

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

February 24, 2009

LOCATION

Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on February 24, 2009. President Klair called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Commissioners present were James Klair, Peter Dunbar and Timothy Kearns. Town Attorney David Thompson and a Star Democrat representative were in attendance. There were four (4) people in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of February 10, 2009 were approved as distributed.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Scott DeLude, Public Works Superintendent, gave the Maintenance Report that consisted of the following:

1. The Banks Street generator was set up with a weekly exerciser in the transfer switch which will run the generator for thirty minutes every week to keep the generator lubricated and running. The weekly exercisers are used at the main facility and Banks Street. It is hopeful that all five (5) generators will be hooked up to auto run as we upgrade the generators.
2. A drain was installed at the Causeway Park walking track. This should take care of the water building up on the South Morris side after a heavy rainfall. The walking track will be resurfaced by the Public Works Department next month.
3. A street patch paving list is attached to the Maintenance Report for the Commissioners review. The repairs need to be done due to water leaks. Three quotes were gotten by phone and the lowest to repair all seven (7) areas is \$4500.00. There is currently \$4,100.00 left in the budget for street repairs. The Commissioners will review budget cost and advise if the paving can be done.
4. The engine/generator (30 years old) at the main lift station has started a downward spiral. The generator will not self start in the cold weather. The engine needs a rebuild as compression is very low in two (2) of the cylinders. The cost of an engine rebuild is approximately \$5000.00. This should give the generator up to ten (10) more years of service. The generator part of the machine is running fine, but is also thirty (30) years old. If this has to be rebuilt in the near future it would cost another \$5000.00. The cost for a new generator and switch is \$30,000.00. The Commissioners were asked if it is prudent to have the generator rebuilt or should it be replaced?

A list of the grants that have been applied for are:

- Lift Station Pump Upgrade
- Lagoon Stabilization
- Lagoon Sludge Removal
- Contact Tank Rehab
- Water Main Upgrade
- Generator/Transfer Switch Upgrade
- Manhole Cover Upgrade
- Water Meter Upgrade
- Water Tower Repainting
- Telemetrys - Water
- Telemetrys - Sewer

POLICE REPORT

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

- 1 - Assist Other Police Agency
- 8 - Police Information
- 5 - Assist the Fire Department
- 1 - Theft (28' Ladder)
- 1 - Check the Welfare

Chief Borga reminded everyone to report any suspicious activity. There have been a rash of daytime burglaries as well as an increase in night time burglaries. All burglaries have happened outside of Oxford.

REQUEST TO BE ON AGENDA - TALBOT COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Ronald Frampton, Vice Chairman and Paige Bethke, Executive Director, of Talbot County Economic Development Commission gave a presentation on economic development goals and objectives for Talbot County. Ms. Bethke stated the role of the Economic Development Commission is to: evaluate economic issues of concern, propose policy and legislation, promote appropriate new businesses to the county, assist in retention of existing business, assist with the development of a plan and to coordinate with municipal governments.

Ms. Bethke stated that the Economic Development Commission has a vision plan in Talbot County for development whereby they are committed to becoming a networked business community with advanced communication and transportation infrastructures and to provide diverse educational and occupational opportunities to ensure a healthy economy, while sustaining our historic, cultural and natural resources. The recommended criteria for economic development projects are: provides enhanced employment opportunities, adds to commercial tax base or quality of life, has minimal or mitigated environmental impact, is consistent with Talbot County and Town Comprehensive Plans and is consistent with Maryland Smart Growth Policy. Talbot County has a strong agricultural economy, existing commercial industrial base, region center, medical delivery system, education - secondary and post, almost full employment, airport for existing and future benefit and great place to live and do business. For Talbot County, gains in per capita income are more a function of growth in investment income (and modest population change) rather than earnings. Ms. Bethke stated that in spite of our generous tax revenues: career and employment opportunities are limited for young and middle age citizens, lack of mid- and high-tech industry looking for skilled workers, many available jobs are entry-level with little opportunity to move up in pay and skill, once our young people receive their education, they can not find employment that will support our cost of living, so they choose to live elsewhere. We need to increase middle-level employment/income, maximize the potential of our workforce, address available commercial real estate needs and available middle income housing needs

In closing Ms. Bethke stated that a few problems in Talbot County are: our population is aging, retirees and near-retirees are flocking to Talbot County, increasing home and land costs, we are losing our young population, new families are not arriving, services are strained (volunteer firefighters, police force, teachers, government employees). An observation is these are not just issues for County government. They are issues common to the County and the Municipalities. They can only be addressed/fixed through joint efforts and cooperation. The Economic Development Commission recommends that the County Council take a leadership role to fund and execute a joint county/municipal effort: business retention/attraction (emphasis on rebalancing), recruiting of new targeted industries, investing in current education and workforce development and a county-wide plan for the future.

REQUEST TO BE ON AGENDA - COMMUNITY CENTER - ERIC MIHAN

Mr. Mihan requested \$20,000 be put in the 2009-2010 town budget for the Community Center. The Community Center is in the process of making major improvements to the building. Mr. Mihan stated that they are looking into grants and foundations for help but they have slowed up their fund raising due to the economy. Senator Colburn is also sponsoring a bond bill for the Community Center. President Klair commented that the town is just beginning the budget process and at this time we are not sure how the revenues will be coming in.

NEW BUSINESS

SENATE BILL 672

Commissioner Dunbar requested that Attorney Thompson look into Senate Bill 672 which is a bill concerning stormwater management - stormwater user charge.

CORRESPONDENCE

President Klair announced that a letter was received from Skip Case, Oxford Landing Homeowner's Association requesting permission to use the Causeway area from October to March while work is being done to restore the bulkhead at Oxford Landing. The Commissioners will review this request.

President Klair announced that a letter was received from Henry and Sandy Hale regarding the future of Oxford's waste water treatment plant. Correspondence was also received from David Baker regarding the waste water treatment plant. President Klair stated that the Commissioners will be meeting with Talbot County Council in April to discuss options for the waste water treatment plant to be added in Talbot County Comprehensive Plan. President Klair stated that no decisions are being made at this time, the options are being put in Talbot County Comprehensive Plan in order for the town to be eligible for grant money.

A letter was received from Deborah Lillard Hager asking that the town improve getting information out to the public.

LIVING SHORELINE

Commissioner Dunbar announced that a meeting presenting a design of the living shoreline adjacent to Town Park will be scheduled in April. Commissioner Dunbar is writing an article to be put in the town newsletter in March regarding the shoreline.

HISTORIC GUIDELINES

Commissioner Dunbar suggested adding information regarding Historic Guidelines to the town's website. Information will be given to Oxford's Historic Commission in order for them to help with this project.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commissioners voted to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue and zoning enforcement. The executive session was held under Section 10.508 Open Meetings Act, Maryland Code (1992 cum. Supl.) No. 2. Those in attendance were James Klair, Commissioner, Peter Dunbar, Commissioner, Timothy Kearns, Commissioner, Lillian Lord, Town Clerk, David Thompson, Town Attorney, Lee Bailey and Mark Hill.

BILLS PAYABLE

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

Commissioner Kearns made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Dunbar seconded motion.

Aye - James G. Klair

Aye - Peter Dunbar

Aye - Timothy Kearns

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Lord
Town Clerk