

**COMMISSIONERS OF OXFORD**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**June 28, 2022**

The Commissioners Meeting was held in person at 101 Market Street on June 28, 2022. Virtual participation was also available. This information was posted on the town bulletin board and the town website. President Gordon Fronk called the meeting to order at 6 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT**

Attending the meeting were Commission President Gordon Fronk, Commissioner Brian Wells, Commissioner Jaramillo, Town Manager Cheryl Lewis, and Public Works WW Superintendent Matt Ozman. Police Chief Patrick Maxwell and Planning Officer Maria Brophy attended virtually. Citizens in attendance included, Friederikos Franke, Tom Costigan, John Pepe, Julie Wells, and Bart Echardt, along with a few virtual participants.

Fronk commented on the continued national tragedies, stating we may not be able to cure it, but we can do our best and contribute as we can to society to try to bring some reconciliation, starting with random acts of kindness in our community, helping out someone in need, and changing attitudes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Jaramillo motioned to approve the May 24, 2022 meeting minutes, Commissioner Wells seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

**REPORT OF DISBURSEMENTS**

Commissioner Jaramillo motioned to file the reported disbursements for the month May 2022 for audit, Commissioner Wells seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

**MAINTENANCE REPORT**

Matt Ozman presented his Public Works report. There was one wastewater plant after hours alarm due to a pump failure at the ENR pump station, on call personal responded to find an over temperature alarm on pump number one. Pump was taken out of service and replaced with a spare pump and the failed pump was delivered to Hill Electric to be overhauled. GMB assisted in trouble shooting a Scada issue inside the wastewater plant, come to find the problem was a failed analog module in one of the control panels. Module was replaced and all is normal. Public works investigated sink hole near to the Causeway parking lot to find a bad section of storm water drainpipe and we are in the process of replacing that piece of pipe. Public works investigated a hydrant at the end of Bachelor's point that was struck by accident over the weekend, found nothing wrong with hydrant. Bartlett Tree service was in last week to trim the Crape Myrtle tree at the pincushion. Unity was in to clean out bio swales around town and has replanted Market St. ditch. New Plants are here for the new park ponds as soon as things dry out, they will be planted. The water fountains in the dog park have been repaired. MOSHA inspection items have been completed and our case has been closed.

## **POLICE REPORT**

Chief Maxwell reported things have been busy, parking tickets have been issued at the beach. Assisted other agencies and the fire company. PD has stepped up speed enforcement, although he noted that the highest speed he picked up was 35 mph entering town in the morning. Hasn't seen any real speeding problem. Maxwell has been monitoring kid's camp and assisting the teen traffic directors. Maxwell would like to have the parking fines increased to deter illegal parking, \$30 to \$50 or \$60, plus an administrative charge for the computer flagging process.

Commissioner Jaramillo commented that there have been numerous concerns expressed regarding speeding and asked the Chief to reiterate his recent experiences monitoring speed. Maxwell stated that they have been monitoring it and other than one vehicle going 44 mph, the highest speeds they are picking up are around 32 mph. They are not seeing the high 30's and high 40's like people have been saying. He said although vehicles are approaching town faster, they are locking the breaks up and slowing down. They have monitored speeds in the Historic District too, and the highest speed was 29 mph.

## **FIRE COMPANY**

Lewis read the report as submitted by Graham Norbury. This fire company report covers the month of June 2022. Fire/Rescue: 12 calls, 7 first-due, 5 mutual-aid. Calls include a large field fire in Trappe, several serious motor vehicle collisions on Rt 50 an overturned center console in Island Creek and a bicycle accident on Oxford Road as well as the usual assortment of automatic fire alarms etc. 167 miles traveled, 69 hours worked, and 108 member responses. Emergency Medical Services: 16 calls: 12 transports, 2 refusals, 1 agency assist, 1 fire standby. 144 hours worked and 471 miles traveled. Note: the extraordinarily high mileage is due to an emergency transport to Johns Hopkins (a 4.5 hr round trip!)

Local hospitals have been very busy with extended patient-transfer wait times (over an hour) becoming the norm rather than the exception. One transfer exceeded 4 hours.

Next breakfast will be July 10.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Commissioner Wells asked for the latest from the Sign Committee. Lewis stated that they had submitted a detailed list of business directional signs that should be replaced, and she was working on ordering a few metals signs to try them out.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution 2208 Honoring the Oxford Community Center on their 40th Anniversary was read. Commissioner Wells motioned to approve Resolution 2208, Commissioner Jaramillo seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

Manager Lewis explained that Resolution 2209 - Talbot County Hazard Mitigation and Community Resilience Plan would be on a future agenda for adoption, following state review and approval. It was presented early to give the Commissioners and the public time to review the county prepared plan, planning in which town staff participated. A link to the draft plan was provided to the Commissioners earlier and is posted on the town website for public access. Adoption is anticipated in August.

Resolution for approval of annual reinstatement of the Employee Section 125 (Cafeteria Plan) Premium Only Plan, which allows for pre-tax employee deductions for health care payments, was presented. Commissioner Fronk motioned to approve Resolution 2208, Commissioner Wells seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

### **LETTERS AND REQUESTS**

Oxford Business Association requested support of the Plein Air artists with a \$1000 from the town. Lewis stated the donation was anticipated in the General Budget under miscellaneous donations. Commissioner Jaramillo motioned to approve the request, Commissioner Wells seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

Wells read a letter submitted by Bruce Beglin regarding his concerns with the continued speeding of drivers entering town, at rates significantly exceeding the posted speed of 25 mpg. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation to Beglin for bringing his concerns to their attention. Fronk noted that he had let Beglin know that the town will continue to pursue state authorization for a ticket issuing speed camera, as we have for the last three years. Lewis noted the intended location is the corner just before the entrance to the fire company, which is out of the way, but would provide good access to vehicles entering and leaving town. Fronk noted the camera would be just one step to curb behavior, police patrolling and enforcement will also have an impact. Fronk stated that there have been other suggestions, including those discussed at the community meeting in 2019, some of which would not be feasible and others which might work, like crosswalks. Lewis stated that we have been waiting for SHA to pave, after which the town will pursue adding crosswalks at several areas that experience foot traffic. She provided copies of the original recommendation of installation of crosswalks that was provided to the state in 2019, adding that they said there might be some issues, but they would entertain our request. Paving is anticipated this summer and Lewis has already reached out to traffic control to open discussion regarding crosswalks. Other possible traffic calming methods were discussed. Lewis reminded all that after initial conversations with the state and request for speed changes outside of town, the state did lower the speed limit approaching town to 35 mph, which does notify to people they are approaching a town, and was first step in the effort.

### **TOWN MANAGER**

Lewis announced that the town had received approval from the Maryland Community Parks and Playground Grant Program for the requested funding to provide improvements at the Basketball Courts, including repairs to the fencing, new surface, removal of the side hoops and some landscaping improvements. The award has been forwarded to the Maryland Board of Public Works for final approval.

Fronk read a support letter that Lewis had prepared and forwarded to the Sustainable Maryland Environmental Finance Center, in support of their NFWF Grant request to develop a community approach to resilience action planning, for which, if awarded, the EFC will be seeking seven waterfront communities to participate, of which Oxford would like to be included. Fronk noted that the letter outlined the

substantial effort Oxford had put forth over the last ten years and thanked Lewis for her vigilance in pursuing planning and project grant funding in support of Oxford's resilience.

Lewis requested a closed session for personnel discussion.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Jaramillo noted that two Commissioners and some staff had attended the summer session of the Maryland Municipal League, which is a three day conference that provides numerous educational opportunities, along with the ability to speak with state officials on multiple topics. Jaramillo extended his appreciation for Fronk's support during his term. Fronk provided some parting words, as this was the last meeting of his term, stating the he was thankful for the opportunity he had in serving the community over the last six years. He expressed his gratitude for former Commissioner Gordon Graves mentoring when he first became a commissioner, along with other former commissioners including Tim Kearns and John Pepe, who were both present. He thanked all town staff members individually for their support and efforts during his term, and welcomed Tom Costigan to his new position.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

John Pepe recommended consideration of placing the old police vehicle out to curb speeding.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

TAYC Fireworks are scheduled for July 3rd and the Oxford Kids Bike Parade will start at 10 at the Ferry parking lot. Commissioner Elect Tom Costigan will be given the oath of office at the regular meeting on July 12, 2022.

Hearing no further business Commissioner Jaramillo motioned to go into a closed session for personnel discussion, Commissioner Wells seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned into close session at 7:20 pm. Following the closed session Commissioner Fronk motioned to close the regular meeting, Commissioner Wells seconded the motion, all were in favor and the meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

Cheryl Lewis, Town Manager