

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS OF BRIDGEVILLE APRIL 9, 2001 - 7:00 PM TOWN HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Joseph Conaway: Present: Commissioners Margaret Sipple, Pat Correll, Earl Greason and Bill Jefferson. The meeting started with a salute to the flag.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Sipple made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jefferson and unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS

MOTION: Commissioner Correll made a motion accept the bills as presented (see attached). Motion was seconded by Commissioner Sipple and carried unanimously.

Department supervisors will be submitting their 2002 budget on May 14, 2001. The following dates are set for budget workshops: May 21 (department presentations), May 30 (workshop), June 5 (budget introduced), and June 11 (budget discussion and adoption).

President Conaway stated the Town is almost to its taxable limit and a time will come when the Commission will have to approach the General Assembly for an increase from \$200,000 to an appropriate figure. The new proposed shopping center would generate \$422,000 in taxable assessment. At the Town's \$1.83 tax rate the center would generate \$7,722.60. Senator Thurman Adams has agreed to introduce the bill to the General Assembly when the Town believes it necessary.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

1. The Seaford Chamber of Commerce will host a luncheon for Senator Thomas Carper on Thursday, April 12, 2001 at the Seaford Golf and Country Club.

2. Department of Natural Resource will be spraying for mosquito control April 7 through April 9, 2001.

3. A letter was received from Mrs. Dot Banning congratulating the new Commissioners on the good work they are doing for the Town, and stated she enjoys the quarterly newsletter. She also would like to see several areas in Town cleaned up.

4. A letter was received from Comcast announcing an increase in their monthly charge for addressable converters from \$1.51 to \$1.80. This is their first rate increase in over two years. Effective date is May 1, 2001.

5. President Conaway presented an article that appeared in the Delaware Business Magazine pertaining to Woodbridge High School's Early Childhood Education program. The program is under the leadership of Mrs. Rita Hovermale.

V. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. Written department reports available (see attached).

2. Wastewater-Commissioner Greason reported on the updated list of needed repairs at the wastewater treatment plant (see attached). All the buildings at the W.W.T.P. leak rain water. The approximate cost for new roofing material on all buildings is \$30,000.

President Conaway said the Commission needs to set aside money for repairs.

3. Streets-Commissioner Sipple reported she had received word from DelDOT that they would be repairing the bulkhead located on North Main Street.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. The Federal Flood Insurance Program ordinance will be presented at the May meeting.

2. Commissioner Sipple had no report regarding the handicap signs being placed on the west side of the firehall. Mr. Pete Stephen was to contact the Board of Election to see if a temporary sign would be sufficient. No action taken.

3. A letter was received from Mr. and Mrs. Harry Demott, Dr. Kevin Carson, and Mr. and Mrs. Peter Marcarvage opposing making John Street one-way from the library toward Main Street. After discussing the matter the Commission decided to leave John Street as it stands.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. President Conaway reported on Governor Minner's "Livable Delaware" program. There are parts of the program that cause some concern. One concern is the graduated impact statements. President Conaway will be meeting next week with a staff member from Governor's Minner's office to discuss certain matters.

a. Governor Minner will be forming an advisory committee to study a lot of the issues.

b. The Governor will be strengthening the land use planning act by requiring developers of major projects to attend pre-application meetings.

c. The Governor wants to change the "open-space funding" formula.

President Conaway said one of the things the Governor is proposing to do is control over annexation. He is concerned over there being state wide standards for annexation.

One annexation request has been received from a property owner. After some discussion the Commission decided to contact landowners who have land bordering the Town limits to see if there is any interest in annexing. President Conaway explained the property owners would not pay Town taxes until the property was improved or Town services were extended.

Commissioner Greason stated the next time DNREC assesses property of residents outside of Town they might be told their system is no longer adequate.

MOTION: Commissioner Sipple made a motion to send contiguous property owners a letter asking if they would be interested in annexing into Bridgeville under the same conditions as the previous annexation (no taxes paid to the Town until improvements appear on the land). Motion was seconded by Commissioner Greason and carried unanimously.

2. President Conaway discussed with Mr. Ken McDowell, Department of Election, regarding absentee ballots for Bridgeville elections. After reviewing a copy of Laurel's absentee balloting procedures, the Commission decided to submit the information to the Town Solicitor, and have him draw up the proper absentee balloting procedures for Bridgeville.

After some discussion the Commission decided to have the Town Solicitor check the procedures for registering to vote in Town elections.

3. President Conaway reported the issues discussed at the March Fireside Chat pertained to burning in Town, tall grass, trash on properties, and the mural on the east wall of the Dollar General. Commissioner Correll will ask the high school art department if they would be interested in refurbishing the art work on the wall of the building.

4. Discussion was held pertaining to employees receiving compensatory time rather than overtime or arrange their work schedule when asked to attend Town meetings. If overtime becomes necessary the employee would have it approved by the Commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Jefferson made a motion that the Personnel Policy state that all employees, when asked to appear in front of the Commission, will either adjust

their work schedule or take compensatory time. If overtime is necessary the employee will make a valid point to the Commission. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Greason and carried unanimously.

The Commission and employees will hold their quarterly meeting on Thursday, April 26, 2001 at 8:00 AM in the Town Hall.

5. Complaints have been received concerning the accumulated debris in back yard and the partying that takes place at 102 N. Main Street. The residents have now expanded their activities into the public parking lot. The Commission decided to install "no loitering" and "no overnight" parking signs at the site. A second letter will be sent to the residents giving them five days to get the property in compliance or court action will be filed. President Conaway stated it is not fair to the people of Bridgeville that have to tolerate this type of living conditions in their neighborhood.

6. President Conaway reported the newly formed Citizen's Advisory Committee presented many good suggestions for this community. Discussion was held pertaining to a county constable here, building permits and the life of a permit, fire department members talked about smoke alarms in homes, annexation, speed way on Jacobs Avenue, and it was suggested to form an economical development committee (President Conaway talked with Mr. Frank Calio, County Economic Development Director).

Discussion was held regarding placing stop stops at the corner of Jacobs Avenue and South Laws, and at the corner of South Laws Street and Jacobs Avenue. Commissioner Sipple will bring suggestions on correcting the problem to the May meeting.

Commissioner Jefferson stated signs will be placed on the corner of Cedar and Laws Streets which will keep cars from parking next to the intersection. He is waiting to receive permission from the property owner to see if the Town can place the sign on his property.

7. President Conaway reported Rural Ministries has revised their plans for the addition to the Elizabeth Cornish Landing complex. Last month the Commission approved the two new buildings (12 units) that Rural Ministries was requesting. Now they want to increase the units to 28. President Conaway has talked with the Delaware State Housing Authority (who gives them the money) who told Rural Ministries they would not support their application for a 28 unit complex. The Delaware State Housing Authority looks at the impact on communities, and the impact in Bridgeville has been substantial with what is already located here. After much discussion, the Commission decided to send a letter to Rural Ministries stating the Town is not in support of the 28 unit complex.

8. President Conaway reported the corner lot at S. Main and Market Streets has been sold to Duncan Petroleum. The old gas station will be converted into a modern convenient store with a second floor being added for an apartment.

9. There will be a rezoning hearing on April 12, 2001 regarding the Short Property located on North Main Street.

VIII. CITIZEN'S PRIVILEGE

1. Mr. Bob Slater commended the Commission on their actions taken on changing the election laws for Bridgeville. Through experience when he was on the Commission, he cautioned the Commission when dealing with Rural Ministries.

2. Commissioner Correll extended appreciation to Watha Hostetler and Alma Fleetwood for their efficient work at the recent SCAT meeting in Georgetown. President Conaway thanked Commissioner Correll for her effort in making the SCAT meeting a success.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

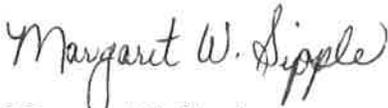
President Conaway stated three matters would be discussed in the executive session: police matters, Pet Poultry tax issue, and litigation matter (deals with previous actions from the former Commission). MOTION: Commissioner Sipple made a motion to adjourn to executive session. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Correll and so carried.

President Conaway called the regular meeting back into session at 9:05 PM. Discussion was held on police personnel matters, and the litigation matter will be turned over to the Town Solicitor for his review.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Margaret W. Sipple
Commission Secretary