

COMMISSIONERS OF OXFORD
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2019

The Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on April 9, 2019. Commission President Gordon Fronk called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Attending the meeting were Commission President Gordon Fronk, Commissioner Gordon Graves, Commissioner John Pepe, Public Works Superintendent Scott Delude, Administrator/Clerk Cheryl Lewis, retiring Town Attorney Brynja Booth and Town Attorney Lyndsey Ryan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Graves motioned to adopt the minutes of March 12, 2019 as distributed, with minor corrections. Commissioner Pepe seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Public Works Superintendent Delude reported the following:

- One of the water wells went down last week due to the electrical contacts burning out. We have replaced them and are now back with a two well service.
- We had a water leak at our shop lab last week in a pipe that runs the water to the wastewater plant. The waste plant had to be shut down for the day as we fixed the leak. A \$5.00 seal was the culprit along with \$1500 in backfill.
- The sidewalk from West Division to Caroline Street has been completed and we are still working on some of the storm water drainage that goes with it
- We have our brick contractor doing 29 small spots on Morris street to our existing sidewalk as part of our yearly maintenance schedule. They should be done by Oxford Day.
- Public Works has spent two days in Oxford doing sign straightening and replacements as needed. We are still waiting on seven stop signs to come in and to be replaced
- We are doing our yearly pot hole maintenance in town, so you will see many blue circles in our streets. We also have a contractor coming in to pave seven big holes from water leaks and deterioration over the winter months
- The electric work to be done at both docks is scheduled and we are just waiting on the electrician.

POLICE REPORT

Oxford Police Chief Patrick Maxwell reported the following:

- 1 - Fight at the basketball courts, disbursed
- 2 – Assist other police agencies
- 12 – Police Information, service
- 1 – Animal complaint
- 1 – Assist the fire department
- 1 – Reckless Driver on Rt 50 as reported by 911, never came into Oxford

- 1 – Check the welfare, all okay
- 1 – Suspicious person, ID and moved on

With the warmer weather, visitors and traffic is picking up.

FIRE COMPANY

Chief Graham Norbury gave a brief report stating that since the last meeting there had been 6 fire calls (5 in Oxford and 1 mutual aid), 138 miles traveled and 66 member responses, 41 ½ man hours. There were 11 Ambulance calls (5 transported, 3 standby, 2 assist, 1 refuse, 143 miles traveled, and 37 man hours.) Norbury stated that the department had participated in a county wide water drafting drill and he was pleased to say the performance of the combined effort was very successful, actually putting them in a group of 10 districts that had successfully completed the drill at the goal numbers and the only one in Maryland.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Fronk asked did any of the commissioners have any comments regarding the information that had been submitted by Matt Heim, following his presentation at the previous meeting. Pepe stated he had reviewed the information and he did feel that the program effort to stop the drilling maybe substantiated, but that he would like to delve a little further into the science behind the underwater sound readings as it is different than above ground readings. Fronk stated that he appreciated the information and also wondered if this issue would not be better supported as a county wide effort and questioned Peter Dunbar as to whether Talbot County Economic Development would have concerns. Discussion continued regarding the issue and the Commissioners will continue to be attentive to any further information or local responses.

NEW BUSINESS

None

LETTERS AND REQUEST

None

ATTORNEY

Attorney Booth stated she would like to request a closed session for legal matters regarding a contract and 2 personnel issues.

ADMINISTRATOR

Lewis stated communications have continued with Maryland Historic Trust regarding the scope of the current work underway at the MEWS and their concerns with removing anything that might have future consequences for an applicant seeking Historic Tax Incentives. Lewis is working through the concerns, but did want the Commissioners to be aware of the concerns, which did not impact the work the town was doing, only potential tax incentives. President Fronk briefed the attendees on the work being done through the current DHCD grant, including demolition of the back sheds, opening of the back wall, removal of the historic flooring and walls, which will be marked and stored, after which the floor will be excavated to pour a new foundation, with all of the initial work being done from the back of the building.

Lewis gave an update on the RFP for the Beach Shoreline Design, stating the State was reviewing the current RFP, after which a revised version with additional science would be submitted to the interested parties based on the response to the original request. At this time, she did not have a new RFP due date.

Lewis provided the Commissioners with a draft MOU regarding a potential partnership for application to the DNR Coastal Bays Trust Fund, stating the Healthy Waters Workgroup was working on a joint application for stormwater improvements, utilizing best management practices, in which Oxford would participate. There was not a request at this time for a commitment, but she was expecting something to come before the Commissioners in the near future. Lewis identified two potential projects for this application, a new stormwater retention pond at the soon to be developed Central Park, replacing the ballfield, and also an improved ditch nearby along East Pier Street.

Lewis requested a third personnel issue be added to the closed session.

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Graves informed all that the Town Clock was running again. The clock was installed in 2012 and the necessary repair was \$900.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Graham Norbury stated that there was a significant difference in the reference level for underwater sound and the reference level for in air sound and that he had just forwarded information regarding this to the Commissioners. He also pointed out that there would be a difference in a sound that was being directed down per the procedure in this topic, as opposed to a general sound.

Peter Dunbar inquired as to whether the town has spoken with the State regarding the speed limits outside of town. Lewis stated that she had spoken with the State and they had reviewed the speed limits coming and going from Oxford and had stated that they felt the speeds and the signs were appropriate. Dunbar reiterated his concerns. Lewis will continue to monitor the situation and work with the State. Pepe added that the Commissioners had requested the Chief locate a speed-monitoring sign to be placed exiting town, to see if it would slow traffic down.

There being no further business, President Fronk made a motion to adjourn and go into a closed session for legal advice on a contract matter and three personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Graves, all were in favor and the motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Commissioner Fronk motioned to reconvene the regular meeting at 7:33 pm, Commissioner Pepe seconded the motion, all were in favor and the regular meeting was opened. Commissioner Fronk motioned to approve the settlement agreement with Pact LLC as drafted by Attorney Booth and reviewed in closed session, Commissioner Graves seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motioned carried.

Being no further business Commissioner Graves motioned to close the meeting, Commissioner Pepe seconded the motion, all were in favor and the meeting closed at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Lewis, Town Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer

