

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

June 16, 2009

LOCATION

Commissioners Meeting was held in the Oxford Fire Company meeting room on June 16, 2009. President Klair called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Commissioners present were James Klair, Timothy Kearns and Peter Dunbar. Town Attorney David Thompson and a Star Democrat representative were in attendance. There were approximately thirty five (35) people in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of May 19, 2009 were approved as distributed.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

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

1. The generator at the Bonfield lift station is out of service. A repairman checked the generator and reported that the generator is beyond repair due to the age and make. The lift station can withstand a flow for about four to six hours without electric before an overflow would occur. Due to the heavy rain that we have had lately and the upcoming hurricane season this could become a major problem if not fixed in the very near future. The cost to replace the generator is \$31,000.
2. The Public Works Department has rebuilt the street end swale at the corner of Market and Jefferson Street. There were drainage issues that have been flooding the sidewalk.
3. The Public Works Department completed a smoke test on the Bonfield area of the town for water infiltrations from storm water. There were ten (10) problems that have now been corrected. The only area left to check for infiltration is South Street to Wilson Street. Since the Public Works Department has corrected problems with infiltration of storm water, there has been a ten percent reduction in flow into the plant for treatment which has saved money in chemicals, electric, etc.
4. The Bachelor's Point lift stations piping has been completely redone by the Public Works Department. The steel bolts holding everything together were deteriorated. The steel bolts have been replaced with stainless steel.

POLICE REPORT

Lt. Maxwell gave the Police Report in the absence of Chief Borga. The report consisted of the following:

- 1 – DWI (arrested and released pending trial)
- 15 – Police Information
- 15 – Suspicious Persons (ID and moved on)
- 1 – Alarm (malfunction)
- 2 – Assist the Fire Department
- 5 – Suspicious Vehicles (ID occupants and moved on)
- 1 – Check the Welfare
- 1 – Loud Music (abated)
- 2 – Animal Complaints (Abated)
- 4 – Disorderly at Basketball Courts (ID and advised)
- 1 – Assist Other Police Agency
- 1 – Hit and Run (no injuries)
- 1 – Accident (no injuries and exchanged information)

Lt. Maxwell advised that he met with Cathy Bitter regarding traffic on the Strand. Lt. Maxwell stated that one plan is to use the existing signs but to relocate the signs since some of the signs are hard to read from your vehicle.

Lt. Maxwell requested that the Commissioners consider having a sign put up at the basketball court stating hours the court can be used and stating no profanity. The Commissioners advised Lt. Maxwell to put a plan together for the use of the basketball court and submit it to them before the next town meeting in order for them to review the plan.

President Klair explained that Cathy Bitter volunteered to come up with a plan regarding traffic along the Strand for the Commissioners review. Ms. Bitter presented the Commissioners with a written update and stated that the timeline to have the study completed is September.

Lt. Maxwell requested an executive session following the meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

OXFORD FIRE COMPANY

Steve Mroczek, Oxford Fire Company, reported that since the last town meeting the fire company personnel responded to nine (9) fire calls for one hundred ninety eight (198) personnel hours and two (2) standby at the Easton Fire House. There were thirteen (13) ambulance calls. The company has held three (3) training drills. Mr. Mroczek announced that Adam Mayock has passed his National Registry Exam. Mr. Mroczek stated that Fire Fighters Convention will be held in Ocean City the week of June 22nd.

OXFORD GARDEN CLUB

Members of the Oxford Garden Club were in attendance to request installing a Blue Star Memorial in the Town Park. The request to place a Blue Star Memorial in town originally was made in December 2006 and approved by the Commissioners, but a place to install the memorial was not chosen. The garden club would like the memorial placed in the Town Park since the park is used by residents and visitors. The memorial can also be used as an educational tool. Ms. Stevens explained that there is a dead tree in the park in the area where the garden club would like to install the memorial. The garden club is agreeable to have the dead tree removed at their expense. Ms. Stevens said that the Blue Star Memorial was started during World War II by planting Dogwood trees and later changed to put up Bi-Way markings placed in granite stone measuring 2' x 1'6". Mr. Dial stated that the idea of the Blue Star Memorial is a continuation of a program during World War I, where a blue light was placed in windows showing that someone in the household was serving in the Armed Forces. Mr. Dial stated that any veteran visiting Town Park would recognize and appreciate the memorial. Ms. Stevens commented that if approved the garden club would like to have the memorial installed by Veteran's Day. President Klair commented that the Commissioners will get back to Ms. Stevens promptly.

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE 0908 – FY2010 BUDGET

President Klair made the following comments regarding the FY2010 Budget. Ordinance 0908 was introduced at the May 19th meeting and has been advertised and available in the Town Office since introduction. The total General Fund budget is \$2,158,768 and the Enterprise Fund budget is \$588,570. The Enterprise Fund must be self sufficient, water/sewer rates, rents and interest make up revenue for the Enterprise Fund. There were no pay raises included in the FY2010 Budget. The tax rate is \$.2438 for FY2010 a decrease of .0122 cents from the FY2009 Budget. The tax rate has been decreased the last two years. A contingency fund is needed since Oxford is a coastal town and unforeseen problems can occur.

President Klair opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance 0908 which is "AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF OXFORD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2009 AND ENDING ON JUNE 30, 2010." Mr. Witter questioned when the sludge in the lagoons was last removed and asked why the town has not budgeted an amount each year for sludge removal. The Commissioners explained that

the town is looking into upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant as mandated by the State and the lagoons may be obsolete. Susan Botkin commented that she felt pay raises should have been included in the budget. President Klair stated that due to the economical problems and not being able to count on money from the State of Maryland, the decision was made not to include raises.

The Public Hearing was closed. Commissioner Kearns made a motion to accept Ordinance 0908. Commissioner Dunbar seconded motion. Commissioners voted on this 16th day of June 2009.

Aye – James Klair

Aye – Peter Dunbar

Aye – Timothy Kearns

Ordinance 0908 passed this 16th day of June 2009, copy hereto attached.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE FISCAL 2010 BUDGET SHALL BE SET FORTH BY ORDINANCE, TO BE NUMBERED 0908, AND SPREAD UPON THE MINUTES, THE REAL ESTATE TAX LEVY SHALL BE .2438 cents per \$100.00 valuation, a 1% discount shall be allowed if taxes are paid in full on or before July 31, 2009, no discount allowed during August and September 2009 and taxes subject to interest on and after October 1, 2009 at a rate of 2/3% interest and 5/6% penalty per month.

NEW BUSINESS

Picket Fences

Commissioner Dunbar commented that the decorated sections of picket fences placed at several locations in town are very creative and well done. Susan Campbell, Oxford Business Association, said the project has had a very good response and at this time the Business Association is thinking about continuing the project next year. The fences will be auctioned off on Saturday, October 10, 2010 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at a party and silent auction event at the Community Center.

Cardboard Boat Race

A letter has been received from Skipper Marquess requesting the use of the Strand for the 21st annual Cardboard Boat Race. This special event is to raise funds for the Special Olympics of Maryland. The race will take place on Saturday June 27th, registration will take place on the Strand Beach at 9:00 a.m. and the races will begin at 11:00 a.m. All Commissioners were in agreement to allow the use of the Strand.

Portable Toilets

A letter was received from Oxford Boatyard requesting the Commissioners to reconsider placing portable toilets in the Strand Parking Lot. Oxford Boatyard is having a problem with visitors enjoying the Strand Beach using the boatyard bathrooms. The Commissioners agreed that this situation needs to be looked into.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Dunbar announced that there will be a *general presentation* on Living Shorelines at the Commissioners Meeting on July 14, 2009. This presentation will be given by CBS and CBMM.

President Klair stated the Town Park living shoreline is still in a planning phase. The Commissioners, at this time, have not requested permits and have not approved construction of the living shoreline.

ATTORNEY

Attorney Thompson presented a draft resolution to the Commissioners for their review. The resolution relates to mooring fields. The Planning Commission will also review the draft.

TOWN ELECTIONS

Lt. Maxwell received the results of the Town Election from the Election Board for the election held today, June 16, 2009 from 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. for Town Commissioner. Election results were one hundred thirty three (133) for James Klair, one hundred twenty one for Bernie Witter. Mr. Witter was in attendance and congratulated Mr. Klair as the winner of the election.

AUDIENCE

Nancy Wallace reminded everyone that the Children's Parade on the 4th of July will begin at the Ferry Dock at 11:00 a.m. with games in the Town Park following the parade.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commissioners voted to go into executive session for a personnel issue. 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, Scott DeLude, Public Works Superintendent, Pat Maxwell, Oxford Police Department, Lillian Lord, Town Clerk and David Thompson, Town Attorney.

BILLS PAYABLE

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

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

Aye – James G. Klair
Aye – Peter Dunbar
Aye – Timothy Kearns

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Lord
Town Clerk