

**TOWN OF BETTERTON**  
**Mayor & Council Meeting**  
December 14, 2021 @ 7:04 P.M.  
Betterton, MD 21610

Meeting was held via GotoMeeting link.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mayor Donny Sutton, Councilman Bill Fracassi, Councilman Wayne Gilchrest, Councilman Harry Marcy, Town Manager Tom Mogle, Town Clerk Sheila Dlugoborski, and Town Attorney Tom Yeager.

**RESIDENTS:** (in person and virtually via GoTo link) Dick and Ginny Story, Candi Sorge, Russ Bell, Cheryl Fracassi, Carol Casey, and Mark Zwanger.

**MINUTES:** *Councilman Marcy motioned to approve the Mayor and Council Meeting minutes of the November 9, 2021, meeting. There was no Council Workshop meeting on November 23, 2021. Seconded by Councilman Fracassi; all in favor, motioned carried.*

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** *Councilman Fracassi motioned to approve the November 2021 financial report; seconded by Councilman Pyfer; all in favor, motioned carried.*

**SHERIFF'S REPORT:** Mayor Sutton read the November report. The Sheriff's Department handled 10 calls for service, 3 foot patrols, 12 vehicle patrols, 18 traffic warnings, 7 traffic citations, 15 man hours with an overtime cost of \$746.94.

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**BCC:** The new HVAC system with the air purification system is being installed and should be finished by the end of this week.

**BCDC:** Candi Sorge reported that BCDC had a successful holiday sale and thanked everyone that has supported BCDC. The Betterton Heritage Museum is closed until April for the county museum tour but can be viewed by appointment. The train display may be included in the county museum tour.

**PLANNING:** Will be meeting again in January.

**APPEALS BOARD:** No Report.

**ROADS:** Engineering firm working on the Ericsson Avenue study for possible reconstruction.

**PARK:** The bathhouse and misters have been winterized until spring.

**SAFETY:** No Report.

**FIRE CO.:** No Report.

**WATER/SEWER:** Mayor Sutton read report submitted from Jeff Miller, Plant Operator. Plants are operating as they should. Buzzards are roosting on the water tower and are damaging the paint. Working on a solution as to making effigies to hang from the tower.

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**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES: No Report.**

Trash: November 2021 – 10.45 Tons  
Recycling: November 2021 - 2.65 Tons

**Town Manager Report** – Ericsson Avenue Preliminary Engineering continues. Jeff Miller has spoken to Chris Rogers of AECOM to finalize the water-and-sewer components of the project. AECOM has hired the contractor to take core samples of the concrete beneath Ericsson. This is vital to the preliminary engineering because it will determine how much time, effort, and money it will take to excavate and remove the concrete.

Bayside's Shoreline Erosion Mitigation continues. Last week, Kyle Lindstrom informed me that Duane Lindstrom met with Mr. Rapelyea and plans to begin staging this week. The tentative plan is to stage in December and begin construction in January 2022. We have recently completed a contract for Lindstrom.

Sludge Bed rehab continues to stall. The rehab bed does not work. At this point, the Town is awaiting engineering comments/solutions DFB Jason Loar. Ultimately, USDA's Terry Fearins will have to weigh in on the work.

The County's contractor is making significant progress to the pavilion stairway. There were two bids received yesterday for the Rigbie Bluff project. An internal selection committee will be reviewing them for completeness and for project pricing. I expect a selection will be made by the Board of County Commissioners later this month.

This week, I attended an American Rescue Fund Guidance Webinar by Hagerty. They stressed the need for internal controls and the use of best practices to ensure compliance. On Thursday, I will be attending KC Local Management Board Community gathering. Poverty. Equal Access. Shared Assets. Full opportunity.

Also, the Governor Hogan announced 2022 Grant Awards. We did not receive Demolition Grant to purchase the Schirmer Farm property. Discuss options, including begin the preparing for a Capital project through the State of Maryland. This will take time, however there is plenty to plan. Mayor Sutton stated that we will contact the realtor for the seller to let them know that we were not awarded the grant. We can ask for an extension as we look for another grant if the seller will agree. We would like to keep the option open if the seller does not have another buyer.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Lindstrom Excavating Contract for Bayside Project – Mayor Sutton has the contract in hand to review and sign. The company will start staging equipment this month and begin work in January, weather permitting.

Tower Leases – Mayor Sutton stated that Council agreed that the tower leases are to be \$500 per month with a 3% yearly increase. Town Attorney Yeager will have the new leases prepared and at the next Council meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Introduction for Charter Amendment – Cancelling Uncontested Election – Mayor Sutton introduced Resolution 2012-5. This resolution of the Town of Betterton, MD, for the purposes of amending the town charter to provide for the cancelling of an election for which any seats which are uncontested. Town Attorney Yeager. - Mr. Yeager drafted a resolution; For Purposes of Amending the Town Charter to Provide for the Cancellation of an Election for Which Any Seats Which Are Uncontested. The full resolution is available at the town office.

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*Charter Amendment cont'd.*

A public hearing must be done at another time. The hearing must be published 21 days in advance in a local newspaper. After the public hearing, the resolution may be voted on at the following council meeting. Once this is voted on, there is a 40-day period that the charter amendment must be published 4 times in a local newspaper with the fair summary of the charter amendment and a printed copy must be available for inspection by the citizens at the town office. During that 40-day period, citizens have the opportunity to do a referendum. If such petition is done, then the charter amendment does not become effective until a vote is held either by special election or place on the ballot at an upcoming election. After the vote is taken, depending on the results of said vote, it becomes into effect. If a referendum is not tempted, after 50 days passage, the charter amendment is in effect.

The public hearing will be published in the December 23, 2021, Kent County News and be held on January 25, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. prior to the Council workshop.

**OPEN FORUM:**

Councilman Gilchrest spoke about an article in the New York Times in reference to global warming. Explaining how property owners should plant gardens and not use pesticides. The flowering plants provide homes for many animals and insects. You should let the lawns grow but not to exceed the town's ordinance on the height of the grass. Leaves should be left on the lawn and gardens for mulching and various insects. All this are ways to help with global warming (article attached). Candi Sorge reminded everyone that critical areas commission encourages property owners in the critical area to put in rain gardens. Mrs. Sorge and Ms. Carol Casey are willing to work with Mr. Gilchrest on this project.

Candi Sorge thanked the Town Council and Town employees for everything they do and wished them Happy Holidays and enjoy time with your families as well as Ms. Casey.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Betterton Legion – Open Mic night – Every Thursday beginning at 7.  
Bingo on Sundays, doors open at 12:30 p.m. starts at 2.

Betterton Youth Group – Winter/Spring Schedule – Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, April 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>.  
April 16<sup>th</sup>, Easter Egg Hunt @ Betterton Park on 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. at 11 a.m. Ages up to 13 years old. Bring your own basket to collect the eggs. May 6<sup>th</sup> end of year celebration. Ages 6 – 16 meet in the Betterton United Methodist Church basement. Any questions, contact Patti Bone 443-298-0057.

Dick Story reported that the Betterton Fire Company will be caroling throughout Betterton on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Betterton/Still Pond Methodist Church will be having the live nativity on Friday evening. They are in need of any bundles of ornamental grasses if anyone has any to share.

Council workshop scheduled for December 28, 2021 is cancelled.

*Motion was made by Councilman Gilchrest to close the December 14, 2021, seconded by Councilman Fracassi; all in favor; Motion carried.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Sheila Dlugoborski, Town Clerk/Treasurer

*January 11, 2022*