

**TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
June 13th, 2024**

**COUNCIL PRESENT:**

**Mayor Charles Elliott, Mayor**

Stephen Joseph

Aileen Joeckel

Robert Bilicki

Robert Williams

**Susan Springer**

Town Clerk

**Absent: Sandie Puchalski**

**Glen Schagelin**

**Town Council Meeting**

Meeting began at 7:00

**TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE COUNCIL MEETING**

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

**II. Charles Elliott led The Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.**

**III. Guest Speaker**

Margie Spangler from Northern Accomack Community Cats presented to the Council, giving an overview of the program. The organization's mission is to trap, neuter and release and that it does not participate in rescue or relocation efforts. The organization strives hard to educate the public on managing feral cat populations. The organization is unfortunately unable to receive much Grant money as it is typically the shelters who receive those, so this organization relies heavily on fundraisers. She demonstrated the trap she brought with her and explained that they lend the traps out. That was followed by review of the booking and cost requirements (\$2500 to book, \$25 per cat, bookings of 25 cats) for the mobile spay and neuter bus and the next available date of August 26<sup>th</sup>. Note this does include a rabies vaccine. Anyone interested in further information may contact the organization at 757-894-5644 and [accomackcatas@gmail.com](mailto:accomackcatas@gmail.com). They also have an informative website at [www.accomackcats.org](http://www.accomackcats.org).

**IV. Public Comments**

Ben Nowlan of Underground Connections (a subcontractor of Environmental Solutions) introduced himself and inquired of all present if the quality of work and conduct of the employees currently performing sewer upgrades in Wachapreague was satisfactory. It was noted that both were satisfactory, as well as the traffic control efforts. Mr. Nowlan explained some of the work the company performs, including the trenchless technology being used in Wachapreague. He explained the smart systems being installed in Cape Charles, the restrictions of installing

Blue Beam in Wachapreague and the Broad Band Initiative in general.

Some discussion was given to the efforts to bring in a monopole to Wachapreague, the available location, and the lack of interest from utilities when it was proposed in the past.

It was asked and determined that yes all Right of Entries have been signed and submitted to HRSD.

Schedule was then given some discussion. Mr. Nowlan acknowledged the upcoming Carnival and estimated completion in September 2024. Mr. Nowlan was thanked for his attendance.

## **V. Town Council Meeting**

May 9th, 2024, minutes were reviewed and amended to reflect the Inspections reports had not been posted by the former Town Clerk.

Councilman Steve Josephs motioned to accept the minutes for May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 as amended.

Councilman Bob Williams 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

All agreed.

## **VI. Review of Financial Report**

The Council reviewed the Town's financials for May 2024. Discussion was given to the expense to the Town for mowing grass on properties in violation of the grass ordinance, as well as back balances owed on vehicles taxes. The Town Clerk indicated the process is in motion to go through VDOT to collect the latter. It was noted the excellent job Treasurer Mary Jo Tatum is doing in the handling of the town's finances and financial reporting.

Councilman Bob Williams motioned to approve the Town's May 2024 Financials.

Councilman Bob Bilicki 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

All agreed.

The council reviewed the Port's financials for May 2024. It was noted what an excellent job the Harbor Master is doing in handling the Port's income.

Councilman Bob Williams motioned to approve the Port's May 2024 Financials.

Councilman Bob Bilici 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

All agreed.

## **VII. Unfinished Business**

### **A. Maintenance**

Councilman Glenn Schagelin was not in attendance to report on Maintenance however the Mayor noted that Maintenance crews have been instructed to commit more effort to weed control. Town Clerk Susan suggested making sure each Maintenance truck contained a current fire extinguisher. Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to supply each with a type A Fire Extinguisher, however costs were determined to most likely be under \$250 and all agreed to go forward with the purchase at that cost or under.

### **B. Powell Park**

Council Sandie Puchalski noted that money needed to be set aside to address issues at the tennis court. Most notably the ripped tarp and cracks in the tennis court surface.

### **C. Seaside Park**

Nothing to report.

#### **D. HRSD**

It was noted there was a Construction Management Committee 10:00 am update meeting scheduled Friday June 14<sup>th</sup> with Accomack Northampton Planning District Commission, other than that everything was moving along as planned and the Committee is still awaiting word from DEQ if the additional funds were approved.

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

The following updates were given by Councilman Bill Bilicki:

1) Mayor Elliott to monitor progress on

1a) Tax Map: 113A-A-164, 15 Main: Carr Prop: Front Porch, Back Porch repair and or removal.

1b) Tree Trunk Removal-update.

2) Tax Map: 113A-A-61, 50 Main St, Patricia Bragg Prop: Not Habitable, No progress on rehabilitation.

3) Tax Map: 113A-A-184: 6 High St. Susan Hill 3739 Freezeland Dr. Linden, VA 22642 -multiple violations of Ordinance: Grass Higher than 12" for extended weeks. complete disregard for our Towns Ordinance. Send Invoices w/ Payment Due upon receipt. No Net 10, No Net 30 days.

#### **F. Marina**

Councilman Sandie Puchalski was not in attendance and there were no updates.

#### **G. Tourism**

Councilman Aileen Joeckel announced the Sustainable Travel Video has been launched, she has shared the link with everyone, and it will stream live for 12 months on Sublime TV. She noted that the media will be pushing it out in newsletters and websites for extra Public Relation boosting and that it is a very big boost highlighting our barrier islands and birding features. It was noted that Saxis and Tangier were also featured and the video will be entered in a film festival. Additionally, this will also be featured on local Salisbury TV and pushed over to Virginia Beach. A new feature was discussed, this being Jim Bell rolling out an Instagram Account in conjunction with upgrades to the Town's two websites, hopefully including a link to the Sustainable Travel Video.

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

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated there was nothing new to report.

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

Councilman Aileen Joeckel stated nothing new to report but did want to thank resident Ann Swink for her hard work in the landscape bed beside City Hall, noting she did a great job and it looks great.

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

Councilman Bob Williams reported one streetlight currently out.

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

Planning Commission President Jim Bell was not present.

## **L. Streets and Drainage**

Councilman Bob Williams reported on the reconstruction and paving currently under way and the thought that when that work is complete there should be improvement and noted that when complete another assessment can be made with the new conditions.

## **M. Planning Commission**

Councilman Aileen Joeckel reported the Commission was working on getting all the STR rentals approved, licensed and further. She reported that Zoning Administrator Arthur Mendez was now currently attending the Planning Commission Meetings and thanked the Council members for voting for that recommendation.

Additional conversation was given to the mayor's recommendation of forming a subcommittee to study and make recommendations on improvement and maintenance of the drainage system.

Councilman Bob Bilicki brought up the recent DEQ notification regarding the new application for a large volume daily water draw and commented that it is something the Council should monitor.

Councilman Steve Josephs discussed the possible need for amendment with HRSD to expand beyond the original 17 hookups to include those residential properties that expressed interest in hooking up to the sewer at their own expense, (approximate cost \$6 to \$7 thousand.

After much discussion a motion to create an amendment to allow all those located along the current installed collection system to hook up to the collection system at their own cost was made by Councilman Steve Josephs. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Bob Williams. All were in favor.

## **N. Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn was made by Councilman Steve Josephs and Seconded by Councilman Bob Williams. Mayor Elliott called the meeting adjourned.

