

COMMISSIONERS OF OXFORD
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2019

The Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on October 8, 2019. Commission President Gordon Graves called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Attending the meeting were Commission President Gordon Graves, Commissioner Gordon Fronk, Public Works Superintendent Scott Delude, Police Chief Patrick Maxwell (who left on police business prior to the start of the meeting), Administrator/Clerk Cheryl Lewis, and Attorney Lyndsey Ryan. Commissioner John Pepe was out of town.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Fronk motioned to adopt the minutes of September 24, 2019 as distributed. Commissioner Graves seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

President Graves stated that the Commissioners held a Closed Session for evaluation of personnel records at 8 am on October 7, 2019 at the Community Services Building.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Public Works Superintendent Delude reported the following:

- Public Works has finished marking all the water meters in town for the winter by painting a line into the street and painting the covers to assist with locating them in an emergency.
- The old bench located at the end of East Strand has been replaced with a new composite bench which was donated to the town on behalf of the Bakers.
- Two stormwater pipes have been replaced that were in bad need of service, one at Riverview and S Morris and another on S Morris. PW will continue work on replacing of older metal stormwater pipes with plastic piping over the next few months.
- Work will be done on the Sewer Line from Pleasant St to the main lift station on Wednesday, requiring closing of the road and redirection of traffic for about 2 hours.
- Leaf pick up has started on Wednesday mornings, continuing until the second week of December.

POLICE REPORT

Administrator Lewis reported the following from the report prepared by Chief Patrick Maxwell.

2 – Parking Complaints, cited

10 – Patrol Checks

6 – Police Information Service

1 – Suspicious Person

1 – Suspicious Motor Vehicle

2 – Assist the Fire Department

5 – Speed Monitoring on Bonfield Ave(no violations – range 20 to 26 mph) based on citizen complaint.

2 – Civil Complaints

1 – Assist other Police Agencies

1 – Alarm

1 – Motor Vehicle Collision, exchange of information

The recent car show at the Robert Morris Inn was very well attended with more cars than anticipated. The annual Library Book Sale was well attended. PW assistance with providing of barricades and cones prior to the event was appreciated.

FIRE COMPANY

Chief Graham Norton was unable to attend and his report was presented by Administrator Lewis as follows: Fire/Rescue: 8 calls, including 3 in the town's first-due area and 5 mutual-aid, including 3 working fires, and a major haz mat incident, with 161 miles traveled, 43 member responses, and 39 hours worked. Medical: 5 calls: 2 patient transports, 2 citizen assists and 1 treated/released, with 45 miles traveled, 22 member responses and 17 hours worked. The next breakfast will be Sunday from 8 – 11 am.

PRESENTATIONS

Sheriff Joe Gamble and Lucie Hughes representing the Rotary were present to thank the Commissioners and the Town of Oxford for their continued support of the Sheriff's Talbot Goes Purple initiative, having contributed financially and participated with outreach over the last three years. The Sheriff shared information on the positive impacts of the program and on future strategies to continue the fight against addiction in Talbot County.

Alan Girard, Eastern Shore Director for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, provided an overview of the work of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the goals set by the multistate Green Water Blueprint for improvements to the Chesapeake Bay, the purpose of local government WIPs (Water Implementation Plans) in reducing Bay pollutants, and the Bay Restoration Fund which is upgrading all Major Wastewater Treatment Plants, along with Minor Plants, agriculture cover crops and beginning to include stormwater improvements. Girard also provided details regarding the current health of the Bay and some of the shortcomings of our neighboring states in reaching the necessary pollutant reduction and the demands being put on the EPA to force cooperation and assist with funding. Girard ended with the statement that local sources of water need local solutions to come up with local benefits and expressed how important it is to invest locally as Oxford has been doing.

Tom Leigh, the Regional Watershed Services Provider, a service through the Healthy Waters Working Group, gave a brief history on the start-up of the Healthy Waters Group, explaining one of the identified needs was for technical assistance, which he is now filling as a Circuit Rider for the 6 jurisdictions participating in the Healthy Waters Working Group, which includes technical assistance, packaging of BMPs for efficiency and grant writing for the participants (Queen Anne Cty, Talbot Cty, Easton, Oxford, Cambridge and Salisbury). Leigh explained some of the work done so far which included the first 'joint' stormwater grant request application to the states Coastal Program, which although not successful, was met with interest and the group had been invited to resubmit a modified request. It is intended that the next request would include trees for Oxford's Central Park and that the following request would be for stormwater improvements in the park and surrounding area.

Matt Pluta, our representative as a Choptank Riverkeeper, explained the Envision the Choptank initiative, where he serves as a member of the steering committee and which is a grant funded collaborative, consisting of about 15 organizations, towns, counties, land conservancies, agricultural community, etc., which came together to lift up and enhance the work being done by NOAA to improve the waters of the Choptank. This collaboration is vested in providing swimmable, fishable waters that best meet the needs of the surrounding communities. Envision the Choptank does include all counties, including Kent County, Delaware, surrounding the Choptank. The Commissioners were provided the "Common Agenda" a very comprehensive document containing a variety of information regarding the collaborative.

Administrator Lewis pointed out that Matt, as a Choptank Riverkeeper, was the person who monitors the beach quality locally, including weekly readings during the summer for the Strand.

Girard reminded the Commissioners they were invited to the upcoming Healthy Waters Briefing and Boat Trip on October 24th. The boat will tour both County and Oxford improvements.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None presented.

NEW BUSINESS None presented.

LETTERS AND REQUESTS

The Oxford Museum submitted a request for a letter of support for their grant application to the Chesapeake Heritage Area Program for funding to create a new 'rack card' for the Museum. The Commissioners were in favor of the prepared letter supporting the grant.

ATTORNEY

Attorney Ryan provided an update concerning some abandoned property the town was attempting to have claimed and removed.

ADMINISTRATOR

Lewis stated she had provided a contract for the Beach Design to Lyndsey for review, after which she will forward to the contractor. She added that things were busy in the office, with the accountants conducting the annual audit, preparation of the Workers Comp Insurance annual audit, and the need to prepare the updated application for the Sustainable Communities Designation in order to maintain the town's ability to continue to seek grant funding from the State. She stated the MEWs was nearly complete with painting of the exterior in the process and some consideration as to the next steps were underway.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS Nothing further.

There being no further business, Commissioner Fronk made a motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Graves, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Lewis, Town Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer