

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

April 13, 2010

LOCATION

Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on April 13, 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 David Thompson and Kelley Allen, reporter for the Star Democrat were in attendance. There were approximately ten (10) people in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 23, 2010 were approved as distributed.

RICK KOLLINGER

President Dunbar announced that Rick Kollinger has volunteered to complete the Oxford Fence for the fence competition for the town. Mr. Kollinger was in attendance to accept the fence. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Kollinger for offering to share his artistic talents with the town.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

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

1. The water meter project is 99% complete with one meter to replace at the fire department. This meter may require a rebuild of the incoming line and removal and reinstallation of a tree. The new meters have picked up many small leaks in residents homes. The old meters could not read a flow/leaks below one gallon per minute which is a loss of up to 1440 gallons per day. The new meters can pick up flows as low as a tenth of a gallon per minute. This will help the town figure out where a lot of our undetected water is being lost. With the help of everyone, the town can conserve water coming from our aquifer.
2. All benches, trash cans and street sign poles have been repainted in town for the spring and upcoming Oxford Day.
3. Brush pickup last month went up to an astounding 28 loads due to the winter storm. The cost for this was \$2100.00 compared to the average 10 loads, cost \$750.00, that are usually picked up.
4. The cardboard recycle center has been scheduled to have pick up twice a week from now on because of the influx of cardboard. We tried a two times a week pickup in January and it did help the situation. It seems as more people take on the recycling responsibility the more the town has to do to keep up with the flow of recyclables.

Scott commented that Ray Clarke, Talbot County, advised him to include the brush cost of \$2100 in the town's request to the county for storm damage reimbursement.

POLICE REPORT

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

- Twenty Police Information
- One property damage accident
- One disorderly (gone on arrival)
- Four noise complaints
- Two assist the Fire Department
- One summons service
- One check the welfare (located and all o.k.)
- One suspended – revoked (arrested and released pending trial)
- One suspicious person (ID and moved on)
- One suspicious vehicle (checked and moved on)

Lt. Maxwell stated that final details are being worked out for Oxford Day.

President Dunbar asked that the Police Department keep tight patrols on the Causeway Park area. Lt. Maxwell commented that there is some improvement in the area since the police have talked to the young men using the facility, there have not been as many calls.

OXFORD FIRE COMPANY

There was no one in attendance from the fire company to give a report. President Dunbar did state that the Cornhole Tournament was a huge success and a great family fun day. The Commissioners did enter the competition but were taken out in the third round. Al Ledford and Johnnie Simpkins won first place for the region.

Request to be on Agenda – Mary Crabb – Causeway Park

Mary Crabb commented that she had received many positive comments after attending the Commissioners Meeting on March 23rd regarding the Causeway Park. Ms. Crabb stated that after the week-end of March 23rd the language at the basketball court has improved. Ms. Crabb stated that she appreciates the officers checking the area often. Ms. Crabb informed everyone that she has been in touch with Margaret Lasher, Program Open Space, regarding rules and regulations for the area. Ms. Lasher informed her that the State of Maryland provided grant money for the park, but the town can set rules for different parts of the park, there are no restrictions by Program Open Space. Ms. Crabb was told that there may be grant money available in 2012 that could be used to reestablish landscaping and buffer the recycling and basketball court. Ms. Crabb stated that she had also been in touch with Rick Tull, Talbot County Parks & Recreation, and he suggested that Ms. Crabb put together a plan for landscaping. Ms. Crabb questioned the status of the court rules.

President Dunbar suggested that Ms. Crabb work with Oxford Parks & Recreation on plans for landscaping at the Causeway Park. President Dunbar stated that he would like to see improvements made at the park. In response to court rules, President Dunbar commented that surveillance of the park has been tightened by the police department and he wants to see how this works before posting additional requirements. The best approach to any problems at the basketball court is to call the police department or the town office.

Curbside Recycling

President Dunbar requested that a call be made to Infinity Recycling to see if they could give a price for curbside recycling.

NEW BUSINESS

Trees Damaged

President Dunbar stated that there was some damage to trees in the Jacks Point Area during the snowstorm. A request has been made to see if the town can help in getting these cleaned up.

Tree/Bench – Memory of S. Ireland

A letter has been received from Kimi Ireland Granruth and family requesting permission to plant a tree or place a bench along the Strand in memory of Samuel Ireland. Mr. Ireland did quite a bit of construction work in Oxford in the 1970's and 1980's. The Commissioners suggested that this be passed on to Parks & Recreation and advise Ms. Granruth that this has been turned over to them.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commissioner Kearns announced that an estimate has been received from Dennis Still, Architect, to repair the existing stairs and stairwell in the Town Hall Building. Mr. Still has been working with the town to figure out what repairs are needed in order to put out a bid for the work to be done. Mr. Still's information has been passed on to Scott, in order for a bid for the repairs to be done. Attorney Thompson suggested that dialogue start to get reimbursement from the company that installed the stairs.

Short Term Rental

Attorney Thompson advised that the town has received the first application for short term rental. One issue that the town needs to make a decision on, is who is going to do inspections per the building code. Attorney Thompson noted that he had called Middle Department Inspection Agency to see if they would be willing to do the inspections and the cost of the inspections, but has not received an answer. Parking requirements will have to be adhered to.

Living Shoreline

Ferry Dock

President Dunbar announced that the Commissioners, Captain Bixler and Gene Slear, Environmental Concern met to discuss the ferry dock living shoreline. Parking and the run off from the hill were part of the discussion. Environmental Concern was given suggestions to work with to come up with a design. Gudy Irving, Commodore of the Tred Avon Yacht Club, asked President Dunbar for a meeting with the Commissioners and Environmental Concern to go over plans for the ferry dock area.

Town Park

President Dunbar announced that a draft contract for the Town Park Project has been sent to the regulatory agencies to see if they have any comments. Attorney Thompson advised that a shoreline protection access and maintenance agreement has been signed by the Methodist Church. The church property ties in with the Town Park property. This has been discussed at previous meetings and relates to the northern tie in of the Town Park living shoreline which is a shoreline protection project. The town has agreed

that they will promptly after construction return the land to its condition prior to construction, any ruts, etc. The document does refer to the approved plans for the living shoreline. The town will provide the church with reasonable notice prior to performing any work in the easement area. The town agrees that use of the easement shall not interfere with church operations or activities and the town will keep the easement area and surrounding areas free of waste, rubbish, etc. caused by the town's use. Commissioner Klair made a motion to adopt and execute the shoreline protection access easement and maintenance agreement with the Oxford Methodist Church. Commissioner Kearns seconded motion. Commissioners voted this 13th day of April, 2010.

Aye – Peter Dunbar

Aye – Timothy Kearns

Aye – James G. Klair

President Dunbar stated that this is a critical path item, since MDE would not go forward with the permit process until everything is signed. Attorney Thompson advised that he will get the signed easement and maintenance agreement to Mr. Slear, Environmental Concern, so that the permit process can proceed.

Personnel Manual

Attorney Thompson presented the Commissioners with a Resolution to amend the personnel policy of the Town of Oxford. The amendment to the policy will provide for the carry over of fourteen (14) days of vacation from year to year effective April 13, 2010. Commissioner Klair made a motion to adopt Resolution 1006 which is a "RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF OXFORD TO AMEND ARTICLE VII OF THE PERSONNEL POLICY OF THE TOWN OF OXFORD TO PROVIDE FOR THE CARRY OVER OF VACATION DAYS FROM YEAR TO YEAR – EFFECTIVE DATE: APRIL 13, 2010. Commissioner Kearns seconded motion. Commissioners voted on this 13th day of April, 2010.

Aye – Peter Dunbar

Aye – Timothy Kearns

Aye – James G. Klair

Historic Guidelines

President Dunbar commented that modifications have been suggested by the Commissioners to the guidelines for modern equipment as prepared by the Historic Commission. The Commissioners agreed that the suggestions should be sent to each member of the Historic Commission.

Blue Star Memorial

President Dunbar stated that the Commissioners received a letter regarding the placement of the Blue Star Memorial.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Crabb questioned whether safety issues are spelled out for short term rentals. Attorney Thompson stated that the Ordinance has this in it.

Flower Competition

Commissioner Klair encouraged everyone both business and residential to enter the flower basket competition for Oxford Day. The judging will be done on Friday, April 23rd. The judges are professional judges. To sign up either call the Town Office or come in and sign up. The last day to sign up is Friday, April 16th but this will probably be extended through Wednesday, April 21st.

BILLS PAYABLE

The Commissioners went to Bills Payable.

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

Aye – Peter Dunbar

Aye – Timothy Kearns

Aye – James G. Klair

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Lord
Town Clerk