

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS OF BRIDGEVILLE MARCH 11, 2002 - 7:00 P.M. TOWN HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

1. The First State Community Action Agency will hold their 5th Annual Senior Service Employment Job Fair on Thursday, April 4th at Del Tech.
2. The 4th Annual Kent County 4-H Dinner and Basket Auction will be held on Friday, April 5, 2002 at the Felton Fire Hall.
3. A letter was received from Senator Joseph Biden pertaining to the future of the COPS program. Under the proposed budget for fiscal year 2003 cuts for federal funding of local law enforcement will be more than \$1.6 billion.
4. The Commissioners signed a proclamation announcing March as American Red Cross Month.

V. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

* Written reports available.

1. Police-Fine money received was \$374 over last month. There are serious concerns relating to the time frame VAC (Voluntary Assessment Center) returns money to the municipalities. Kathy Myers discussed the matter with VAC (report provided). Due to unavailable money, the Commission put the police department under a spending freeze.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Citizen's Advisory Committee-President Conaway appointed Mr. Fred Leger to replace Mr. Bob Slater. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 4, 2002.

2. Fireside Chat-President Conaway reported discussions were held on the property at 102 N. Main Street, truck traffic, plans for the Shalom Committee, annexation, and voting hours on election day. No recommendations were given. The next Fireside Chat is Tuesday, March 26, 2002.

3. Annexation-The Town has completed all the requirements for the annexation. President Conaway presented the Annexation Certification.

There is some question as to who could vote in annexation referendums which need to be addressed. After some research, President Conaway explained the regulations for voting procedures in an annexation referendum are as follows: The Charter indicates that the only people who can vote are those who are registered with the Town on the "Book of Register Voters". Residents over 18, corporations, and property owners are eligible to vote when it is a bond issue. Residents may register any time during the year. The Town Office is open 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

4. Charter Change-Tabled from last month pertained to the general election date and time. If the election is changed to March, the Commissioner's terms who would have been up in January will remain until the March election. MOTION: Commissioner Sipple made a motion to present the following changes to the General Assembly. The general election will be held the first Saturday in March, and the election hours will be from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Correll and carried unanimously.

5. Community Tree Project-Commissioner Sipple will be meeting with Mr. Bryan Hall tomorrow morning to discuss the tree project for the Town.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Dilapidated Houses and Rubbish-The Commissioners reviewed the Charter concerning fines relating to accumulated rubbish. President Conaway explained a lien may be placed on the property for failure of payment if the Town has to clear a property of debris and the bill is not settled. Per the Charter, the Town has the authority to sell the property if payment is not made.

Another problem pertains to the people who fail to pay property taxes. An ordinance can be established allowing the Town to sell a piece of property after a reasonable amount of time if payment is not made.

After much discussion, the Commission decided to have the attorney prepare an ordinance that would allow the Town to sell property for failure of unpaid taxes.

2. The Tax Appeal Day will be Saturday, March 23, 2002 from 1:00 P.M. until 4:00 P.M. No decision was made on who would stay in the office.

3. The Town was granted \$100,000 by Senator Thurman Adams, Jr. to be used for street improvements. A proposal was submitted as required to the State of Delaware for street repairs and some tree removal (\$95,000), and \$5,000 for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Bids were received on February 28, 2002 as follows:

A.P. Cross & Son, Inc.	\$98,975	Maloney's Asphalt Design	\$92,401.20
Jerry's Inc.	90,873	P & A Engineering	\$122,989
Del-Mar-Va Paving	97,650		

President Conaway explained the Town has received \$10,000 of the \$100,000 grant:

Removal of several trees on Delaware Avenue, \$2,275.

Davis, Bowen and Friedel for the design portion of the project, \$2,034.

Bid advertisement, \$80.64.

The \$5,000 for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan has not been moved to the general fund. Presently there is \$90,610.13 available for the street improvement project.

MOTION: Commissioner Sipple made a motion to award the street improvement project to Jerry's Inc. with a bid \$90,873. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Greason and carried unanimously. The Commission agreed to pay the balance of the bid package and start the project as soon as possible.

4. Employee's Health Insurance-Notice has been received that rates will be increasing as of April. Under the current Blue Care Program the individual rate will increase to \$355.95 (increase of \$69.78 per month). There is money to go forward this budget year including the increase, but the next budget cycle will have to be decided upon in the next few months. If the same program is adopted for the budget year 2003 the total amount would be \$61,442 which is an increase of \$7,925.

After talking with the insurance agency Mr. Dan Short, his recommendation is to stay with the current plan for now. A new plan called Health Market has just been approved but untested. The Commission agreed to sign the Blue Care Program with the increase but will look into other options for the budget year 2003.

IV. CITIZEN'S PRIVILEGE

No comments made from those in attendance.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret W. Sipple

**Margaret W. Sipple
Commission Secretary**