

COMMISSIONERS OF OXFORD
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 28, 2018

The Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on August 28, 2018. Commission President Gordon Fronk called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Attending the meeting were Commissioner President Gordon Fronk, Commissioner Gordon Graves, Commissioner John Pepe, Public Works Superintendent Scott Delude, Police Chief Patrick Maxwell, Administrator/Clerk Cheryl Lewis, and Town Attorney Brynja Booth.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gordon Graves motioned to adopt the minutes of August 14, 2018 as distributed. Commissioner John Pepe seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Graves to approve and file for audit the disbursements for the month of July 2018. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pepe and unanimously carried by all in favor.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Superintendent Delude reported the following:

- The dog park has been sodded as well as the parking lot area. Watering was being done on a daily basis until the sod takes root. Information has been given out that the park will probably be opening within a month providing there are no unforeseen problems. The hump/bypass that was built for watering on East Pier Street will be taken out during the current week so that there will be access to the Artist Studio tour/show in that area. Watering of the sod will be continued from the water plant as the sod no longer need to be watered 24 hours daily.
- A new bridge was purchased to bridge the gap between the Community Center and the Fire Department path. It will arrive in 4 weeks and is 12' long by 4' wide with normal handrails.
- The lift pump that went bad at the town's main lift station is fixed and will be put in operation in the coming week. The cost for repair was \$4,000.
- The public works crew has started installing purple lights and banners around town. All will be completed and in working order on Friday, August 31st to kick off Talbot Goes Purple in September.

Commissioner Pepe asked Superintendent Delude if we kept spare lift pumps for the pump stations, and Delude replied that they do rehab old pumps for temporary substitutes.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Maxwell reported the following:

- 2 – Behavior emergencies
- 1 – Reckless boater (NRP case – declined to arrest)
- 2 – Assist Coast Guard
- 2 - Assist the Fire Department
- 12 - Police information-service
- 2 – Alarms (malfunctions)
- 1 - Suspicious Person
- 22 - Patrol Checks
- 2 - Check the Welfare

- 2 – Disorderly persons (1 –GOA and 1 – AR)
- 3 – Assist other police agencies

Chief Maxwell reported that there had been an instance with an unstable person that had required multiple officers to arrest and results of a toxic screening are pending. Commissioner Pepe thanked Chief Maxwell for his handling of the situation as he had heard things had been very tense. Chief Maxwell also reported that the past weekend's log canoe races went smoothly with only a few parking issues.

FIRE COMPANY

An update for the Oxford Fire Company was given by fire company member Peter Dunbar. Mr. Dunbar reminded those present that the next fire house breakfast will be held on Sunday, September 9th, and that purple lights, in support of Talbot Goes Purple, have been installed along the front of the firehouse.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Fronk introduced Resolution #1813 – A RESOLUTION SETTING THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE TOWN OF OXFORD, REPLACING ALL PREVIOUS FEE SCHEDULES, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2018. Administrator Lewis noted that this had been discussed at a prior meeting, along with removing the water and sewer connection fees from the fee schedule list and adopting them by a separate ordinance, which is in the works. She pointed out that a bullet has been added to the fee schedule stating that Demolition/Rehabilitation of 60% or more of a building will be treated as new construction. This came about as a result of a project that was recently brought into the town office as a permit to demolish all but the existing footing, in order to avoid some new construction requirements. The fee schedule also identifies a business license fee even though we do not currently have such a program, but it does allow for it should it be determined to be necessary in the future. Short term rental fees were addressed previously, but a fee for the recently implemented rental property inspections has been added. Other fees shown on the schedule are those that the town has been using regularly. There were questions regarding the bullet points at the end of the fee schedule. Attorney Booth pointed out that the bulleted items tie in with some of the fees, are there to assist with the permitting process and authorization is incorporated elsewhere within the zoning ordinance. Lewis stated that the highlighted areas of the resolution are the only changes to the fee schedule and that the bulleted items are general standards that have been in place and are required as part of the permitting process. The first two pages of the schedule deal with building permits and the third page reflects other types of town fees. President Fronk asked if there were any public comments. A question was raised by Dale Benson as to whether this would affect the building code in any way. Booth responded this schedule did not change current zoning requirements. A motion was made by Commissioner Graves to adopt the Resolution as presented, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Pepe, all were in favor and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

President Fronk announced that Univ. of MD Shore Regional Health Support had asked for a letter of support and that Lewis had put together a letter stating essentially what Regional Health was looking for. Fronk read the letter aloud which basically expressed the Commissioner's strong support for the vision of the regional healthcare and for the certificate of need application submitted by University of MD Shore Regional Health for a relocated replacement hospital in Easton to meet the needs of our citizens for a modern, state of the art health care facility for in-patient, out-patient, and specialty care. Commissioner Pepe stated that although we all realize it would be best not to move the hospital further away, that it was important for not only the Commissioners but all of Talbot County to show their support for this necessary change. Commissioner Pepe made a motion to approve the letter to be signed and forwarded. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Graves and unanimously approved.

Lewis reported on Oxford's show of support for Talbot Goes Purple by announcing that the town had submitted a donation of \$5000 the result of the came from the recent sale of the town's old police car. Stickers, bracelets, and literature on Talbot Goes Purple are freely available in the town office. Additional purple lighting has recently been purchased and plans are in the works for Talbot County Sheriff Joe Gamble to come out to visit and film the Oxford area. An event is also planned to kick-off the Talbot Goes Purple to take place on Wednesday, September 5, beginning at 7:30 p.m., in front of the County Courthouse.

President Fronk stated he had received a request from Susan Devlin, who is chairing the Tred Avon Yacht Club's Star Worlds event in October. In her request, she asked if the Commissioners would write a letter welcome to the participants, which Lewis put together and President Fronk read aloud. It was mentioned that there would be about 150 participants along with 500 volunteers for the event which will take place in October.

CLERK COMMENTS

Lewis reported that Gov. Hogan had released a press release of the list of grant applicants who were awarded funding from the Department of Community Housing Development and that the Town of Oxford was awarded \$175,000 for the rehabilitation of The Mews. She noted that this would probably be the town's last application. President Fronk thanked Administrator Lewis for her hard word in securing grants for \$300,000, \$75,000, and the recent \$175,000, all to be used towards The Mews project.

Lewis informed the commissioners that the River Keepers have been testing the water quality at the Strand and reporting their results on the online site, Swim Guide, along with forwarding their results to the town. This biweekly testing has allowed the town to have up to date information regarding beach water quality. She will be talking to our local River Keeper regarding the possibility of a more formal agreement for testing, which may include some funding for their project.

On September 11th, a commemorative event in remembrance of 9/11 will be held in Talbot County at 8:30 a.m. The Commissioners and the public are invited to attend. On the same day, The Dove will be arriving in Oxford in the afternoon. Attorney Booth suggested because of these events only one Commissioners meeting be held in September, and it was agreed to cancel the September 11, 2018 meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Pepe asked that the audience members spread the word that there will be a dock party and tours on The Dove on the evening of September 11. Anyone interested in attending should bring a covered dish to share.

Commissioner Graves reported that the town's clock has been returned to proper working order after working through some issues with the manufacture's service department.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Graves, seconded by Commissioner Pepe and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Lewis, Town Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer