

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS OF BRIDGEVILLE DECEMBER 13, 1999 - 7:00 P.M. TOWN HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Jack Dalton at 7:02 P.M. Present were: Commissioner Margaret Sipple, Commissioner Willie Pierce and Commissioner Charles Singman. Absent was Commissioner Glenn Miles. The meeting started with a salute to the flag.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Dalton said the minutes of the November 8, 1999 meeting have been posted and without objection accepted as posted.

III. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS

MOTION: Commissioner Singman made a motion to pay bills as presented (see attached). Motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and carried unanimously.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. CORRESPONDENCE

1. A luncheon will be held on January 4, 2000 at the Sussex Pines Country Club in Georgetown, De. to unveil the 2000 edition of the Sussex County Profile. Commissioners Dalton, Singman and Sipple will be attending.

2. There were numerous reports received from Pet Poultry Products pertaining to their discharge permits into the Town's facility.

B. DEPARTMENT REPORTS.

1. Police-(see attached) Commissioner Singman reported there were 135 traffic arrests and 12 criminal arrests. Commissioner Singman said the department's revenues are based on the number of tickets and the fine amounts placed on the tickets. He said it is not always a guarantee all that money will be collected for the Town because sometimes the courts will set aside the Town's fine and give it to the state. Commissioner Singman explained that it is a two or three month wait for ticket revenues to come in. While the budget looks like it is out of balance, it is because the revenues have not caught up with the

expenditures for the total year. He said the tickets have increased significantly over last year. Any revenue that comes in after June will not be credited to this year but to the following year. Commissioner Singman said the police department does not see any unfunded expenditures in the next several months. The department is still projecting a deficit of \$88,000 for the year.

Commissioners Singman said officers will be on duty 24 hours a day on January 1, 2000. If we should lose power, the officers will set up headquarters in the fire hall. He said this has been cleared with the fire department.

Commissioner Singman reminded the Commission that several months ago they voted to allow the police department to purchase new uniforms. The uniforms should be arriving in February. Most of the cost will be paid out of grant money and through existing funds (budgetary line item). There might be a couple of hundred dollars that will not be covered by the grant money.

Chief Allen Parsons is still trying to determine which computer system will be the best to install in our patrol cars.

2. Waste Water-(see attached) Commissioner Singman reported an average daily flow of .17 million gallons. There was one septic hauler for a revenue of \$1,628. The water leak under the lime silo has been repaired. The stream bank near the plant entrance is still eroding and still needs repair as reported last month. A contractor bid has been received to repair that area with fill dirt, soil cloth, rip-rap, top-soil and labor for \$1,400. If more stone is needed the cost is \$800 per 10 linear feet (two to four loads of stone should complete the job). The total repair cost is approximately \$4,600.

Commissioner Singman reported the heaters in the water transfer plant have been repaired. This repair will be paid out of the sewer sinking fund. He reported that the treatment plant is Y2K compliant. Should there be a power failure, the plant will be run by generators.

Commissioner Singman said he is still waiting to hear from Mr. Dennis Schrader regarding Pet Poultry Products and their continuing violations. President Dalton said he would contact Mr. Schrader to try and get action taken on this matter.

Commissioner Singman received an application from Mr. Rick Clifton asking for approval to tie into the sewer system for a new home on Earlee Avenue. Commissioner Singman said he would write the approval letter to Mr. Clifton.

3. Drinking Water-Commissioner Pierce reported the average daily use of water was 110,350 gallons. The total income for November was \$11,062.37 with expenses of \$5,809.52.

4. Streets-Commissioner Sipple reported that new sidewalks have been installed on Cannon Street. The contractor is suppose to return this week to complete the project.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. President Dalton reported a contract has been signed for the property at 103 S. Main Street to Mrs. Barbara O'Leary for \$46,000. The settlement date is Thursday,

December 16, 1999. He said all the money will be used to retire a portion of the \$200,000 debt that was borrowed a few year ago.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. **AGENDA ADJUSTMENT-** A waste hauler renewal application was received from Donald Jones for sewage disposal for the coming year. **MOTION:** Commissioner Singman made a motion to accept the application. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Sipple and carried unanimously.

2. President Dalton said the Town deactivated the alderman court about eighteen months ago. Not knowing what the state was going to do, the Town did not close it officially. He explained that because we are listed as having an alderman court there are incidents where certain matters cannot be settled in magistrate court because of our alderman court. After some discussion a motion was brought to the floor. **MOTION:** Commissioner Singman made a motion to delete the alderman court from the Town of Bridgeville. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Sipple and carried unanimously.

3. A letter was received from Conectiv Communications explaining the percentages the Town might save if we sign up with their telephone service. President Dalton said he would like to see how other towns are making out with this new service before any changes made. **MOTION:** Commissioner Singman made a motion to table the matter until a later date. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Sipple and carried unanimously.

4. The Department of Transportation would like to give the Town the parcel of land located at the corner of Main and Market Street. The department has agreed to a gratis transfer, subject to the following conditions: 1. The land remaining for public use; 2. If DELDOT ever needs any portion of the land for a highway improvement it will be dedicated by the Town, to the Department. **MOTION:** Commissioner Sipple made a motion to accept the land offer from DELDOT for zero dollars. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Singman and carried unanimously.

5. President Dalton announced Comcast has finalized the pricing for equipment, service and the Limited and Full Standard cable channel lineups for the coming year. Effective January 1, 2000 they will adjust the price of the cable services for Bridgeville. The new prices represent an average increase of 4 percent in a customer's total monthly cable bill.

6. The Woodbridge High School football team won the Southern Division this year and advanced to the state playoffs. Because of their accomplishments, Commissioner Singman suggested a resolution be adopted in their honor. **MOTION:** Commissioner Singman made a motion to adopt the resolution. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Sipple and carried unanimously. Commissioner Singman will present the resolution during an assembly at the Woodbridge High School on Friday, December 17, 1999.

7. A letter was received from the American Institute for Public Service pertaining to the Jefferson Award. They are honored that The News Journal is their media sponsor in Delaware. This gives us the privilege to nominate someone from the Town for the award if we ever decide to do so.

8. President Dalton explained that each full-time employee is eligible for sick leave at the rate of one day per month of service up to a maximum of 90 days. As it reads in the employee policy manual, an employee must not take leave any smaller than one half of a day. MOTION: Commissioner Singman made a motion to allow employees to take sick leave by the hour as needed and to reflect the change in the manual. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Sipple and carried unanimously.

9. President Dalton said only three candidates filed for the three Commission positions. Therefore, there will be no need to hold an election on January 8, 2000. The 1-year term was filled by Glenn Miles. Two, 2-year terms have been filled by Margaret Sipple and Earl Greason.

VII. CITIZEN'S PRIVILEGE

1. Mr. Lester Williams asked why the new sidewalks were only four inches thick instead of six. President Dalton explained that the job was awarded based on a six inch pour on each driveway. After finding out some sidewalks were poured four inches, the problem was corrected. For those that were poured incorrectly, the company has agreed to replace any driveways that may receive damage in the future at their charge.

President Dalton said the work on the handicap ramp at Town Hall should start next week. He thanked Rep. Ben Ewing and Sen. Thurman Adams for their generous contributions for the sidewalks and handicap ramp.

2. Mr. Philip Davis said he would like to see guardrails along the curve on Cannon Street.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Commissioner Singman made a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel matters. Motion seconded by Commissioner Sipple and so carried.

President Dalton called the meeting back to order at 8:10 P.M. There were no votes taken in executive session.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Singman thanked Commissioner Pierce for serving out the term of Mr. Charles Royal.

MOTION: Commissioner Singman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Sipple and so carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret W. Sipple

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Secretary

Correction of the above -

*Mr. Pierce replaced Harry Willey.
Not Mr. Charles Royal. M.S.*