

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

January 12, 2010

LOCATION

Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on January 12, 2010. President Dunbar called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

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

MAINTENANCE REPORT

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

1. Scott spoke to Infinity Recycling regarding the problem with excess cardboard at the Recycle Center. It was decided that Infinity will pick up the cardboard two times a week in November, December and January. If we find that we need an extra pickup other times during the year, Infinity will work with the town.
2. Three of the Public Works Department attended a class in Chestertown on the new water/wastewater regulations for 2010. There is a free class on March 16th and 17th in Baltimore on Disaster Management for Public Services. Scott questioned whether any of the Commissioners would be interested in attending.
3. The new meters that were purchased through the stimulus program have been installed. The first billing from the new meters will be the quarter ending March 30, 2010.
4. Scott received an estimate for the work that needs to be done on the Tilghman Street "J Dock". Apple Marine estimated \$98,000. The Public Works Department has filled in all the sink holes along the dock that could pose a hazard.
5. The dump truck has undergone a yearly D.O.T. inspection. Small repairs and all new filters cost \$746.89.

The Commissioners and Scott had a short discussion about the old water meters versus the newly installed meters. Scott advised that the meters that were removed were tested and it appears that approximately twenty per cent were reading low. The first quarter to be billed using the new meters will be the quarter ending March 2010. President Dunbar suggested notifying citizens whose meters read abnormally low to warn them to expect a possibly significant increase in their utility bills.

Commissioner Klair announced that the town is picking up Christmas trees as part of the normal brush pickup. Commissioner Klair further stated that the town is now picking up metal on bulk pickup day, which is the third Tuesday of each month.

POLICE REPORT

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

- 5 Police Information

- 5 Alarms (all weather related)
- 1 open door
- 1 911 Hangup (phone line issues)
- 1 Check the Welfare (all ok/no issues)

OXFORD FIRE COMPANY

Jan Mroczek, Oxford Ladies Auxiliary, gave the Fire Company report that consisted of the following:

- Four Mutual Aid Calls Easton
- Three ambulance calls within Oxford Fire District

Michael Greenhawk is the acting chief of the Oxford Fire Company. Mike replaces Adam Mayock. Adam served as Chief for the past four years.

The fire company has received a grant from Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems in the amount of \$13,768 to upgrade their cardiac monitor, this is 50% of the cost. They also received \$4,000 from Midshore Community Foundation toward the remaining 50%.

SWEAR IN NEW MEMBERS PLANNING COMMISSION

President Dunbar gave the oath of office to two new members of the Oxford Planning Commission. They are James Reed and David Baker.

Request To Be On Agenda – Richard Wahlgren

Richard Wahlgren of 105 Willows Avenue addressed storm water issues occurring in the area of town from Causeway Park to the Oxford Lab. Mr. Wahlgren commented that the existing Pier Street tide gate is allowing tidal water to back flow into the system/watershed. The existing storm water management infrastructure has been neglected to where it is no longer with the original design specifications and is no longer capable of draining the local watershed. Storm water storage during a rain event and a coincidental high-tide is non-existent. Mr. Wahlgren stated that the following documents were not available or may not exist: (1) Original stormwater engineering drawings/specifications, (2) stormwater infrastructure inspection/maintenance plan and (3) stormwater infrastructure inspection/maintenance log. Mr. Wahlgren quoted text from letters received from Landform Technical Services dated 2/22/90 and Lane Engineering dated 8/29/06, both with suggestions regarding the stormwater. In a letter from Lane Engineering dated 7/8/08 it was suggested that options to address this flooding and storm water issues are: (1) find available land on which providing flooding and storm water storage is possible, (2) Complete a study to define if the land can provide some relief from the flooding and stormwater problem and (3) complete a design to address, in whole or part, the flooding that occurs when heavy rain events and high tide conditions exist.

Mr. Wahlgren stated that, "The Town of Oxford Commissioners are, presumably, fully aware of their responsibility to ensure that adequate stormwater management public infrastructure be properly designed and constructed, properly maintained and updated or improved as required in order to control and reduce the adverse impact on the public health, safety and general welfare and to minimize damage to both public and private property. The above citations suggest a pattern of on-going systemic neglect, a failure

of effective oversight and a lack of commitment by the Commissioners to recognize and resolve these issues!”

Mr. Wahlgren proposed the following: (1) replace the Pier Street tide gate with a properly functioning tide gate, (2) renovate to original design specifications as required the swales, ditches, culverts/buried pipes, catch basins and manholes and (3) restore a portion of the filled in wetlands at the Causeway Park which would be utilized to collect and store storm water that can not be evacuated as a result of a coincidental high tide. Mr. Wahlgren presented a complete copy of his statement to the Commissioners and asked that the statement be placed in the minute book. A copy of the statement is attached.

Commissioner Dunbar stated that he wants to look over the new material that Mr. Wahlgren has presented and commented that since Scott has taken over the responsibilities of Public Works Superintendent there is much improvement in maintenance issues. Commissioner Kearns remarked that Scott has created a tide gate that is working well and this type of tide gate will be installed at Pier Street in the near future.

Mr. Wahlgren commented that many drainage areas have silted in. Scott advised that maintenance of the ditches will be done twice yearly.

President Dunbar advised that during the last heavy rain there was considerable water at Pleasant Street and also in the Willows Avenue area. Later in the day, President Dunbar visited these areas again and found that the Willows Avenue area had drained but the Pleasant Street area had not. A short discussion ensued as to where the areas drained to, part of the drainage goes to the Causeway Park area while others go to Pier Street. President Dunbar commented that we might generate an ad hoc committee on storm water and possibly Mr. Wahlgren would like to help. Commissioner Kearns stated that he has been watching the south end of Oxford after heavy rains and high tides and has not seen the same scenario in any area except Pleasant Street, storm water issues are a difficult problem.

Robert (Rocky) Price, 102 Riverview Ave., stated that he had been before the Town Commissioners four (4) years ago and discussed storm water issues with them. Mr. Price stated that he was pleased to see that the Commissioners listened to Mr. Wahlgren tonight and that something will be done to help with the issues, putting in the tide gate that Scott has designed is the first step.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Wahlgren for sharing his comments with them.

Request To Be On Agenda – Melvia Serrant

Ms. Serrant explained that she will be opening the restaurant on Mill Street and is requesting that the Commissioners allow her to have the customer bring their own wine and the restaurant charge to uncork the bottle. Ms. Serrant explained that this would only be for a short period, she will be applying for a liquor license, but in order to open, hopefully, by Valentines Day this would allow patrons to enjoy wine with dinner. Attorney Booth commented that Oxford does not have a law against this. Chief Borga reminded Ms. Serrant that persons must be carded. The Commissioners explained that there is nothing for the town to enforce and wished Ms. Serrant the best of luck with the restaurant.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Dunbar asked the status of the town's comprehensive plan and stated that a letter has been received from Maryland Department of Planning whereby each municipality is required to include a municipal growth element as part of their comprehensive plan by October 1, 2009 unless an extension was requested and granted by MDP. Attorney Booth advised that an extension was granted and the plan should be available by February.

ATTORNEY

Attorney Booth introduced Attorney Sarah Eberhart to the audience and explained that Attorney Eberhart has joined their law firm and will be working with other jurisdictions. Attorney Eberhart is visiting the jurisdictions that are involved. She will be working with Attorney Booth and Attorney Thompson.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commissioners voted to go into executive session to obtain legal counsel. 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, Brynja Booth, Town Attorney, Sarah Eberhart, Attorney and Lillian Lord, Town Clerk.

TOWN MEETING

The regular meeting was reopened.

PETITION

Commissioner Klair made a motion that the Commissioners seek an opinion of the Attorney General concerning the validity of the petition for referendum of which has been filed. Commissioner Kearns seconded motion.

Aye – Peter Dunbar

Aye – Timothy Kearns

Aye – James Klair

The Commissioners went to Bills Payable.

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

Aye – Peter Dunbar

Aye – Timothy Kearns

Aye – James Klair

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Lord
Town Clerk

