

COMMISSIONERS OF OXFORD
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2019

The Commissioners Meeting was held at the Oxford Community Center on September 10, 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 John Pepe, Commissioner Gordon Fronk, Police Chief Patrick Maxwell, Administrator/Clerk Cheryl Lewis and Attorney Lyndsey Ryan.

Commission President Graves announced that per the agenda, regular town business would be deferred to the next Commissioners Meeting on September 24, 2019 in order to have a discussion with the Maryland Department of Transportation representatives on traffic calming along Rt 333 from the County Park to the Ferry Dock.

Graves introduced elected officials present at the meeting, Senator Addie Eckard and Delegate Johnny Mautz. Graves introduced MD DOT/SHA representatives present, Ken Fender and Robert Tucker.

Graves stated that the town staff had met with several MD DOT representatives, including those in attendance, on August 6, 2019 and had presented numerous suggestions to the state, which the staff felt was achievable under SHA regulations, and asked Administrator Lewis to give a quick overview of the suggestions. Lewis outlined several recommendations based on documentation that was presented to the state, including speed reduction markings on the roadway along RT 333 from the County Park entrance to Latitude 38 similar to Rt 50 outside of Trappe; reduction in the 40 mph speed limit along the same stretch; consideration of faux brick along both sides of the roadway entering town that would let drivers know they were entering a residential area; place 25 mph markings directly on the road at the entrance and throughout town; and faux brick crosswalks in several locations, near Latitude 38, near the town center (MEWS), at the Tilghman St intersection and at the Ferry Dock intersection.

Ken Fender then addressed the Commissioners and the citizens, thanking the town for the traffic calming suggestions as just discussed, stating that he did think many of the items were doable, and their goal is to slow traffic down, adding that they were currently reviewing the possibilities, which include reduction of speed limits coming into town and the possibility of the additional sidewalk/crosswalks at certain locations, explaining that they were not looking at a one-time fix, but changes over time, monitoring the results along the way. A power point demonstrating 25 mph pavement markings and traffic calming line markings that present the illusion of lane narrowing on the entry to town, similar to Cecil County, was presented. Mr. Fender stated they would continue to work with the town as funding becomes available to implement improvements to address the needs of the community. Fender and Tucker took public questions, comments, and suggestions, responding with answers regarding current SHA regulations, items that might be considered and assurances that the state intended to find solutions that fit Oxford, acknowledging the unique situation. Citizens were permitted to discuss concerns with the state and town staff for the remainder of the meeting. Faux brick crosswalks, reduced speed limits and the changes at the entry to town were well received.

Administrator Lewis stated the town was seeking to purchase 'your speed is' signage that would have some tracking memory and for which the state has said the town could utilize on the state road, and which in addition the town could also use off the state road. She stated that the town would continue to pursue

an exception for ticket issuing speed cameras in Oxford, explaining that currently they are not permitted per state law.

Commissioner Pepe introduced an idea from a local business based on something found in another state, which was the ability to have a monitor that would pick up a vehicle that was going over the speed entering the town and send a signal to have the existing stop light at the fire house turned to red, stopping the entering vehicle. The state was unaware of the technology and explained that it would be necessary to go through the process to get approval to utilize such technology on state roads, but they were willing to look at the technology.

In closing, Senator Eckardt and Delegate Mautz, addressing the citizens and Commissioners, offered their thoughts, their assistance in keeping communications with the state open, and their ability to help with possible legislation regarding speed cameras.

Commissioner Graves thanked the citizens for their participation; thanked the state representatives for their attendance, frank discussion of the issues and willingness to develop solutions for the town; and he thanked the Addie and Johnny for their concern and contribution. There being no further business, Commissioner Fronk motioned to close the meeting, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Pepe, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Lewis,
Town Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer