

**TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
April 11th, 2024**

**COUNCIL PRESENT:**

Charles Elliott, Mayor  
Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor  
Stephen Joseph  
Aileen Joeckel  
Robert Bilicki  
Robert Williams

**Charlie Gibble**  
Town Clerk

Absent: Glenn Schagelin

**Town Council Meeting**

Meeting began at 7:00

**TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE COUNCIL MEETING**

**I. Mayor Charles Elliott called the meeting to order.**

**II. Mayor Charles Elliott said the prayer.**

**III. Charles Elliott led The Pledge of Allegiance.**

**IV. Public comments**

No public comments.

**Town Council Meeting**

**V. April 11th<sup>th</sup>, 2024, minutes were reviewed.**

Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to accept the minutes for April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Councilman Steve Joseph 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

All agreed.

**VI. Review of Financial Report**

The Council reviewed the Town's financials for April 2024.

Councilman Bob Williams motioned to approve the town budget.

Councilman Bob Bilicki questioned the tourism budget. He said \$10,128 had been spent, and the budget was only \$10,000.

Aileen Jockel explained that the town had been reimbursed for the \$4000.00 and we were waiting for an additional \$11000.00 reimbursement.

Councilman Steve Joseph 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

All agreed.

The council reviewed the port's financials for April 2024.  
Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to approve the Ports April Financials.  
Councilman Bob Williams 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.  
All agreed.

## **VII. Unfinished Business**

### **A. Maintenance**

Councilman Bob Williams has been taking care of the old cemetery in town. He is looking for a replacement.  
Councilman Bob Bilicki thanked Councilman Bob Williams and Tomeka for their hard work fixing the head stones and maintaining the cemetery.  
Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski said that Richie Puchalski would take over the care of the town Cemetery.

Mayor Charles Elliott spoke about mosquito control.  
He suggested the town supply mosquito dunks for the people in town and they could put them in standing water at their homes.

Sandie Puchalski motioned the town buy a case of dunks for town usage.  
Councilman Bob Bilicki 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.  
All Agreed

It was suggested the town have a "Dunk Day" and that would be the day people in town could pick up their dunks.

### **B. Powell Park**

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski stated Richie Puchalski is working on clearing the ditch at Powell Park.  
Councilman Bob Bilicki asked about resurfacing or replacing the tennis courts.  
Vice Mayor Sandie reported the court was not set correctly and fixing the court will not help.  
Councilman Steve Joseph and Councilman Bob Bilicki said they would investigate pricing for the courts.

### **C. Seaside Park**

Nothing to report.

### **D. HRSD**

Councilman Steve Joseph spoke about the HRSD sewer project. He stated the town has signed a contract to do the installation.  
He stated HRSD has details on the first 17 on the list for sewer.  
Councilman Steve Joseph also reported change orders were being reviewed. If HRSD doesn't accept them the clerk of the works will work on that for them.  
Councilman Steven Joseph stated the town will need a 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractor for maintenance and misuse. This would be for the grinder pumps. He stated that HRSD fixes the main line. If there is a fault in the equipment for the first year it is the HRSD's responsibility. The line to the home is the owner's responsibility.

### **E. Derelict Properties.**

Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about the home on 13 Main St. The back of the home caved in the year 2018 and nothing has been done to repair it.

He also reported there is a tree on the same property that Allen Stevens is concerned about. 10 feet up the tree there is dry rot occurring. A large branch has already broken off and destroyed a part of Allen's fence.  
The owner of the property was asked to perform and present a renovation plan for the home and removal of the tree.

If this does not occur Councilman Bob Bilicki will turn the problem over to the Accomack Inspector. Currently there has been no renovation plan presented.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated he is concerned if the exterior is not being taken care of what is the condition of the interior.

Mayor Charles Elliott stated he sent her the ordinances regarding the maintenance of a property.

He stated that Irene Lewin said the tree or the part that needed to be removed would be within the next two weeks.

Mayor Charles Elliott said the entire tree needed to be removed.

It was also reported that Irene Lewin stated her brother needed to vacate the home for her to do the interior work and that was not plausible until September 2024.

Councilman Bob Williams suggested that everything on the house, the front, and back be repaired and remove the tree within 60 days.

Councilman Steven Joseph said Allen should start a Case of Nuisance on Ilene.

Mayor Charles Elliott said he had been through the entire house. He said it is not unlivable but there are some compliance issues that need taken care of.

He reported the town is not liable because we have sent her several letters.

#### **F. Marina**

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski reported that the restroom renovations are complete.

The work on the marina will begin next week.

She stated the water will be turned on at the dock after the project is completed.

#### **G. Tourism**

Councilman Aileen Joeckel spoke about the photo opportunity with Zinc Media.

She spoke about Sam Oppenheimer, an influencer that was scheduled to visit Wachapreague.

Councilman Aileen Joeckel said she would have dinner at The Island House, Breakfast at the Wachapreague Inn visit the General store and three of the town's local artist.

She was also scheduled to visit Pat Hart's Antique Store, and The Wachapreague Powelton Church. Councilman Aileen Joeckel also mentioned other places she would visit outside of Wachapreague.

#### **H. Floodplain Adm/CRS**

Councilman Bob Bilicki reported we had significant rain in March.

It was stated the town is responsible for the culverts. VDOT is responsible for the Asphalt.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said it is common sense to clean the peat and the leaves out of the drains.

Mayor Charles Elliott mentioned he worked with underground connections. They will run cameras through the pipes and charge nothing for this service.

Councilman Bob Williams stated the ditches should be cleaned in the fall.

A few areas that were mentioned that need work or are having flooding issues were, Randy Lewis's pipe, Brooklyn and Liberty, South of Bayview, and Bradford Neck

Councilman Bob Bilicki said money should be set aside for the ditches. \$3700 to \$4700 was suggested.

North of Main the ditches and culverts seem to be working.

David Moon's reported that Paul St, Church St, and Custis had about 4 feet of standing water.

Councilman Stephen Joseph said Lee St. is higher than Powelton. A pump station is the only way to resolve this.

#### **I. Town Beautification**

There was nothing to report.

#### **J. Safety and Security**

Councilman Bob Williams said he is met with someone regarding installing cameras in Wachapreague. After speaking with them he said cameras are not the way for the town to go.

#### **K. Historic District**

Jim Bell reported that paperwork needs to be signed. DHR will make the decision in May regarding Wachapreague Historic District.

**L. Streets and Drainage**

Discussed under Flood Plain/CRS.

**M. Planning Commission**

Councilman Aileen Joeckel reported the planning commission approved an extension regarding business licenses.

**X. Adjournment**

**Closed Session**

Mayor Charles Elliott called for the meeting to adjourn and go into closed session to discuss employee business.