

TOWN OF BETTERTON
Mayor & Council Workshop
August 27, 2019 @ 7:00 P.M.
Betterton, MD 21610

The Betterton Council Workshop was called to order by Mayor Sutton at 7:00 p.m

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Sutton, Councilman Fracassi, Councilman Gilcrest, Councilman Marcy, Councilman Pyfer, Town Attorney Yeager, Town Manager, Elizabeth Greenwell and Town Clerk/Treasurer Dlugoborski.

RESIDENTS: Candi Sorge, Craig Smith, Mary Ann Wasko-Smith, Cheryl Fracassi, Clyde Warden, Mel Rapelyea, Dick Story, Ginny Story Mark Zwanger, Malcom Kram and Tom Leigh.

Town Manager Report: Town Manager Report for August 2019

Current Grants

Wheeler Avenue – Pavers were ordered and delivered. USDA is still reviewing the RFP. Attended annual CDBG grant training.

Bayside Shoreline Erosion Mitigation – Landscaping design is complete. CBT grant has been applied for which includes an outreach portion. Met with Sarah Koser to review plan. Met with FEMA and they have approved us going forward with an application for this fall for the additional costs. Met with homeowners to discuss landscaping plan.

Idlewhile Pump Station – Work is complete other than the permanent electrical panel box being installed. Completed wage rate interviews. Submitted grant paperwork to CDBG for review.

Watershed Assistance Grant Program – Funding was awarded. RFP went out in paper this week. Pre-bid meeting is 10/6. Bids are due 8/24.

Rigbie Steps - Engineering design completed for the bench. Met with Community Legacy on Tuesday 7/30 to show them the site. Critical Area approved the removal of trees on the slope. RFP was issued this week. Pre-bid meeting is 9/17.

Arbor Play Area- Funding was released. RFP will be issued within the next two weeks. 2 design companies have provided designs. Anticipated installation late spring 2020.

Other happenings

Water Tower - Submitted permitting to MDE. Anticipated approval in 3 weeks. Coordinated with RainforRent and Corrosion Control to receive pricing for a bypass system. Spoke to the fire chief about the pending work.

Quarterly Reports / Invoicing - Invoicing for reimbursement and grant paperwork submitted for Bayside, Wheeler Ave, and Idlewhile Ave.

Census data – Completed for July

Critical Area – Continue to work on updating the Critical Area Ordinance and maps. Next meeting is 8/30. Met with a homeowner about installing a driveway/sidewalk and had it approved by Critical Area.

Economic Development – Attended three meetings discussing Economic Development and possible grants including PNC Bank and the Main Street Affiliate Program.

Beach – Met with key stakeholders to discuss ongoing issues at the Beach and the need for an action plan for next summer.

Electric Charging Stations – Followed up on information from two different grant programs. The one from Delmarva Power is at no cost to us – they provide equipment and install everything, and people pay for the charge. We must agree to 5 years. They are willing to look at the 2 possible locations if we want to move forward.

Planning and Zoning and Sustainable Communities - Committees continue to work on the renewal of both documents.

Training – Will be out of the office to attend FEMA training September 10-12 and USDA training September 19.

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Town Manager report continued...

Public Works – Marcellus gave notice. His last day was 8/21. We advertised the position, interviewed, and have hired Scott Thompson to start 9/3.

Town Clerk Update – Sheila mailed out Special Assessments for 2019-2020. Delinquent notices went out on water bills. All of the information for the audit was compiled and scanned.

BENCH AT RIGBIE AREA – Town Manager Greenwell reported that the estimate has come in higher than anticipated. The RFP has gone out. The job is one contract with the county and is broken in 5 categories. All 5 categories are in RFP.

WWTP- continues to have items that are not operating properly. Requesting a meeting with Jeff Miller, Greg Swartz, Jason Loar, and town officials to make sure all items are complete and in working order. Lightening storms have caused surges and damage to equipment.

Economic Development Discussion – met with PNC bank and Jamie Williams. Wants the town to be open to meet with consultant. PNC bank has money to fund an economic strategy. Personal property tax for businesses in town. There are only a few that live here that pay the personal property tax. Can we have it set up that those people receive a waiver? Town Attorney Yeager talked about possibly doing a utility tax not a retail tax. Perhaps just limit it to utilities.

Hunting Requests for Howell Point Rd. Properties. Mr. Blevins requested to hunt pond on east side of Howell Point Rd. Blevins property meets the requirements. *Councilman Marcy made motion to allow the Blevins' to hunt on said property, Councilman Gilchrest seconded, all in favor.* The Town Clerk is to contact Mr. Blevins with the approval.

Mr. Leigh requested to have deer hunting and also goose hunting if needed. Tom Leigh said their preferred hunting method is with a bow but if needed, to gun hunt. Three hunters on property. *Councilman Gilchrest motioned to approve the hunting request on the Leigh property, Councilman Pyfer seconded; all in favor.*

Per Emergency Ordinance 2018-02 will allow hunting on the Blevins property, Leigh property as well as the Fernwalt property which was voted on at another meeting until the 2022-2023 deer and waterfowl hunting season.

FOOT BRIDGE – Discussion on the poles that were installed at each end and the solar lights are an annoyance to residents in the area. After much discussion it was in agreeance that the poles and lights would be removed.

BULLETIN BOARD at post office was damaged within a few days of being installed. Mail truck bolt has a piece of plastic wood stuck on it. Mayor Sutton emailed the Postmaster in Worton which stated that the driver has an affidavit stating the sign was intact when the driver was there. The height of the truck matches the height of the sign. Mayor Sutton will contact the Postmaster again to discuss.

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OPEN FORUM

Larry Crew asked permission from the Council to have cover built over the Ark. 14x36 10'6" high. The Town Manager will help fill out critical area forms and present it to the commission. The cover is to cover a historic vessel. Tongue and groove in ceiling. Curved arches. The Ark is part of the Maryland historic trust. Roof singles will match the town building. Mayor suggested the former bell tower to be incorporated in the cover.

Candi Sorge invited the Council to attend the roll out of the VR tour of the Betterton Heritage Museum that Washington College students put together. September 5, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the community center.

BVFC Chicken BBQ – Sunday, September 1, 2019

BVFC Car Show – Sunday, September 29, 2019

A motion was made by Councilman Fracassi to adjourn the August 27, 2019 workshop meeting; seconded by Councilman Marcy; all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dlugoborski, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Approved:

September 10, 2019