

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS OF BRIDGEVILLE JULY 10, 2000 - 7:00 P.M. TOWN HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by President Jack Dalton. Present were Commissioners Margaret Sipple, Glenn Miles and Earl Greason. Absent was Commissioner Charles Singman. The meeting started with a salute to the flag.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:

President Dalton stated that a charter change would be discussed under New Business.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Dalton said the minutes from the June, 2000 meeting have been posted. There being no corrections or additions the minutes were accepted as presented.

III. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS

President Dalton suggested that for the first couple of months of the new budget and until taxes are included, that bills be paid as funds are available. MOTION: Commissioner Greason made a motion to pay the bills with the caveat that they be paid as tax revenues become available. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Miles and carried unanimously.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. CORRESPONDENCE

1. On August 24, 2000 the Shorebirds will be hosting their 1st Annual Big Buddy Night. The tickets purchased will allow economically disadvantaged and mentally challenged children and adults to attend a baseball game.

2. A letter was received from the Delaware State Housing Authority reporting that \$30,000 was allotted in Bridgeville last year through the Community Development Block Grant (CDGB) Funds.

3. The Delaware Solid Waste Authority will be holding a public hearing on Thursday, July 20, 2000 in Dover, De. pertaining to the proposed revision to the Statewide User Fee for Tires for Fiscal Year 2001.

4. President Dalton moved the Apple-Scrapple Festival sponsorship letter to new business.

5. Several reports were received from RAPA and Cannon Cold Store.

B. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. Police (see attached)-Commissioner Greason reported there were 305 traffic arrests for the month of June. There were two trucks stopped in Town during that month. Total complaints were 139.

2. Wastewater (see attached)-Commissioner Greason reported an average daily flow of .195 million gallons a day. There were three septic haulers for a revenue of \$1,792. He said he would like to see more septic haulers use our facility. Commissioner Greason said he would like to be more competitive with other treatment plants regarding user fees, but that cannot be done until the Town Code is changed.

The E.P.A. Pretreatment Audit was conducted on June 20, 2000 by Mr. John Lovell the I.P.A. Region III Pretreatment Coordinator. The Town will be receiving a copy of the report in the near future.

Commissioner Greason commented that last month the Commissioners voted to fine Cannon Cold Storage \$100 a day for a report received three days after the due date. After looking in the charter, Commissioner Greason reported that as long as the document was post marked on the due date it is acceptable. President Dalton said he notified Cannon Cold Storage there would be no fine.

Commissioner Greason said he would like to see the Commission and the property owners who are not hooked to the sewer system work together when a situation arises again as it did with Mr. Daryl Tull and his property on Rt. 404.

3. Drinking Water (see attached)-Commissioner Miles reported there was 3,898,000 gallons of water supplied in June. The average daily water supply was 130,000 gallons. He said we should proceed with the purchase of the fluoride saturator equipment as reimbursement money from the State of Delaware becomes available to the Town.

4. Streets-Commissioner Sipple said there are plans to pave the unpaved strip on South Cannon Street between the new sidewalk and the road. She is in the process of getting quotes on cutting down the trees along Gum Street. Commissioner Sipple said she talked with the owner of Triangle Oil, and hopefully something will be done with the building in the near future.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. After some discussion on the motion made last month pertaining to the violation of charging \$100 a day to Cannon Cold Storage for their tardiness of a document, it was decided to rescind the motion. MOTION: Commissioner Greason rescinded his motion made at the June, 2000 meeting regarding the late charges to Cannon Cold Storage. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Sipple and carried unanimously.

2. The annual membership of \$650 is due to the Delaware League of Local Governments by July 1, 2000. MOTION: Commissioner Sipple made a motion to pay the membership dues of \$650 as funds become available. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Greason and carried unanimously.

3. President Dalton explained that the total cost of the Comprehensive Planning Study would be \$29,887 but the University of Delaware would discount \$14,944 as their contribution. The Town would qualify for a \$5,000 grant from the state making the total outlay for the Comprehensive Plan \$9,944. President Dalton read Resolution #00-1 which will allow the university to submit a grant application to the state. MOTION: Commissioner Sipple made a motion to approve and adopt Resolution #00-1 as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Greason and carried unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. A request from Mr. Raymond Taylor to close a block on N. Cannon Street (between First and Second Streets) a couple of times a month for special church events was discussed. It was agreed to allow the church to hold their events on First Street which would allow North Cannon Street to remain open. The first event will be held on Saturday, July 22, 2000. MOTION: Commissioner Sipple made a motion to allow the church to block off First Street between Cannon and Gum Streets on July 22, 2000. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Greason and carried unanimously. Mr. Taylor is to report the success of the event to the Commission next month.

2. President Dalton explained that the Town Charter states the Town is not allowed to collect more than \$200,000 in tax revenue. Because of the continuing rise in cost to run each department, it is becoming impossible to run the Town with the present tax rate. President Dalton said he believes it is time to look into a charter change that would allow the availability of funds to maintain the Town. He will report at the August meeting with information regarding the increase of tax revenues and what is necessary to accomplish a charter change.

3. President Dalton stated it is the Town Attorney's opinion that a resolution be in place authorizing the Town to offer the services for trash collection before community wide trash collection is offered. That resolution should be ready for the August meeting. In the meantime bids will be sent to contractors.

VII. CITIZEN'S PRIVILEGE

1. Mr. Joe Conaway said he is concerned about the deficit budget. He said per the Town Charter the Commission is in violation of the budget they presented last month. Mr. Conaway said changing the Town Charter regarding tax revenue will not help this budget year. That change cannot be presented until January and will not become effective until the next tax year. He asked how much effort is going into collecting back taxes owed, and if money has been put aside for repairs. He stated the tax situation with Cannon Cold Storage should have been settled months ago. Mr. Conaway said you can not operate a government with more money than is going to be brought in during the year--deficit spending. He said there are many ways money can be brought into this Town.

President Dalton said two years ago he initiated a program for the water department to put money aside for repair projects which now has a sum of \$19,000. Mr. Conaway asked why the water department budget shows a deficit. The Town cannot operate with approximately \$100,000 in debt, and an interim budget cannot be adopted. The Town is now being operated illegally, and the Commission is the one responsible. Mr. Conaway stated he was having a hard time understanding why the Commission approved several items dealing with money but yet do not have the money to pay the monthly expenses. He said the Commission cannot keep spending money that the Town does not have.

Mr. Conaway said that we have a good police force, but there comes a time when one cannot afford everything you would like to have. He said it appears that department has the largest deficit in the Town. Mr. Conaway suggested President Dalton discuss with Colonel Pepper what coverage the Town can receive from the state. He told the Commissioners they are not protecting the citizens of this Town, and if they can't figure a way to do so, they should all resign.

President Dalton agreed with a number of points made by Mr. Conaway. He said, without divulging what is being considered, many of his points have already been discussed. President Dalton said he would be asking Mr. Conaway's guidance because of his experience. Mr. Conaway told President Dalton if he realized the Town was in trouble three years ago the Commission should have been to the General Assembly. He said the Town Charter is the worse charter he has ever seen.

Commissioner Greason stated he wished Mr. Conaway had been present during the budget meeting. He said he would like to see more participation from the citizens. Mrs. Joanne Conaway stated input from citizens has not been appreciated.

2. Mrs. Conaway asked if the Food Lion was coming to Bridgeville. President Dalton said he did not know if the final papers had been signed, but the Town had received an inquiry from Food Lion pertaining to sewer service to that area. Mrs. Conaway stated there is a rumor that President Dalton told their representative the Town could not supply them with sewer and water, and Food Lion decided against coming to Town. President Dalton stated that was not true. Mr. Conaway told the Commissioners he was not at liberty to discuss the WAWA project at this time.

Mr. Conaway said he read the story about chickens being raised in Town. The Commission does have defense regarding this problem as stated in Chapter 84. This

chapter allows enforcement against public nuisances pertaining to the general health and welfare. President Dalton said the recommendation from the attorney suggests the Town tighten up the code because it does not specifically state what is allowed or not allowed.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Commissioner Greason made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:20 P.M. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Sipple and so carried.

The Commissioners reconvened to regular session at 8:32 P.M. with no motions made during Executive Session.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

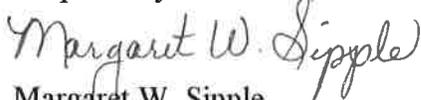
1. President Dalton said he omitted a piece of correspondence concerning the letter sent to Mrs. Margaret MacLeod of South Main Street regarding the overgrown grass and weeds on her property. He explained a letter was sent to her on June 30, 2000 stating she must cut the weeds and lawn within ten days or the Town would take further action.

Commissioner Greason said he had received a call from her debating the Town Code. Mrs. MacLeod said someone from the Town talked to her about cutting the yard but it would cost her \$500. President Dalton said the Town will hire a contractor to cut the grass and remove the overgrown brush on the sidewalk and then send Mrs. MacLeod the bill. He suggested a police officer be present during this time.

2. Commissioner Greason read the letter from the Apple-Scrapple Festival Committee pertaining to a sponsorship ad in the program book. No action taken.

MOTION: Commissioner Sipple made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 P.M. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Miles and carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Margaret W. Sipple
Secretary