

## COMMISSIONERS MEETING

August 11, 2009

### LOCATION

Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on August 11, 2009. President Dunbar called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

### PRESENT

Commissioners present were Peter Dunbar, Timothy Kearns and James Klair. A Star Democrat representative was in attendance. There were approximately twenty five (25) people in attendance.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of July 28, 2009 were approved as distributed.

### MEETING WITH TRED AVON YACHT CLUB

President Dunbar announced that the Commissioners met with the Tred Avon Yacht Club prior to tonight's Commissioner Meeting to discuss the nature of mooring fields.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of July 28, 2009 were approved as distributed.

### MAINTENANCE REPORT

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

1. Scott attended a meeting with Maryland Environmental Service and Talbot County to discuss future recycling in Talbot County. It is hoped that curb side recycling will begin in July of next year. With this plan the recycle containers will be removed from the basketball area and each home will have curbside recycling. This should reduce the town's household garbage output by 30%. Ray Clarke is going before the Talbot County Council in two weeks to try to include this into next year's budget along with a transfer station at the now Easton Landfill. The Easton Landfill will be closing on December 31, 2010 and the new landfill in Caroline County will open 2011. For this reason we are trying to reduce out trash output because of the transfer to the new landfill and the cost associated in the plan. Scott asked if the Commissioners would restrict the hours to use the now existing recycling center at the basketball court from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. This should cut down on the noise that is being reported during the night. Scott advised that the cost per household, billed by the county, will be \$120 per year. President Dunbar stated that there has been quite a bit of discussion over the recycling area over the past years but he does not want to restrict the area since it is being used by so many. Commissioner Klair suggested that since the recycling area is a county operation that Scott contact the county and see if the hours can be restricted.

2. The town had an inspection/audit completed by Maryland Department of Agriculture last week to check the town's spraying records, and storage and safety procedures for our spraying license. The town received a 100% with no concerns or discrepancies.
3. Scott requested that the Commissioners approve building two enclosures for portable toilets, like the one located at the Ferry Dock, to be placed at the Causeway and the Strand Parking Lot. Scott advised that this would be an excellent winter project for the Maintenance Department and would improve the looks of the areas where the portable toilets are located. Scott stated that he can get the plans of the structure located at the Ferry Dock and modify them for handicap access. Commissioner Klair stated that he is in favor of enclosures for the portable toilets and it would improve the looks of the areas. President Dunbar also commented that he is favor of the enclosures and both enclosures should be built to be handicap accessible. President Dunbar requested that a portable toilet be placed on the Strand Parking Lot at this time and removed after Waterfowl Festival. Commissioner Klair made a motion to authorize the Maintenance Department to build two (2) enclosures (handicap accessible) and place a portable unit on the Strand Parking Lot until after the waterfowl festival in November. Commissioner Kearns seconded motion.

Aye – Peter Dunbar

Aye – Timothy Kearns

Aye – James G. Klair

4. The Public Works Department has started rebuilding the Causeway Dock, the dock has started to deteriorate. The catwalk will be finished in the next couple of weeks and rebuilds and repairing will be done as time and money permits.
5. The grass banks at Lovers Lane have become parking lots for the Tred Avon Yacht Club and surrounding neighbors. Scott asked permission to turn the area into a parking lot or replant and grade the area with grass and stop parking of cars in the area. President Dunbar volunteered to discuss parking with the yacht club.
6. Scott advised that the Public Works Department would like to start to resurface Town Park this Fall to try to level the ground. There are dips in the ground throughout the park. The cost for topsoil will be fairly high. The park could be done in sections rather than closing the use of the park altogether. The Commissioners were in agreement that work does need to be done in the park.

Commissioner Klair asked if State Highway Administration had gotten back to Scott with any information regarding the drop from the new surface of the road to the bike path. Scott advised that he has spoken to Dave Edwards, SHA Engineer, and told Mr. Edwards the town's concerns and was advised by Mr. Edwards that he would look into this. Commissioner Klair will write a letter to State Highway Administration. President Dunbar requested that Scott put down some crusher run to help with the problem until SHA responds.

#### POLICE REPORT

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

- 1 – Disorderly call (multiple persons – moved on – no further problems)
- 11 – Police Information
- 3 – Alarms (malfunction)
- 1 – Assist the Fire Department

- 8 – Suspicious Persons (ID and moved on)
- 4 – Juvenile Complaints (Kids on bikes and bad behavior – problem abated)
- 15 – Open containers of alcohol (abated)

Chief Borga advised that there were people in town selling magazines and that only part of the company was legitimate. Three persons were detained and they had extensive criminal records. They were advised to discontinue their operation in Oxford. The same group has been told they can't operate in Easton or St. Michaels. Chief Borga asked if anyone is approached by magazine salesman to get in touch with the Oxford Police Department and do not give them any money.

Chief Borga announced that the regatta last week end went off without any major incidents. It appeared that attendance was down over last year.

Commissioner Klair questioned whether the Police Department has received any complaints regarding behavior at the basketball courts since the last town meeting. Chief Borga advised that they have not received any.

#### OXFORD FIRE COMPANY

Steve Mroczek, Oxford Fire Company, gave the fire department report that consisted of the following: the fire company responded to six fire calls, one was a boat rescue and five were mutual assistance. The company responded to six ambulance calls. Mr. Mroczek announced that the fire company has received the breathing apparatus for the firemen paid for by a grant and within a couple of weeks the company will be in conformance. The total grant was in the range of \$140,000. President Dunbar suggested writing to Senator Barbara Mikulski thanking her for her support to the fire companies.

Mr. Mroczek announced that the Ladies Auxiliary will be holding their quarterly rummage sale the last Saturday in September. The rummage sale is the same weekend as the Oxford Library book sale. Mr. Mroczek thanked everyone for attending the fireman's breakfast on Sunday and stated that over three hundred twenty breakfast were served.

#### Request To Be On Agenda – Susan Campbell, Oxford Business Association

Ms. Campbell announced that the passport program initiated by Oxford Business Association has been a big success. Most of the passports have been given out and 2500 passports have been used at local businesses. The drawing will be on September 5, 2009 in the Town Park. Ms. Campbell requested that one of the Commissioners attend to draw the winning ticket. The winner will receive 500 Oxford Dollars to be used at local restaurants and businesses.

Ms. Campbell requested permission to place the picket fences to be auctioned off at the silent auction in the Town Park prior to the auction. Oxford Business Association would like to have the fences on display between October 1 and October 10. The fences would be placed near Tred Avon Boat Sales with a banner on the side of their building. Commissioner Klair suggested giving permission as long as the fences were not an issue for cutting the park. All Commissioners were in agreement to allow placement of the fences in the park. Commissioner Klair suggested that Ms. Campbell give the town

office information about the auction and the information will be placed on the town's web site and bring in information about the auction that the town can put it in their newsletter.

Ms. Campbell announced that Oxford Business Association will have a full page ad in the Star Democrat on Tuesday announcing upcoming events.

Ms. Campbell commented that Oxford Business Association had met with Gretchen Fox, Latitude, and Ms. Fox has given them permission to place the Welcome to Oxford sign on the property of Latitude. Oxford Business Association and Ms. Fox will be meeting with Morton Sign Company to look over designs. They hope to have the sign up by Spring of next year.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Klair announced that Channel 11 news had a segment on the oyster cages that have been placed along the Tred Avon. Commissioner Klair thanked everyone that was part of this project. The cages have been collected and the spat has been placed on an oyster bar in order for them to grow.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### Draft Parking Ordinance

The Commissioners announced that the Planning Commission has given their recommendation on the draft parking ordinance. Planning Commission has suggested not passing the ordinance as is. Planning Commission stated that changes are needed. The Commissioners would like to review Planning Commission's minutes regarding the discussion of the draft ordinance before discussing the draft ordinance. It was also suggested to Chief Borga to think about how the police department can enforce the parking issue.

##### Oxford Pool

The Commissioners discussed dates to hold a work session with the Oxford Pool Committee. The date of August 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. was chosen and all will be notified.

##### Trees on Strand

President Dunbar announced that a letter has been received from Oxford Boatyard regarding trees hanging over the roadway on the Strand. The letter states that the branches are restricting the ability to bring boats along the Strand to Oxford Boatyard. President Dunbar suggested that this situation be looked at carefully since there may be alternative routes that can be used. He also would like to get more information as to which businesses are impacted. Commissioner Kearns commented that he wants to look at the entire scope of the problem. Commissioner Klair commented that apparently the boatyard is having a boat being delivered on August 18<sup>th</sup> and that no decisions can be made before that date. He suggested that the boatyard take whatever protection necessary both for the boat and the tree for the delivery on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The Commissioners have an interest in maintaining and protecting the trees and also help the commercial properties, therefore they can't make a snap decision. President Dunbar stated that he would like to hear some alternatives rather than cutting trees. President Dunbar stated that he will get in touch with Delmarva Power since they

attended a town meeting earlier in the year and stated that they will be doing trimming in town in the near future.

#### Sawtooth Oak

The Commissioners looked into a complaint from the owner of 313 North Morris Street regarding the tree in front of the property. After the Commissioners and the Public Works Superintendent looked at the property and the tree they were in agreement that this tree is not causing any problems and should remain as is.

#### Board Openings

Commissioner Klair stated that several member's terms on various boards have expired. The Commissioners will be reviewing the board members. The Commissioners have received letters from residents willing to volunteer and also letters of support to extend some members already serving.

#### Short Term Rental

President Dunbar announced that more correspondence on short term rental has been received and will be put in the file for discussion when short term rental is up for discussion by the Commissioners.

#### Status of Stairs

Commissioner Kearns presented his fellow Commissioners with a proposal from Dennis Still for architectural design and permit drawings/specifications for demolition and renovation to the existing stairs and stairwell leading from the second floor meeting room to the first floor lobby of the Oxford Town Hall. The Commissioners will review this proposal.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Gus Koste asked the Commissioners to consider changing the location for the Public Hearing scheduled for September 22, 2009 from the meeting room in the Community Services Building to a location that will hold more people. Mr. Koste requested the cost for doing the survey for Resolution 1001.

Mitch Nathanson, owner of Mears Yacht Haven and Oxford Boatyard, thanked the Commissioners for agreeing to have a portable toilet placed on the Strand Parking Lot. This will help with the public using Oxford Boatyard facilities.

Mr. Nathanson explained the need for trimming trees along the Strand. Boats being delivered to Oxford Boatyard and trucks making deliveries to businesses are unable to completely clear low hanging branches. When boats are being delivered men have to put blankets over the top of the boats and stand on top of the boat and try to lift heavy limbs up, limbs are beginning to be too heavy for lifting. This is a dangerous situation for workers. In order to operate a business, supplies and boats must be able to get through. Mr. Nathanson said they are certainly conscience of the concern to not harm trees but he is only asking for a legal height in order for deliveries to be made.

Mr. Nathanson commented that at times trucks go on the beach when making the turn into the boatyard. Mr. Nathanson stated that the boatyard makes repairs to the beach area if any damage is done by the trucks and they have fabricated platforms to put down to keep the trucks off of the beach. Since it is all sand when repairs are done and

someone parks on the area ruts appear again. Mr. Nathanson invited the Commissioners to come down to the Strand on August 18<sup>th</sup>, the next delivery date for a boat, to witness the problems with delivery. President Dunbar reiterated the need to look at all options for delivery. Mr. Nathanson stated that he would like to see someone other than Delmarva Power do trimming.

Tom Campbell, marina owner, suggested having trees trimmed annually for clearance of roadways.

Bernhard Witter, The Strand, commented that he did not agree with Mr. Nathanson's statements regarding the beach area. The beach area needs to be addressed and feels there should be a meeting with the residents living at the end of The Strand since they have an interest in what happens in their neighborhood.

Nancy Dean, Market Street, asked that the town go forward with an ordinance to control parking since the police can't enforce anything without an ordinance.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commissioners voted to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue and potential litigation. The executive session was held under Section 10.508 Open Meetings Act, Maryland Code (1992 Cum. Supl.) No. 2. Those in attendance were Peter Dunbar, Commissioner, Timothy Kearns, Commissioner, James Klair, Commissioner, Scott DeLude, Public Works Superintendent and Lillian Lord, Town Clerk.

#### BILLS PAYABLE

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

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

Aye – Peter Dunbar

Aye – Timothy Kearns

Aye – James Klair

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Lord  
Town Clerk

