

TOWN OF BETTERTON
Mayor & Council Meeting
May 10, 2022 @ 7:00 P.M.
Berterton, MD 21610

Meeting was held via GotoMeeting link. Meeting began after public hearing at 7:16 p.m.

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

RESIDENTS: (in person and virtually via GoTo link) Dick & Ginny Story, Candi Sorge, Cheryl Fracassi, Craig Smith, Mary Ann Wasko-Smith, Russ Bell, Harriet Bell, Wendy Coslett, Joe Stock, Melvin Rapelyea, Carolyn Sorge, David Paltrineri, Donald Sutton, Duane Lindstrom, Kyle Lindstrom, Rick Bisgyer, Mark Zwanger, and Malcolm Kram.

MINUTES: *Councilman Marcy motioned to approve the Mayor and Council Meeting minutes of the April 12, 2022, meeting. Council Workshop meeting on April 26, 2022. Seconded by Councilman Gilchrest; all in favor, motioned carried.*

FINANCIAL REPORT: *Councilman Fracassi motioned to approve the April 2022 financial report; seconded by Councilman Pyfer; all in favor, motioned carried.*

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Mayor Sutton read the April report. The Sheriff's Department handled 2 calls for service, 4 traffic warnings, 0 traffic citations, 3 Man hours and overtime cost of \$102.25.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Dick Story on behalf of the property owners along the Bayside Blvd. Bluff, spoke with Council about concerns and comments the homeowners have in regard to the Bayside Blvd. Bluff project and litigation. Mayor Sutton along with the Town Attorney and Town Manager offered information pertaining to the project and current situation and the agencies/officials that have been contacted to help the project along.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BCC: No Report.

BCDC: Candi Sorge reported the museum would be hosting a lunch and learn for people interested in the museum as museum sitters. The museum will be updating some the exhibits in the near future. Museum will be opening in May through October. Seeking gardening volunteers for the garden beds around town and in particular Wheeler Avenue. Cheryl Fracassi commented that she could help with the Wheeler Avenue bed. Candi entertained a group of 5th graders at the museum that were visiting Echo Hill.

PLANNING: Two meeting scheduled, May 16th and June 20th. Working on Comprehensive Plan and ordinance revision to allow backyard chickens. Still looking for a couple of volunteers to fill vacancies on the board.

Cheryl Fracassi asked about the requirements for the board. Town Manager Mogle will send her the requirements. Mayor Sutton stated that there is training required for the planning board.

APPEALS BOARD: Looking for an additional member as well.

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ROADS: No Report.

PARK: Tennis Courts – Received more regulations on the usage of the ARRA monies which some can be used to upgrading the park. Tom Mogle spoke with town employees, Jeff Mill and Wayne Kaufman, about using some of the money to update the bath house at the Sixth Avenue Park.

SAFETY: No Report.

FIRE CO.: Dick Story reported Betterton Appreciation Day will be on August 6th with a parade, cow plop bingo and baby contest.

WATER/SEWER: Mayor Sutton read the report submitted by Jeff Miller, Plant Operator. Water & Wastewater report for April 2022 the water treatment plant pumped 720,000 gal. of potable water in the month of April. There were no leaks within the distribution system. The Buzzard effigies on the water tower seem to be working and holding up to the wind. The buzzards are not Roosting on the tower, but the Osprey are still determined to nest on it. Perhaps the Buzzards are off nesting and therefore the reason for their absence? Time will tell. We are taking Bids for replacing the water lateral, meter and meter pit for the Bath house at the beach. Our water meter tech. advised us we are probably "losing" gallons through the existing meter due to its age and size; new technology is more accurate in high flow situations as there is at the bath house. And the corrosion on the piping supplying the meter is such we could have problems at an inopportune time. The wastewater treatment plant treated and discharged 823,000gal. of effluent to the Sassafraz River. The temps are rising at the plant and the microorganisms will become more active as they continue to climb. I am making adjustments to stimulate activity among them. We are also taking bids for the replacement of the generator at pump station #2. Our current Generator is antiquated which make parts difficult and expensive to find and its reliability is questionable. We will be replacing the Diesel power with LP Gas which is more environmentally safe for the location. Any further questions feel free to call Jeff.

Hydrant Flushing will be done the week on May 23rd.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES: Joe Stock reported he is working with Kent County Parks and Recreation to obtain a grant to install path-mat walkway that would start at the board walk and go out to the water. It would be ADA compliant and be able to launch kayaks from it.

Trash: April 2022 – 8.7 Tons

Recycling: April 2022 - 3.0 Tons Recycling company shutting down May 31st. Tom Mogle reported that he is working on an RFP for bid for another company.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Tower Leases – Delmarva Wifi has sent back the signed lease. AB Indiana/Bridgmax has not signed a lease and if they don't sign, they will need to remove their equipment from the tower.

Bayside Project – covered earlier in the meeting.

Ericsson Avenue Project: Continuing with the grant application process.

Unfinished Business cont'd.

Crews Landing Water Leak Adjustment Request – Crews Landing Condo Association requested for a leak adjustment request after a severe leak was discovered on February 15, 2022 and billed to the association. This water leak did not pass through a water meter and was on the common grounds of the association. After researching a previous substantial leak, it was determined that the leak on the previous one had passed through a water meter and was billed to one specific unit. After council review, *Councilman Gilcrest voted to reduce the amount based on the condo association and not an individual unit reduction, Councilman Pyfer seconded, Councilman Marcy abstained.; motion carried. Vote was 4 yea, 0 nay, 1 abstained.*

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget – Preliminary budget was presented to Council. Once Council meets in closed session to review budget and discuss employee benefits, adjustments will be made and presented at the next Council meeting. A copy of the preliminary budget may be obtained at the town office for review.

Town Manager Report –

Waiting for CA Commission’s input to finalize plans for Rigbie Bluff landscape and design. Bill Mackey is planning to meet after hearing back from CA to talk with stakeholders, including Rigbie Condo Association President Bill Manners before finalizing the plan.

Critical Area Grant is due in a few short weeks. Last year we increased funding by \$1K. We will see if we can do better this year.

The County has signed a contract to have professional lifeguards serve at the beach. The county is also hiring for beach park supervisor. We’ve learned the County is planning to request funding in their FY2023 budget for a new board walk. Butler agrees with the plan to add Mobimats to the boardwalk for a ADA compliant effort to assist beachgoers to reach the water for swimming or used as a soft launch for kayaks.

The Town supplied the US Treasury with the first compliance/spending report which was successfully completed before the April 30th deadline. In completing the report, I recognized that Parks are considered major infrastructure category.

I recommend we use a small portion of the ARPA money to improve the park. Two projects come to mind, the restroom facilities, and the tennis courts. Everyone uses the park bathrooms, and they really need paint and to update commodes, sinks, and any plumbing (Jeff mentioned rusted pipes). In addition, we can move forward with the Tennis Court Rehab by supplementing the roughly \$96K we received from the State/County with ARPA money. Both projects fall under “government services” and both projects meet the test of “negative economic impact due to COVID”. In total, both projects would account for less than 7% of the total ARPA budget.

As far as other infrastructure projects, I’ve worked with Jeff to put out a RFP for the work that needs to be done at the bathhouse, replacing valves and putting in a new meter and pit. And the removal and replacement of the generator at the plant.

Jeff will be arranging to have the electrical work completed at the various pump station to allow for the hookup of a portable generator.

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Town Manager report cont'd.

Also, Mr. Marcy brought it to my attention that the No Wake buoys were not in place. I called NRP who learned that over the winter the Graphics department removed the buoys, and they are scheduled to return them soon.

OPEN FORUM:

Mel Rapelyea asked if the foot bridge was on the books to be power washed and painted in the near future. Mayor Sutton stated that is something we need to put out for bids.

Joe Stock stated that the copies of the draft proposal for Ericsson Avenue are at the office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: - June 14, 2023 - Council meeting cancelled.

Betterton/Still Pond Lions Club – Night at the Races, June 11th at the Betterton Vol. Fire Co.

Betterton Fire Co./Betterton Sons of the American Legion – Betterton Day, August 6th.

Betterton American Legion - Thursday nights – Open Mic Night, Open at 5:00 p.m.

- Collecting women’s hygiene products and clothing for the Disabled Women Veterans Outreach Program.
- Sundays – Cash bingo – doors open at 12:30 p.m., bingo starts at 2:00 p.m.

Councilman Marcy motioned to go into closed session for discussion on personnel at 8:41 p.m.; Councilman Fracassi seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Re-opened Council meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilman Marcy to close the May 10, 2022 meeting, seconded by Councilman Fracassi; all in favor; Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dlugoborski, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Approved:

July 12, 2022