

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS OF BRIDGEVILLE APRIL 8, 2002 - 7:00 P.M. TOWN HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Conaway. Present: Commissioners Pat Correll, Earl Greason, Bill Jefferson and Margaret Sipple. The meeting opened with the flag salute and the Lord's Prayer.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Sipple made a motion to accept the March minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Correll and so carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Correll made a motion to accept the minutes from the special meeting on personnel matters of April 2, 2002. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Sipple and so carried.

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS

MOTION: Commissioner Correll made a motion to pay the monthly bills. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jefferson and carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION

President Conaway and the Commission presented Mr. Orlan Brown of the Bridgeville Public Library with a donation of \$1,000. Mr. Brown stated the donation would be used to purchase a new drop box.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Sussex County is sponsoring its twenty-fifth Annual Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday, May 7, 2002 at 7:30 AM. The breakfast will be held at the Cheer Community Center, at 20520 Sand Hill Road, Georgetown, De. Cost is \$11.00 per person. President Conaway and Commissioner Correll will attend.

2. Delmarva Rural Ministries is in the process of making loan applications for twelve new multi-family rental units. This project is an addition to the existing Elizabeth Cornish Landing Community.

3. A letter was received from The St. Paul Property and Liability Insurance Company reminding the Town a renewal application needed to be completed in the next thirty days.

V. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

* Written reports available.

1. Chief Allen Parsons said our officers will be helping the Seaford Police during the Chicken Festival in June.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Commissioner Jefferson reported topics discussed at the "Fireside Chat" held on March 26, 2002.

- a. Accumulated trash at 512 N. Cannon Street, 303 Second Street, 15 Oak Street, and the property on North Main Street owned by Michele Hopkins.
- b. Clean up is still in the process at the Mt. Calvary cemetery. The fire department will be notified to help burn the brush.
- c. Discussion held on unattended vacant homes.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28, 2002 at 7:00 PM.

2 Tax Sale-President Conaway explained the Town Ordinance clearly allows the Town the authority to go in and correct some of the problems with accumulated debris, unattended vacant lots and homes. The Town can hire someone to clean up the property or employees can be instructed to remove the debris. Cost of the removal of debris will be charged to the owner plus an administrative cost of \$100. If the charges are not paid it will be carried on the records and collected in the same manner as real estate taxes. If a second time is needed, everything remains in place except the administrative charges, which now becomes \$500.

Per the Town Attorney, the Town has the right to sell property for back taxes, and it can be free and clear in 60 days. The county provided Mr. Conaway with the steps they take in placing a lien on properties. If a lien is not satisfied, the county may take steps to sell the property. President Conaway stated that anyone who is making an effort to make payments on their taxes on a regular basis will not to be involved in this collection system. Past due tax notices with penalties are sent to residents in October, January and April. President Conaway explained that if the Commission agree to take these steps in May with the mail outs in June, any person who is delinquent two years will have a lien filed on their property with the idea that the property could be sold. No action taken.

3. Tree Program-Commissioner Sipple received the grant paperwork and, with the help of Mr. Bryan Hall, will have them completed by the end of April. Commissioner Correll explained that any Commissioner or employee who does work pertaining to trees must log their time starting April 1, 2002. All logged time can be applied toward the matching grant funding.

4. Wastewater- President Conaway and Commissioner Greason recently met with state and federal representatives as to the status of the Town's grant and loans. The state and federal government would like the Town to move forward on the spray irrigation program. Towns cannot discharge into a stream because of the Clean Air and Water Act. Under the preliminary numbers that were generated in February, substantial increases could be to a level of \$700 to \$900 a year for sewer which is more than the people of Bridgeville can stand.

Greenwood holds a contract signed several years ago with the Town of Bridgeville that gives them 10% of the 800,000 gallons a day the plant was rated to treat, but the plant does not treat near that amount. As a result, the Town of Greenwood is using about 80,000 gpd which puts them about a third user as opposed to what they are paying as 10%. This is a basic unfairness but there is an existing contract. However, the Farmers Home Administration has stated they will not provide the Town with any money if there isn't a fairness for every user. With such a stipulation, Greenwood people will definitely see an increase in their sewer fees because Bridgeville cannot not afford to lose the funding.

The Town was given six months to look for a spray site. Once spray sites have been determined and the cost of those sites, then the Town can figure what additional money will be needed. President Conaway said the state and federal government needs to give the Town more money for this program because of the population.

President Conaway reported that according to the Town's Engineer Annie Williams, Kenny Farms, Inc. has an 18,000 gallon a day surplus which the Town could tag into but the Town pumps 200,000 gpd. Pic-Sweet which is locating in Cannon will also be using a spray irrigation system.

5. Tax Appeal Day-Commissioner Sipple reported no one reported a complaint.

6. Street Construction-Commissioner Sipple will contact Jerry's Paving to see when the street repairs will begin. Residents living on Walnut, Cannon, Second Streets and Delaware Avenue should be notified in advance of the street repairs.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. President Conaway reported Senator Thurman Adams is willing to help the Town again with the Suburban Street Project. A list of projects needs to be compiled. Three projects so far are: 1) The Town has leased the parking lot from St. Mary's Episcopal Church to be used as a public parking lot which needs to be repaved, 2) Mt.

Calvary Church people are interested in the same leasing arrangement, 3) Bill Hartzell would like to see a drainage problem corrected on Cedar Street.

The following repairs or installing of new sidewalks were discussed: 1) Gum Street, 2) Sidewalks installed from Elliott Drive to Jacobs Avenue and along the fence by the football field on Sussex Avenue, 3) Sidewalk repairs on Edgewood Street, 4) Repaving alley next to Adams Feed Mill.

2. Main Street Program-President Conaway appointed Commissioner Correll to look into the program and see what opportunities are available for Bridgeville. Commissioner Greason has some ideas that might be useful.

3. Fence Ordinance- President Conaway explained the current fence ordinance reads that any size fence can be installed on a property. Corner lots only allowed to have a 3' fence. The Commission agreed to amend the current ordinance to state only a 3' fence is allowed across the front yard. No fence permits to be signed until the amendment is in place.

4. Unlicensed Vehicles-Commissioner Jefferson discussed the current ordinance states an unlicensed vehicle is not allowed to remain on a property. There are some people who restore old vehicles but are not licensed during the restoration period. He would like to see the ordinance allow one or two vehicles remain on a property either by being covered or stored in a neatly appearance (not a litter object). After much discussion, President Conaway will have an amendment drawn up for review.

Commissioner Correll is concerned with people parking their vehicles in the front yard.

5. Emergency Call Number-The Town has no one on call for after work hour emergencies. It has been suggested by a resident that an emergency number be implemented for such emergencies. No action was taken but the Commission was asked by President Conaway to be thinking about the matter.

6. A black type plastic was turned inⁱⁿ the Town Hall by a residents complaining that pieces of the plastic is blowing all over Town. Commissioner Sipple stated it is from the watermelon field on Rt. 17. Alma Fleetwood to contact DNREC, Solid Waste Division, tomorrow.

7. The manager of the new Food Lion Store has asked the police department to have a booth with finger printing on the Grand Opening day, April 17th. President Conaway stated the department should cooperate. All Commissioners have been invited to the 8:00 AM Grand Opening.

8. Commissioner Sipple will get prices on thatching and seeding the lawn around the Town Hall and the park area across the street.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Sipple made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jefferson and so carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret W. Sipple

**Margaret W. Sipple
Commission Secretary**