



MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP
October 29 2018 – 5:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M. by President Sharon McDowell. Present: Commissioners Lawrence Tassone, Bruce Smith, Tom Carey, Tim Banks (5:05 pm) and Town Manager Jesse Savage.

II. QUORUM PRESENT

President McDowell reported a quorum was present to discuss Bridgeville Town business.

III. OPEN DISCUSSION (No Action Will be Taken)

A. Property Tax Increase Ordinance

Town Manager stated that after getting feedback from the public at their October, if they had any comments or questions now would be the time to talk about it. Commissioner Carey asked if Mr. Savage went to the Heritage Shores meeting (Commissioners Tassone's monthly Chat). Mr. Savage stated that he did. Commissioner Tassone then stated that feedback from his constituents at that meeting, who he believes pay 75% of the Town's property taxes, was negative. Commissioner Banks asked what Heritage Shores residents would be comfortable or happy with. Commissioner Tassone stated that they would like to see 0% and that they do not see an issue at this time. Commissioner Tassone stated that Heritage Shores residents feel that they pay more than their fair share of the taxes. Commissioner Banks stated that this reinforces the fact that there is Bridgeville and Heritage Shores, when in fact it is just Bridgeville. Commissioner Tassone stated that Commissioner Banks can speak for District 1. Commissioner Banks replied that he can speak for all of Bridgeville. Commissioner Banks stated that it is Bridgeville period. Commissioner Banks stated that they need to be proactive and need to be unified. Commissioner Banks stated that there are times, where as a representative, they have to do what is best for the entire town and not be led by a certain mass of people. Ed Miller, resident of Heritage Shores and in attendance, was given permission to speak and stated that he wants to know why he was being called a mass of people as a resident. Commissioner Banks stated that he is not calling just him a mass of people but he is talking about the entire Town. Commissioner Banks stated that he represents a mass of people as well and he

gives them his honest vote. Commissioner Smith asked Town Manager Savage what it will take to the Budget balanced in 2020. Town Manager Savage stated that the Operating budget will be a deficit of approximately \$360,000 but acknowledged that there will be other variables that will be come up between now and then that will affect the final figure. Town Manager Savage stated that after the census is completed in 2020 the Town has been told they will become a part of the Western Sussex MS4 program, which will involve new storm water regulations. This will almost certainly require another department in Public Works. Town Manager Savage stated that if they do not make up the difference with a tax increase then they will have to use Realty Transfer tax. Commissioner Carey posed the situation o the Town no longer receiving Tax in the future should the State modify or remove the percentage we get. Commissioner Tassone stated that the Town has more than enough for that year in Reserves to fund the budget.

B. Business License Ordinance

Town Manager Savage stated the Contractor License that is in place right now has a lot of gray area. Town Manager Savage stated that with the proposed Business License amendment, all businesses would have to register. However, if the Business is based within Bridgeville Town Limits, they would not have to pay the license fee. Town Manager Savage stated that the Town currently has regulations for home-based businesses, but has no idea how many there are or where they are located. The Commissioners had no questions or comments.

C. Floodplain Ordinance

Town Manager stated he had nothing new on this Ordinance. The Commissioners had no questions or comments.

D. Town Newsletter

Town Clerk, Ashley Walls, made a brief presentation regarding a new newsletter format. Ashley stated that currently, the Town does a quarterly newsletter with sponsors. She stated that she was proposing a monthly one page, two-sided newsletter. She stated that most of the municipalities do a front and back, while Bridgeville's runs about 10 pages quarterly. Ashley also stated that the Water and Sewer bills are now 1/18 of an inch too long to continue receiving a reduced postage amount, so if the newsletter is monthly the Town can put the newsletter in an envelope with the monthly water and sewer bills which would be done in-house. Ashley also talked about doing an article on the Commissioners and Employees so the residents can get to know everyone better. Ashley stated that when the Town gets an LED electronic sign outside, she can put information on it as well. There were no objections from the Commissioners on the proposal.

E. Town Garbage Service Contract

Town Manager Savage stated that Blue Hen bought out Peninsula, and upon review, they do not want to continue the agreement that Peninsula had with the Town. This issue is being reviewed by the Town attorney. There was no discussion among the Commissioners.

F. Miscellaneous

Sue Grenier, from the Economic Development Committee, discussed an artwork project with the Commissioners. Sue discussed artwork for the Traffic Signal Cabinets, crosswalks and intersections. She stated that she has been in contact with DelDot. Sue discussed using local artists or Woodbridge students to do the artwork. Sue discussed Dover getting grants for their artwork. Commissioner Smith asked about the design. Sue said that they can contact Woodbridge and ask them to come up with designs.

Town Manager Savage stated that the Town needs representation at the Western Sussex Chamber meetings.

Town Manager stated that Brookfield has a construction trailer that they have offered to give to the Town. The Town would have to move it, reassemble it and it would be used for the Water Department. Prices are being gathered.

Town Manager stated that Community Block Development grants are coming up and that Sussex County will have a public hearing at our December meeting.

Town Manager Savage stated that there is a dangerous building that has been brought up and that the Commissioners will need to appoint a Dangerous Building Committee.

Town Manager Savage stated that he received a letter of interest from Mr. Swarbrick from 207 S. Main in regards to serving on the Board of Adjustments.

IV. GOOD OF THE ORDER

None.

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V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn – Tassone; 2nd – Smith; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 05:59P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Smith, Commission Secretary

Ashley Walls, Transcriptionist

DRAFT