

Regular Meeting
February 10, 1992
7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by President Slater at 7:00 P.M.

Commissioners present were G. Torbert, C. Royal, A. Rizzo.

Guests present were Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth McDowell, Daryl Tull, W.J. Mars, Pam Slater, Karen Crosby, Lamone Ford, M. Flynn, Neva McClarey, Art & Sheryl Savard, Barbara Chaffinch, H. Hardesty, Steven Heder, Mike Heder.

The approval of bills was not done due to Commissioner Crockett being out of Town.

Commissioner Torbert mad a motion to read the minutes from the previous meetings at all meetings from this day forward. Motion was second by Commissioner Rizzo. Approved.

President Slater stated that the Commissioners had received a letter from John Scott. In the letter it states that President Slater had not answered any correspondence. President Slater stated that he has spoken to Mr. Scott on the phone on many occasions. Commissioner Torbert asked why there had not been any correspondence sent, President Slater said that he did not see any reason to send correspondence from the Commissioners. Mr. Scott is requesting reimbursement for expenses incurred. This is being handled by Dennis Schrader the Town Solicitor.

There will be a planning meeting scheduled for the Commissioner's before the block hearing at the BVFD. At this time the Commissioners will approve the bills for the month.

Commissioner Royal reported about the trash containers that have been installed in Bridgeville. Signs have been ordered stating the fines for littering.

Commissioner Torbert reported that the water line was installed on John Street. The cost was a savings to the Town by the work being done by our employees instead of bidding the job out. Leaks and meters were also repaired last month at four different residence.

Commissioner Rizzo reported that the WWT plant has received a clean bill of health. For the inspection from DNREC there were two small things reported. One, the thermometer was not kept at the certain temp and secondly the dislodged oxygen

storage was not up to par. Currently we have been disposing our sludge at the DSWA at a considerable cost. Rizzo is contacting farmers as to taking the sludge and will report progress.

Police Report- Not Present

Commissioner Royal told everyone that the Town of Bridgeville has a problem with trash. The ordinances for trash need to be enforced. Commissioner Rizzo said that maybe the landlords should be responsible for the trash that their tenants have on the property. Barbara Chaffinch stated that the land lords should not be responsible. Each person should be made responsible for his/her trash. The Town has looked into central trash pickup, but if this route is taken everyone will be paying for this service in the long run in taxes. The regulations will be enforced in the future. The Town of Greenwood has centralized trash pick up at this time. Greenwood has been discussing the termination of this due to cost. This would be a considerable investment for the Town. Royal said that this could work if the public would want this service.

Walter Mars stated that Jacobs Ave. is in need of repair. Twenty six school buses travel up and down this street every day. This is one of the reasons for the road being in need of repair every year. There is an alternate route that the buses could use. Royal said that he has already been looking into this problem. The money has been appropriated for the repair by the Commissioners.

Daryl Tull stated that in the past fourteen months the bills have not been approved. Daryl wants to know the reason for this. President Slater stated that the Commissioner's do not approve the bills when all of them are not present. Slater also stated that he does not think that it has not been nine times out of fourteen months and he will check the minutes. A motion was made by Commissioner Royal and second by Commissioner Rizzo to approve the bills at the Commissioners meetings from this day forward when there are at least four Commissioners present. Approved.

Barbara Chaffinch stated that this was her second anniversary to request her right to vote as a tax payer and property owner, both residential and commercial ion the Town of Bridgeville. She approached the Commission two years ago and again at the November meeting in 1991. Mrs. Chaffinch

asked the Commissioners for an update on the right to vote. President Slater stated that they have talked about this extensively, he talked to our attorney approximately one year ago. The Town's Attorney also represents Rehoboth Beach. Dennis Schrader told the Commissioner to stay away from this voting. Chaffinch answered that there are people paying taxes that should have the right to vote. Slater asked how many people she was speaking for. She said that was not the point, people paying taxes should be smart enough to know that there is taxation and not representation. Chaffinch said that her problem is that she does pay taxes in this town and that she wants the right to vote. Her next question was, what are we afraid of. Slater asked how she wanted the right to vote. She stated that if she owns property she wants the right to vote. Slater asked Mrs. Chaffinch how many votes that she was requesting. She said that if two names are on the deed that both of them should get a vote. Slater asked that if there are fifteen names on the deed to the property would all fifteen people get a vote. Mrs. Chaffinch stated that she lives on the outskirts of town, but owns property within the town limits and that she does not know what the problem is. Commissioner Royal said that traveling through out the Country he has been to a lot of Towns. There has been times that Municipalities have existed and that non residents wanted to come in and vote as a corporation. If there are more than one persons name on the corporation then each person will be entitled to a vote. Mrs. Chaffinch stated that last year there were only 149 people in this Town that voted. She said that there is 595 people registered to vote. Mrs. Chaffinch said that she wants the legal right to vote, she pays taxes, she is not delinquent, and owns both residential and commercial property within the Town limits. Mrs Chaffinch also stated that Seaford allows out of town voters. Also out of six Towns that she contacted, four of these Towns allow out of Town Commissioners. Mrs. Chaffinch said that if there were people beating the doors down to vote maybe we would feel that we didn't need her vote, this is not the issue. The issue is that she is a taxpayer and does not live in Arizona, if she lived in Arizona she could see us not giving her the right to vote. She also stated that if our Attorney does not want to move with progress maybe the Town should get a new Attorney. Kenneth McDowell stated that he lives two doors out of Town and would also have the right to vote, he agrees with Barbara and could produce petitions of all of the people who want to vote. He feels that these people do invest and put money into the Town and would like to vote.

also as President Slater stated she is the one and only person that is interested in voting and we do not have anyone else to worry about. Commissioner Torbert said that before he votes yes or no he would like to canvas the town. He feels that this would only be fair since he is an elected official of the Town. Rizzo told Torbert that he had made a suggestion to Slater about having a referendum on this subject. This way people of the Town will express their view in the referendum. Dr. Mars said that if we have a meeting that the Commissioners need to have their data ready before the citizens are told. President Slater said that the Commissioners have not had time to get information together and that Mrs. Chaffinch just called this week and wanted everything ready. Mrs. Chaffinch said that she resented this comment and that she would not have been calling if this situation had been worked on and that there was some movement in the direction of solving it. Chaffinch said she is a tax payer and that we have to give her the right to represent herself with a vote. Neva McClarey asked Mrs. Chaffinch what her address was, Barabara said that it was RD 1 Greenwood. Mrs. Chaffinch asked what her point was, her and Mr. Mars wanted to know if she had voted in the Greenwood election. Mrs. Chaffinch said no, she did not vote but, she was not concerned about Greenwood, only Bridgeville. Mr. McDowell said that before the Commissioners canvas the Town, he could get friends to come in and state their opinions. McDowell suggested that the Commissioners put this on ballots at the next election. This way it will be put to a vote and be fair to everyone. President Slater and Rizzo were in agreement with this suggestion. The Board of Elections would put this on the ballots at no charge. It would have to be put on a separate machine. Steve Heder said that we should have a Town meeting on this topic, to give everyone a chance to discuss it. Rizzo agreed with Mr. Heder. Mrs. Chaffinch Commissioner Rizzo made a motion that within the next two months a meeting will be scheduled with all of the facts available for the public. Then the decision as to whether or not this will be placed on the ballot for the next election and the referendum to be held would be made. The Amendment to the motion is a meeting within sixty days, present the facts to the people of the Town of Bridgeville, then they will hold a special referendum within six months of this date, then the Charter will be changed.

Steve Heder stated that St. Judes Hospital approached him and he has excepted the challenge of having a bike a thon

Commissioner Rizzo said that he agrees with everyone. They do not live within the Town limits, but care about the Town. He also stated that it will take Legislative action to have the Town Charter changed. Mrs. Chaffinch has already been in touch with Rep. Benjamin Ewing and read a letter in response to this from him. It states that Charter changes are made post haste when request are made to the General Assembly by me from Municipalities in the 31st District and sponsored by Senator Thurman Adams located in the 19th District. All changes must be done by the Delaware Code. It goes on to say that this request must be made by March 1st when the Legislature goes back in session. Commissioner Royal asked if Rep. Ewing stated an approximate cost to change the Charter. Royal stated that the approx. cost will be around \$7,000.00. Rizzo also said that there are some other changes in the Charter that the Commission is considering. Mrs. Chaffinch said that she understands but, her husband has asked every Commissioner that has been elected to the Commission since 1985. Mrs. Chaffinch said that she would like to change the word citizen to tax payer in the Charter. She would like for this to come to a vote and let the citizens of the Town vote. She said that she has tried to do this very professionally. Howard Hardesty said that the way he feels is this. If they do not live in the community and own half of the Town he does not want any body living outside of the community telling him how to live. Mrs. Chaffinch answered by saying " oh, Howard". Mr. Flynn asked how many people other than Mrs. Chaffinch would there be wanting to vote. President Slater said that he did not know at this time. President Slater said that he did not oppose this, he opposed everyone on the deed getting to vote individually and that nothing will change his mind. He does not oppose a property owner getting one vote, this is only fair, said Slater. Barbara said that she would not be opposed to setting a restriction as to you must live in Sussex County. Rizzo said that if it was changed you must give everyone that is a tax payer the right to vote. Rizzo suggested that maybe we should have a referendum and let the people of the Town speak. The Commissioners only represent the people of the Town. Barbara said that there are approximately fifteen business owners that live on the out skirts of town, she only lives three miles from town. Mrs. Chaffinch said that Mrs. Pusey will be getting a list of these people for her. Art Savard said that this could be problems. He feels that some people may purchase property just to get a vote. Mrs. Chaffinch said that she is not asking for the right to vote to tell people how to live,

for the Greenwood Bridgeville area. It will be a two mile course. This will be a fund raiser for the hospital. He will need approval from the Town to have a section blocked off. President Slater told him to get his information together and get together with Commissioner Royal.

Mrs. Chaffinch thanked Commissioner Royal for taking care of her alley way problem. She also said that the maps with information at Town Hall needed to be changed or thrown away. They are from 1990 the only Commissioner left on the map is President Slater. Slater told her that the Town did not make the maps and that maybe the County will make new ones. She made notes on it and left it with the Commissioners. Mrs. Chaffinch said that we have structures located within the Town that are in very poor condition. Two of these houses are located on Main Street. Mrs. Chaffinch stated that the Town should carry out the ordinances or remove them. Rizzo stated that this was already brought up at the beginning of the meeting. The Commissioner are trying to come up with a solution to the houses on Main Street that are causing a problem. Steven Heder said that maybe we could contact some of the Churches and other organizations to help with the houses. Mrs. Chaffinch said that the houses are in such bad shape that they need more than a facial. They should almost be considered as health hazards. President Slater said that it has been discussed for the Town to name an inspector. If we have our own inspector the Town could start condemning some of these houses. Questions were also asked about the stream and small green houses located on the edge of Town on RT 404. Letters have been sent to condemn the properties and to clean up the stream.

Mrs. Chaffinch also told the Commissioners about the sign on RT 13 that was destroyed. Phillip signs will be giving an estimate on the damages to the sign. There is \$1,550.00 left in the account for the signs. This will not buy the other signs because we bought posts for \$250.00. The signs are located at the North and South ends of Bridgeville. The signs are done in burgundy and gold leaf. The sign by McDonalds is the one that was destroyed. She called the troop to find out what happened to the sign. The troop feels that it was a large white pick-up traveling south bound. The troop is willing to do an investigation to find out who hit the sign. If we can find out who it was maybe the insurance will pay for the sign. Mr. Royal asked about the fund. The Town allocated \$3,600.00 for four signs at nine hundred

dollars a piece, two were made and when we had them made we paid \$240.00 for the posts. Phillips Signs in Seaford made them. Mrs. Chaffinch wanted to know if we had insurance on the sign. President Slater said that we do not have insurance on the signs.

Mrs. Chaffinch also asked about the news letter that she had offered to do for the Town over a year ago. She is still willing to do the letter. If the Town is going to send a news letter out in the future she would like to have a chance to do it for them.

Sussex Recovery that are trying to buy our old Police station told the Commissioner that they have been denied by two banks that they normally bank with. They presented a proposal to the Commissioners that they will take possession of the building at which time they will pay the twenty percent, and after two years they would have enough equity in the property to obtain the money. They do obtain financial backing and over \$300,000.00 in assets. They have tried everyone to get financing. The type of work that Sussex Recovery does is repossession of vehicles and a collection agency. They are actually asking the Town of Bridgeville to hold the mortgage short term and to lease in the meantime. This way they will finance within two years, twenty four months. President Slater said that this should be taken in for discussion. At present time this company is located in Seaford, De. Mrs. Crockett asked if the proposal that was presented to the Commissioners was public knowledge. President Slater said that it will be made public at a later date and will be in the minutes.

Mrs. Chaffinch stated that when she talked to Mildred Pusey this week she learned that Mrs. Pusey has a lot of information in her head, she does a fantastic job. However, in the case of retirement or whatever Barbara is wandering if anyone has thought of getting this information on paper. Barbara also thanked the Commissioners for a smoke free environment at the meeting and if the tapes from the meeting are stored or taped over. President Slater said that they are probably recorded over after the minutes are typed. The reason that she asked this is no one can find on the tapes when she was present two years ago. Barbara stated that the tapes should be dated and stored chronologically. Slater said that we will look in to this.

A motion was made by Commissioner Royal and second by Commissioner Torbert to go into executive session. Approved.