

COMMISSIONERS OF OXFORD
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2017

The Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on July 25, 2017. Commission President Carole Abruzzese called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Attending the meeting were Commission President Carole Abruzzese, Commissioner Gordon Fronk, Commissioner Gordon Graves, Police Chief Patrick Maxwell, Public Works Superintendent Scott Delude, Administrator/Clerk Cheryl Lewis, and Lindsey Ryan of Booth, Booth Cropper and Mariner in Attorney Booth's absences. Also in attendance were several citizens.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Graves made a motion to approve the minutes of July 11, 2017 as distributed, Commissioner Fronk seconded the motion, all were in favor, and motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Graves to file the reported disbursements for June 2017 for audit, Commissioner Fronk seconded the motion, all were in favor, and motion carried.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Superintendent Delude reported the following:

- The tennis court has been repaved and pickle ball has been added to the basketball court. The tennis court was rehabbed with 5 layers of soft epoxy and new pole covers along with new restriping. The basketball court received an additional layer of striping to accommodate a pickle ball. The nets for the pickle ball courts will be received within the coming weeks. This project was paid for with a grant that Administrator Lewis secured. President Abruzzese asked about how the pickle ball court nets would work. Administrator Lewis responded that they would be movable nets that would stay within the court and that both pickle ball and basketball could be played in that area at the same time.
- Bids have gone out for a new backhoe. The bids will be opened at the next Commissioner's meeting on August 8. The new backhoe will replace the town's 25 year old one.
- One of the town's main lift station pumps was lost last week to a piece of concrete that had fallen from the inside of the lift station. Estimates to fix it came in at \$3,000. The upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant include a rebuild of the town's main lift station, which should prevent similar issues.
- The public works had two water leaks and one sewer backup in town in the last couple of weeks that were after hours and weekend jobs.
- During the storms two weeks ago the town lost their plant backup generator to a lightning surge. It was fixed at a cost of \$1,000 and is now running well.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Maxwell reported the following:

- 18 – Police information - service
- 16 – Patrol checks
- 1 – Open container (dumped and ID'D)
- 1 – Court
- 1 – Assist the fire department
- 1 – Alarm
- 1 – Assist other police agencies

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Abruzzese reminded those in the audience that there was a public hearing scheduled for August 8, 2017 at 6 p.m. on **Ordinance 1706 Replacing Chapter 4, Article IV of the Town Code Titled “Noise.”**

NEW BUSINESS

Susan Devlin and Schuyler Benson met with the Commissioners, on behalf of the Tred Avon Yacht Club, to speak about the club’s upcoming 2018 Star Worlds Championship. Mr. Benson reported that the TAYC won the bid to host next year’s event and that this would be the 4th time in the 90 year history of the sparring class that the championship will be held on the Chesapeake Bay. The event will host competitors from all over the world and is a closed event in which one would have to qualify in order to be able to take part in. Approximately 75 to 90 teams will be racing in the events which will be held between October 5 and 13th, 2018. Susan Devlin introduced herself as the overseer of the non-sailing part of the event explaining that she wanted to give the Commissioners a “heads up” as to the large amount of action that will be taking place in town during that week. Plans will need to be made to accommodate the extra traffic along with parking requirements for trailers. The yacht club will also want to place banners up throughout town welcoming visitors to the event and asked if one or all the Commissioners could be present at the opening and closing ceremonies, to be held on the yacht club site. Mrs. Devlin pointed out that this event would be a showcase for Oxford and Talbot County and that she was also working with the Talbot County Board of Tourism. Chief Maxwell added that he felt there would be plenty of parking around town to accommodate the additional tourists and participants of the event coming into town and suggested that the yacht club look into hiring a shuttle service. Administrator Lewis added that alternative parking could be held in the town’s ballfield. All the Commissioners offered their support for the event adding that they would help any way they could.

Administrator Lewis reported that Delmarva Power had requested a utility easement for the installation of new electric wires necessary for upgraded service to the new WWTP. This had been reviewed by the town attorney and found to be in order. The cost for the work will be paid for through the WWTP construction grant. Commissioner Fronk made a motion that President Abruzzese be authorized to sign the utility easement with Delmarva Power, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Graves, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

LETTERS AND REQUESTS

President Abruzzese read aloud a letter from the Talbot County Council stating that they were pleased to reappoint Judy Bixler for another 4 year term on the Tourism Board and as a representative for the

Town of Oxford. President Abruzzese added that she has contributed much to the board and brought Oxford to the forefront.

ATTORNEY

Attorney Booth was out of the country. Lindsey Ryan, an attorney with Booth, Booth, Cropper, and Mariner, attended in her absence.

CLERK COMMENTS

Administrator Lewis reported that she had just received notice from Waters Church that they were looking to hold a Fun Day in Town Park on July 30 that would involve a church service followed by food and music and requested the Commissioners permission for the event as well as use of the town's electricity. The Commissioners supported the request.

Administrator Lewis mentioned there would be a Working Waterfront Workshop on Thursday at 6 p.m. Notices have been sent out to everyone on the OBA's email list and attendees of the first workshop will be called.

In her update of the WWTP, Administrator Lewis stating that the dredging project was continuing along with upgrade of the electrical service. She will provide further information after the next progress meeting.

Talbot Goes Purple is the agenda for Sheriff Joe Gamble of Talbot County which Commissioner Fronk had reported on in a past meeting. Lewis noted that on September 19 the plan is for the entire county to go purple in order to bring to light the drug addiction issues that face us everywhere but also specifically in Talbot County. Magnets announcing the event have been given to the town to place on the police cars and public vehicles in order to make everyone aware of the project. Commissioner Fronk added that Talbot County Sheriff Joe Gamble is passionate about getting this out to everyone's attention because of the nature of this epidemic that is affecting both the young and old. Chris Aaron, a national basketball player and former addict, will be coming to speak at Easton High School about this issue along with Sheriff Gamble who also will tell his own stories about young people who he has come in contact with who are fighting drug addiction. The town is in the process of preparing to incorporate purple lighting where possible for the month of September.

Lewis reported on the Causeway Stormwater Project. The Statement of Work for the project is currently being worked on and once it has been finalized and approved, the project can be advertised for construction. In the interim, Lewis stated she was using the engineers that prepared the design of the project to help her prepare the construction bids. Commissioner Abruzzese informed the audience present that the Causeway Stormwater Project was being completed by a grant that the town received from the Chesapeake Bay Trust in the amount of \$650,000 that Administrator Lewis had worked hard to get. She personally thanked Administrator Lewis for all her hard work in securing not only this grant, but many others for the Town of Oxford.

Another grant currently underway is the CoastSmart funding for the preparation of a written program for application to the FEMA Community Rating System that Lewis noted she had been working towards for the past 5 years. The town's flood insurance policies are rated based on the community's ability to manage and mitigate damage from flood events. If a community can get into this rating system, it can

actually reduce everyone's flood insurance policy by 5% or more based on how much criteria one can meet within their plan. Lewis noted that FEMA had contacted her and that the first step will be a community assistance visit, the equivalent of a FEMA audit. Once the visit is completed, Lewis stated she would ask for a letter of intent from the Commissioners to apply to the CRS program.

Lewis stated that she had received notice from the Heritage Area Grant Program, that Oxford's application for an audio tour had once again not made the award. This is a very competitive grant and Lewis added she would try for the grant a third time next year.

In her update on the MEWS, Lewis stated that in reference to the the third grant for construction, she had met with the DHCD (Dept. of Community and Housing Development) who had come out to do a review of the building. The visitors from the DHCD will request that MD Historic Trust come look at the building due to the concerns MHT have expressed regarding the partial demolition and the addition to the building as proposed. The contracted architect will be notified of the concerns and asked to participate in any historic review.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were several complimentary comments in regards to the TAYC sailing events and the upcoming Star Worlds event.

There being no further business, Commissioner Fronk made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Graves seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.