possible replacements. VM Puchalski suggested bring this topic back up next month. All agreed.
- A suggestion was discussed to limit the quantity of garbage due to the condition of the equipment.
- Mayor Janci stated limbs were thrown on town’s spoil site and blocked driveway.
- The Council discussed the property owned by Nature Conservancy and mowed by the town. A. Joeckel clarified the town uses the property in exchange for maintenance.

- A discussion regarding the replacement of the garbage truck. A discussion concerning the purchase or contracting the collection. It was discussed the benefits of collections of garbage for the town. It was discussed ways to locate another truck.
- D. Gouak stated the brush truck is in poor condition as well.
- VM Puchalski stated grants are available and this should be something the town looks into applying for. Mayor Janci stated research on website auctions have reasonable vehicles that may be worth checking into. VM Puchalski stated by next meeting, everyone should have ideas for the purchase of a truck. Mayor Janci stated \$15,000 is currently in the reserve.

#### **C. Powell Park**

- VM Puchalski stated another CG event is scheduled for Wednesday September 18, 2019 with 4-5 stations participating.
- VM Puchalski spoke with Justin Paul about buying mulch for Powell Park playground. It's about 10 yards and will cost around \$400.
- VM Puchalski made a motion to purchase mulch from Justin. P. Peyton seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all approved.

#### **D. Town Beautification**

- K. Bilicki was not present.

#### **E. Streets and Drainage**

- R. Williams reported on the meeting with VDOT and Chris Isdell. A discussion about the condition of culverts and roads needing repaving. Mr. Isdell will get back to R. Williams to see what can be done. VDOT does have a truck with suction and a power washer for cleaning under the roads and ditches. R. Williams would like to repair culverts located at High & South St., Church St., Lee, St., and Brooklyn Ave. Once these are done, he would like to get back with engineering firm for continue the grant process.
- Mayor Janci spoke about the request to Supervisor Donald Hart for assistance with ditch work. Clerk Wessells has sent a letter requesting funds. Supervisor Hart has requested a breakdown of how the money will be spent. A discussion ensued concerning how best to utilize the funds to address the worst areas.
- K. Bilicki asked if there was a single area that the town could ask Accomack County to assistance with clearing. It was agreed the "south" ditch was the major area. It was discussed that the issue was Accomack County was requiring a "Permanent Easement". The property owners would not approve a "permanent" but would agree to a temporary. It was agreed this would cause an issue. It will be looked into further. P. Peyton volunteered to go to Accomack County Board of Supervisors to have a meeting. Mayor Janci volunteered to go with.
- A discussion of all the drainage issues ensued. It was suggested obtaining a map of the drain lines and ditches to help understand what is needed.

#### **F. Safety and Security**

- Nothing new to report.
- Clerk Wessells presented an estimate for a solar powered speed limit sign. This was asked to be brought up at the next meeting.

#### **G. Derelict Properties**

- Nothing new to report.
- Clerk Wessells stated no news on the "Barnes" Property.
- The Council discussed several properties and letters to be sent.

#### **H. Tourism**

- R. Bilicki reported ESCC Shore Surf and Turf event will be September 13, 2019 at Seaside Park from 12-3 Tailgate setup; 4-8 event open. The Island House will host the after party for the event. R. Bilicki will contact Robie Marsh concerning extra security due to alcohol consumption. A discussion concerning ticket sales for the town residents. The Chamber is offering town residents \$30 tickets where the event is being hosted by Wachapreague.
- The Crab Cake Cook Off will be Saturday September 21, 2019. R. Bilicki stated a special commercial Crazy Crab Cake event is being planned. The event was discussed and details were decided. R. Bilicki will finalize the details and advertise. A conversation ensued concerning the event.
- On September 21, 2019 is the Town Wide Yard Sale and VIMS Marine Day.
- R. Bilicki announced the award of a grant for the Go Green Electric Charging Station. He would like to put station across from fire house along Seaside Park. He will be contacting the WVFC for input on location.
- R. Bilicki stated a request for a kayak launching station be looked into. Due to the increase in ecotourism, many people are enjoying them. A discussion about ramp launching and the pros and cons were discussed. R. Bilicki will look into the options and report back.
- R. Bilicki stated Friday October 16 at 10am at VIMS, construction plans the proposed Hampton Roads Sanitation District sewage line. The proposed lines will start in Nassawadox running north on Lankford Highway to Accomac then end at Onancock. The plan is to include any towns wishing to join and will place line down Wachapreague Road 3 miles. The town and businesses will need to fund the remaining area. Accomack County will have a planning meeting at the Onley Town Center on August 14<sup>th</sup> 4-6pm. VIMS has requested to have a meeting within the town prior to the meeting on August 14<sup>th</sup>. R. Bilicki will make contact to set this meeting up and contact the others. Several council members will plan to attend as well as citizens. The council agreed there are many questions needing answers before making any decisions. This topic will remain on the agenda for several months.

#### **I. Zoning Administrator's Report**

- Mayor Janci stated nothing new to report.

#### **J. Floodplain Administrator/CRS Coordinator/ A-NPDC/RAFT**

- R. Williams stated the RAFT meeting was August 6<sup>th</sup> at VIMS at 7pm. On August 14<sup>th</sup> from 10-2 all towns will have a RAFT presentation for the public. Each town will do a 10 minute presentation. R. Williams has found a small town, Duck, which is similar to ours to compare resources.
- Clerk Wessells stated the CRS recertification has been completed. She stated extra work has gone into reducing the flood insurance rates.

#### **K. Planning Commission**

- K. Bilicki stated the planning commission is working on procedures to improve the appearance of the town. Clerk Wessells stated letters have been issued to properties that need attention.
- K. Bilicki requested clarification of the parking spot behind town hall.

#### **L. Mosquito Control**

- VM Puchalski stated nothing to report.

#### **M. Seaside Park**

- R. Bilicki explained the location proposed for the Tesla Charging Station. This will be continued.

**N. Legal**

- Nothing new to report.

**VII. New Business**

- Nothing new to report.

**VIII. Announcements**

- Nothing new to report.

**IX. Adjournment**

- Motion was made by K. Bilicki and seconded by VM Puchalski to adjourn. All approved.

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MAYOR  
08/08/19

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TOWN CLERK