

TOWN OF BETTERTON
Mayor & Council Meeting
January 14, 2020 @ 7:00 P.M.
Berterton, MD 21610

The Berterton Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Sutton at 7:03 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Sutton, Councilman Fracassi, Councilman Gilchrest, Councilman Marcy, Councilman Pyfer, Town Attorney Yeager, Town Manager Greenwell, and Town Clerk Dlugoborski.

RESIDENTS: Ginny Story and Larry Crew.

MINUTES: *Councilman Marcy motioned to approve the Mayor and Council Meeting minutes of the December 10, 2019 meeting. No workshop on December 24, 2019. Seconded by Councilman Fracassi; all in favor, motioned carried.*

FINANCIAL REPORT: *Councilman Fracassi motioned to approve the December 2019 financial report; seconded by Councilman Pyfer; all in favor, motioned carried.*

SHERIFF'S REPORT: see report below...

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BCC: No Report.

BCDC: Larry Crew thanked the Mayor and Council for the use of the building once again for the train show. It's always a good turnout. Would like to have the train show open again on Berterton Day as well as other times if desired.

PLANNING: Next meeting, January 27th.

APPEALS BOARD: No Report.

ROADS: No Report.

PARK: Equipment has been ordered for the playground upgrade.

SAFETY: No Report

FIRE CO.: No Report.

WATER/SEWER: Mayor Sutton read the report submitted by Jeff Miller, Plant Operator.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES: The Town Manager reported that the application has been submitted. Waiting to see if they are requiring any changes.

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Trash: November 2019 – 10.27 Tons
December 2019 – 6.47 Tons
Recycling: December 2019 – 1.90 Tons

TOWN MANAGER REPORT: for December 2019/January 2020

Current Grants

Wheeler Avenue – Pre-construction meeting held. Construction expected to begin the week of March 16th. Semi-annual report and invoicing submitted.

Idlewhile Pump Station - Pump station is working well. New electrical box has been installed. 50% reduction in cost of electricity each month. Semi-annual report submitted.

Bayside - Permits received, under Environmental Review by FEMA, RFP expected in early February. Financial agreements received from all 12 homeowners. February bills were mailed today. Next meeting will be 2/7/2020. Quarterly report and invoicing submitted and approved.

Watershed Assistance Grant Program – Met with John Gonzalez from Landmark 3 times. Plan concept expected in early February for Wheeler and Bayside for stormwater management.

Arbor Play Area- Equipment was ordered. Equipment delivery expected the end of February. Installation will begin in March.

Sustainable Communities – Application was submitted on January 10th. Waiting to hear if it is approved or if any changes are required. Committee will continue to meet quarterly to review progress.

Beach Trash Cans – Design contest is open. Posted on webpage, Facebook, at libraries, town halls, and in the papers. Templates available at town hall. Deadline February 3rd. Trash cans will be unveiled April 25th.

Electric Charging Stations – Delmarva Power is working on submitting the application to MHT for approval.

SEARCH grant – Approved to receive \$30,000 in funding. RFP sent out. Pre-bid meeting is 1/17. Bids due 1/28.

Upcoming Grants

Census grant –Applied for a \$5,000 census grant. Monies would be used to send out letters to residents to encourage them to fill out the census, posting information on the website and in the newsletter, and providing help to those who don't know how to go Online and fill out their census.

DNR Grant – Considering applying for a DNR grant that could cover the stormwater projects around town and phase II of Bayside. Application is due February 14th. Met with Gabe Cohee and Megan Grenato from DNR to discuss the process.

Other happenings

Water Tower - Painting is completed. Testing was completed. Expected to go Online tomorrow. We expanded the reach of outage notifications – code red alert, email, Facebook, posted signs.

Census data – Completed for November and December.

Critical Area - New critical area regulations and map were approved. Consulted with 3 homeowners regarding regulations.

Bath house - County applied for a demolition and construction permit for the bath house. Consistency report filled out and submitted to Critical Area Commission.

Rural Summit – Attended the MD Rural Summit in December. Learned about current and upcoming programs and opportunities in rural areas.

Website - Updates made to committees page, events page, history page, photo gallery, local businesses page.

Request to attend Online WordPress training on webpage design and maintenance.

Upcoming

January 11th – Critical Area meeting, Field Doc Webinar

January 21st – ESAM Legislative Dinner

February 7th – Meeting with Bayside Residents

February 10th – If I Were a Mayor Contest – speak at 2 schools

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Atlantic Broadband Cable Franchise Agreement – Tom Yeager, Town Attorney presented final comments to the Mayor and Council.

Town Manager reported that there are complaints about the water outages. We use email blasts, Facebook, post at the Betterton Fire House message board, community bulletin board at post office and at the entrance to Town Hall as well as the Reverse 911 emergency service system. Through the Reverse 911 service, this reaches 181 phones in the town service area.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Sgt. Lodge gave the report for the Month of December 2019: 18 Speed Assignments; 3 Warnings; 0 Citations; 0 DUI Arrest; 0 Criminal Complaint; 0 CDS Case- 0 Charges Pending; 11 Non-criminal Calls for Service. Fiscal Year 2019/20 December Overtime Expense – \$1,987.74 leaving a balance of \$3,012.26.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

OPEN FORUM:

Town Attorney Yeager explained the Small Cell 5G again. Will keep the council posted with regulations and if the municipalities have any rights for the regulations in their districts.

Councilman Marcy thanked Kent County for re-doing the bath house at the beach. Asked if there is any news on how the beach will be overseen. They have the job posted and will have a job fair at the county recreation building for any interested candidates.

Kent County Commissioners will be having a meeting on February 11, 2020 at 10 a.m. discuss the tax differential for the towns.

The town is looking into a new water rate study.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

January 20th – Office Closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 21st – ESAM Legislative Dinner at Fisherman's in Kent Narrows

Motion was made by Councilman Marcy to close the January 14, 2020 meeting; seconded by Councilman Gilcrest; all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dlugoborski, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Approved:

February 11, 2020