

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

November 11, 2021

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Fred Janci Mayor,
Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor
Robert Williams,
Robert Bilicki,
Stephen Joseph
Glenn Schagelin,
Margo Digan

TOWN CLERK: Charlie Gibble Absent

I. Town Council Meeting

Meeting began at 7:00 PM

Council man Glen Schagelin said the prayer.
Pledge of Allegiance followed

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

- Mayor Fred Janci called the meeting to order.
- I. Public comments**
- Shawn Tate, Chief of the Fire Company said he appreciated the town using the fire hall facility. He thanked the town for the CARES money that they have used to pay for its use. He stated that if funding would dry up the town could still use the facilities. Shawn also said that he was glad that the town and the fire company were getting along.
- Chief Tate thanked the town for looking after the fire company with the CARES Act.
- He stated that the fire company will put up the lights after Thanksgiving and make any repairs needed. Shawn said they will turn the bill over to Charlie Gibble at town hall.
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- Jim Bell introduced 2 people from the historical society, Blake McDonald and Deborah Williams. Jim stated that in 2015 they visited Wachapreague and had taken pictures which were sent to Richmond. Wachapreague was approved as one of the places to survey.
- Blake McDonald introduced himself as manager of Architectural Survey and Cost Share Grant Program.

He said they were surveying the town at no cost to the town. Blake explained there was money left in a grant and they were using it.

He said you would see them in town taking pictures. They did not enter anyone's home. They had 50 homes that they were looking at. The criteria included the age (at least 50 years old), the history of the home, and aesthetics.

- Deborah Williams said they were surveying homes in an identified area. They were also looking at waterfront buildings. She stated that the homes that were picked would not be added to the National Registry. She stated that the committee are not assessors and will not levy any restrictions on you or the town. Deb also stated that none of the data on your home will be shared. Deborah went on to explain the information gathered will be archived. She explained if your home had been surveyed and had a natural disaster ruin it, that information could be very helpful in having it repaired. She gave an example of someone that happened to. Deb talked about her time here six years ago when Hurricane Sandy struck. She knew she wanted to come back to do the survey. Deborah asked that if anyone had any old photographs, they would be very helpful.
- Blake spoke regarding homes that are deemed historical. They would not be allowed to take off wood siding and replace it with vinyl. He said tax credits were available for work done to a historical home as long as it was kept historical.

Mayor Fred Janci asked if anyone else had anything to say under the public comments.

Gene Gibbons spoke about the noise that was coming from the Lilliston Fish House. He spoke about a petition that was signed by 25 people regarding the noise. He reported that Lilliston said he spent \$4000.00 on trying to mitigate the noise. Gene said he will live up to his promise of paying half of that amount once Lilliston produces a canceled check for the \$4000.00. Gene told Mayor Fred if he doesn't do anything he will get someone else to.

Mayor Janci stated that he does not make the decisions. The council votes. Gene went on to say that

Mayor Fred Janci sent him an email that said that he would have to learn to live with it.

Mayor Janci stated he did not send an email that said that. He asked if Gene had it with him.

Gene said he will bring it to the next meeting.

Gene Gibbons spoke about the noise ordinance. He explained that it was noted in the ordinance that if it were too noisy, it was in violation.

Vice Mayor Sandy spoke about the noise and decibel levels. She stated that 60 was the maximum allowed in a commercial district.

The measurement they had was 45 decibels. Vice Mayor Sandy stated that Wachapreague was blanketed by the county with their ordinances if we didn't have a specific one to cover a situation. She asked Gene "Do you think we should shut his business down?"

Councilman Bob Williams said he has a decibel reader. He suggested that Gene buy one and document the decibels and bring to the next council meeting. He stated then you will have hard evidence against Lilliston and not just hearsay.

Councilman Steve Joseph said that he could hear it sometimes at night at his home on Lee St. He stated it is a nuisance. He said it does state in the ordinance: if it is a nuisance it is a problem.

Jim Bell suggested hiring an acoustic engineer from Wallops to help solve the problem.

Councilman Glenn stated he was at Gene's house and there was a constant humming noise emitting from the fish house. He said when the wind blows toward the ocean it isn't as bad. "Would you want to have that noise level outside your home"?

Councilman Bob Bilicki recommended sending a letter with the petition to Lilliston. That way he will know it affects more just Gene.

Sandy asked about the possibility of a cell tower.

Mayor Fred Janci Stated the tower isn't the problem. It is getting a phone company to lease it. They feel there isn't enough business here to support it.

Councilman Bon Williams said to write to your government officials regarding the need for phone service here.

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II. Town Council Meeting

- Minutes to be reviewed at the next meeting.

III. Review of Financial Report

- Mayor Janci asked if everyone had a chance to review the Town Financials for October 2021.
- He stated our legal fees have been running a little high due to questions regarding the ordinances. Vice Mayor Sandi Puchalski made a motion to accept financials and Councilman Bob Williams 2ndeded the motion. A vote was taken and all agreed.
- Mayor Janci asked if everyone had a chance to review the Port Financials for October 2021. Councilman Glen Schagelin motioned to approve the budget. Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski 2ndeded the motion, all agreed.
- Mayor Fred Janci discussed the town audit. He said that he has authorized extra time to get the town office in shape.
- He asked the council to approve this. Vice Mayor suggested to keep the door locked and closed the extra day.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. Sign on Route 13

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated we need to make a decision on the sign. We will get fined \$250.00 a day if not completed on time.

Mayor Fred Janci said it only cost \$60.00 a year to lease the ground for the sign.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated it would cost \$3500.00 to fix, install and remove the brush at the sign. It would cost \$1400.00 to remove the old sign and brush.

Councilman Stephan Joseph motioned to repair the sign, Councilman Margo 2ndeded it. A vote was taken. All agreed.

Mayor Janci stated to have it put on Charlie's calendar to have the maintenance guys clean the brush by the sign next year.

B. Grants

Councilman Margo motioned to divide the last of the CARES money among the businesses.

Councilman Bob Williams 2nded the motion.

Mayor Fred Janci, Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski, Councilman Bob Bilicki, abstained from voting. Those that could vote agreed.

C. HRSD

- Vice Mayor Janci stated that we need to vote on what type of pump we want. Mayor Sandie Puchalski said we need to do this so we can get a price quote on what it is going to cost. A grinder Pump was decided on because the pump to be used for our secondary system. HRSD will use a vacuum system to take sewage to Onancock.

D. Marina

- *Vice Mayor Sandie stated that they were getting ready to winterize the marina. She stated they have one tenant at the marina. He is one of the shrimpers that got a contract to catch shrimp here. Sandie stated that Richie will be installing the rings at the marina.*

E. Town Maintenance/Garbage

Councilman Glen Schagelin stated there were no complaints from the guys. He said we will go into a closed session after the meeting to discuss a situation.

Councilman Schagelin reported that the guys used the leaf vacuum. He said that JD cleaned out an area where the zero turn lawn mower is stored and made room for the leaf blower.

G. POWEL PARK

Vice Mayor Sandie stated that Don Motto spoke to Richie about putting a gate at the baseball field so he could use the easement to get to his lot. She said Richie thought it wouldn't be a problem.

G. Seaside Park

- Councilman Margo Digan reported that she got a quote from Charles and Don to do a cleanup and pruning at Seaside Park.
- Their estimate came in 1st time at \$500.00 and later at \$300.00.
- Councilman Bob Bilicki said he would do some work in January at the park. He also stated that he would donate his \$250.00 spending allowance from the town toward paying the guys.
- Councilman Margo thanked Councilman Bob Bilicki.

- Mayor Fred Janci talked about the bad shape of the gazebo. It was decided among the council that Tim Kimmel will fix the brackets. Chris Wardius said he will work on the gazebo also. Councilman Glenn Schagelin motioned to hire Chris Wardius to fix the gazebo. Vice Mayor Sandi Puchalski 2nded the motion. All agreed

Councilman Margo Digan asked about the broken table at town hall.

Councilman Bob Williams said he has a special product, Bonstone, that will fix the table.

Councilman Bob Bilicki and Councilman Bob Williams agreed to fix the table together.

Eileen Joeckel asked Councilman Bob Bilicki if he had agreed to advertise in the eastern Shore Magazine.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said that Charlie had contacted him regarding it. He stated he wanted to continue to advertise with them. Bob made a motion to reengage with ESVA Directory.

Councilman Margo 2nd the motion. All agreed.

Aileen Joeckel said they were putting a full page add in showing an aerial view of the town. He were also putting a half page ad with the Town of and the other half of the page with Tangier Island.

H. Safety and Security

Councilman Bob Williams said Richie Puchalski did a lot of clean-up where the water had risen.

Councilman Margo Digan asked Councilman Bob Williams about the new solar radar sign.

Councilman Bob Williams stated it is working well. The sign has helped slow traffic down. He said Councilman Glenn Schagelin, Councilman Stephen Joseph, Steve's dad, Tomeka, and he put up the sign.

Councilman Williams stated after he hooks the sign up to the wi-fi, the key for the sign will go into town hall.

Aileen Joeckel asked if the sign was insured.

Nobody was sure and will have to check on that.

I. Streets and Drainage

Council Bob Williams stated he was waiting for a letter from FEMA.

Mayor Fred asked Councilman if he had seen the letter from FEMA. He said in the letter it stated that the town was still eligible for a 10% discount on flood insurance. He said we stayed the same as last year.

J. Planning Commission

Eileen reported that they will not be meeting until either January or February 2022.

K. Holiday

- *Tree lighting and visit from Santa Claus will be December 4th at Seaside Park. It was suggested that Pete be Santa. They are asking that people bring light refreshments, hot cider, and other drinks.*

Councilman Bob Williams and Tomeka will put the tree up, and hang the garland around the gazebo the day before the celebration. They are looking for volunteers to help. Councilman Margo Digan said she will help.

Vice Mayor Sandi Puchalski stated we need to add we will go over the minutes for this month, next month.

Mayor Fred Janci stated we need to go to a closed session.

Vice mayor Sandi Puchalski motioned to go to closed session, Councilman Glenn Schagelin 2^{nded} the motion. All agreed.

L. Floodplain Administrator/CRS Coordinator/ A-NPDC/RAFT

- Councilman R. Williams stated he will have something to report next meeting.

M. Planning Commission

- Councilman M. Digan stated the committee has not met since the last meeting.

N. Solar Sign

- Councilman Bob Williams reported that all the parts for the solar sign are here. The total price of the sign is \$4550.00. He said there has been \$3700 donated at this time.

Councilman Williams said we need to get Stephen Joseph, Councilmen Glen Schagelin and him to install it. Councilman Bob Williams stated that the sign will keep records the speeding occurances. This will allow the town to hire an officer to sit in town and watch for the speeders when the speeding activity is at its highest.

MAYOR

TOWN CLERK

11/8/2021