

COMMISSIONERS OF OXFORD
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2021

The Commissioners Meeting was held Virtually in a Zoom Meeting room on September 28, 2021. With the continued HIGH transmission rate for COVID cases in Talbot County, all town meetings have remained in virtual settings temporarily as a precautionary measure. The public was invited to participate in the virtual meeting. This information was posted on the town bulletin board and the town website. President Gordon Fronk called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

PRESENT

Attending the meeting virtually were Commission President Gordon Fronk, Commissioner James Jaramillo, Commissioner Brian Wells, Town Manager Cheryl Lewis, Public Works WW Superintendent Matt Ozman, Police Chief Patrick Maxwell, and Planning Officer Maria Brophy. Police Lieutenant Jim Thomas, and citizens Julie Wells and Norman Bell were also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Wells motioned to approve the September 14, 2021 meeting minutes, Commissioner Jaramillo seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Matt Ozman provided the following report: Public works repaired a leaking bell joint on the Market Street main water line, with a total of 8-man hours, no overtime and only 7 residents affected during repair. Public works repaired a bad water service saddle on Norton Street, with a total of 6-man hours, no overtime, all of Norton Street Residents affected. Last Thursday's storm came with extreme high tides and heavy down pours with a total of 3.5 inches of rain. High water signs were deployed during this event. Flooded streets included Banks, Causeway/South Morris, Tilghman/Stewart, Norton, Mill Street, Wilson, and part of West Pier Street. This lasted for most of the day until the tide finally went down over night and by the early hours of the morning everything was back to normal. Public works repaired a hole at Pleasant Street and South Morris next to sidewalk. State Highway replaced a bad culvert pipe at West Division Street and South Morris and is preparing to replace a bad culvert at Tilghman Street and North Morris soon. Maryland Rural Water was on site this morning to present the Town with a Wastewater Treatment Plant of the year award. Public works repaired a sink hole in Town Park.

Commissioner Fronk suggested a walk-through of the completed plant be scheduled for the commissioners.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Maxwell reported that officers were monitoring conditions during the recent storm/tidal event and closed roads were reported to the 911 center as needed. Officers also assisted with fire calls, responded

to check the welfare requests, and assisted other agencies. The road rally went off with no hitches, as did the last regatta.

FIRE COMPANY

Lewis presented the following Fire Company Report as provided by Graham Norbury for the period 9/15/21 thru 9/28/21. Fire/Rescue: 4 calls : 3 first-due including mower fire on Bachelors Point Rd, 1 mutual aid for barn fire on Matthewstown Road, 74 miles traveled, 34 hours worked, and 38 member responses. EMS: 5 calls: 3 medical patients transported, 1 call transferred to Talbot EMS, 1 cardiac arrest with no transport, 94 miles traveled, 17 hours worked, and 18 member responses.

Congestion at area hospitals is lengthening call duration especially when we are required to transport to Cambridge. Dorchester General Hospital is due to close its Emergency Room soon and transfer to a new free-standing Emergency Room in Cambridge Plaza. Unfortunately, this is unlikely to alleviate any of the congestion since the overall staffing level will remain unchanged. Ambulance replacement fundraising has reached 70% of its goal. 3 potential vendors are under consideration. Last Sunday Oxford Fire Company members participated in a County-wide “Water Supply Officer” training seminar hosted at St Michaels Fire Department. Unfortunately, we have made the decision to cancel the October Breakfast due to continuing COVID spike across the region.

Lewis provided an update on the COVID, including the most recent Epidemiology update as provided by the Talbot County Health Officer. Talbot County remains at the High Transmission level.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolution 2117 Oxford 2022 Adverse Weather Emergency Operations Plan, updating the 2007 Plan, was introduced at the last Commissioners meeting. Lewis noted that it was posted on the town website and both the Fire Chief and the Talbot County Emergency Planner had reviewed it for consistency. Commissioner Fronk motioned to adopt Resolution 2117, Commissioner Wells seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

President Fronk presented Resolution 2118 recognizing James Thomas’s service to the Oxford community. Commissioner Wells read the resolution aloud. All commended Jim on his dedication and thanked him for his service. Commissioner Wells motioned to approve Resolution 2118, Commissioner Jaramillo seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

Manager Lewis provided a brief overview of the town’s efforts over the last 10 years in a PowerPoint presentation on Green Infrastructure, noting this information would be included in the future Community Resilience Committee document collection. Lewis also reviewed the changes to the FEMA Flood Insurance Program, referred to as Rating 2.0, noting policies would now be rated by risk similar to all other types of insurance and also that Rating 2.0 includes extending the CRS discount to all policies within the incorporated boundaries. Prior to this change the discount only applied to policies within the Special Hazard Flood Area.

LETTERS AND REQUEST

None received.

ATTORNEY

Not in attendance.

TOWN MANAGER

Lewis requested a closed session to discuss personnel and public safety following the meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

President Fronk noted the continued efforts of Talbot Goes Purple and Oxford's participation, both with a donation of \$3000 to the organization and also the lighting of the town for the month of September.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Art Murr noted that CVS was currently offering Moderna third shots for qualifying citizens.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The OCC Tailgate party was scheduled for October 9th, the OCC 5k/walk is scheduled for October 23rd, and Halloween will be held on October 31st, starting with a Pet and Child Costume event and Trunk or Treat at the Causeway Park at 5:30, followed by Trick or Treating on the streets.

With no further business, Commissioner Wells motioned to adjourn the meeting into closed session to discuss personnel and public safety matters, Commissioner Jaramillo seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned in to closed session at 7:08 pm. Following the closed session, President Fronk motioned to close the regular meeting, Commissioner Wells seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the meeting closed at 7:31 pm.

Cheryl Lewis, Town Manager