

## **MINUTES**

### **COMMISSIONERS OF BRIDGEVILLE MAY 10, 1999 - 7:00 P.M. TOWN HALL**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Jack Dalton at 7:00 P.M. Present were the following: Commissioner Margaret Sipple, Commissioner Charles Singman, Commissioner Willie Pierce, Commissioner Glenn Miles, and Mr. Walter Speakman, Jr., Town Solicitor. The meeting started with a salute to the flag.

#### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Singman made a motion to dispense with the reading of minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Sipple and carried unanimously.

#### **III. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Singman made a motion to pay the monthly bills as stated on the financial statement (see attached). Motion was seconded by Commissioner Miles and carried unanimously.

#### **IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

##### **A. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. An invitation was received from Trinity Transport to attend their "Open House" on Thursday, May 13, 1999.

2. A letter was received from Ms. Neva McClary concerning the burning of plastic at 104 N. Main Street. The fumes from the items caused her throat to close up causing her to go to her doctor. Ms. McClary stated that next time that happens she will send her doctor's bill to the Town. She would like the police department to watch that property to see that burning does not take place again. Chief Parsons said that resident was arrested on burning charges in December of 1998.

3. A letter was received from Mrs. Kay Seitz concerning the low tree branches hanging over the sidewalk at 109 N. Main Street. People walking that side of the street have to walk out in the road to get around them. The postal carriers also reported that they have had to walk out in the road because of the trees. It was reported that neighbors of that property cannot see when backing out of their driveway.

4. A letter was received from the H. M. James & Son Insurance Company explaining the Town's insurance binder is proof of coverage until the actual policy is received from Selective Insurance Company.

5. President Dalton read a public hearing notice that is scheduled for June 10, 1999 in the County Council Chambers, Sussex County Administrative Office Building, Georgetown, DE., concerning a proposal to amend the comprehensive zoning map by changing the following area: From an AR-1 Agriculture Residential District to a HI-1 Heavy Industrial District for a certain parcel of land in Northwest Fork Hundred (Rd. 582). The Planning and Zoning public hearings will begin at 7:30 P.M.

The following ordinance has been proposed at the regular meeting of the Sussex County Council on April 20, 1999: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING MAP OF SUSSEX COUNTY FROM AN AR-1 to a HI-1 FOR A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN NORTHWEST HUNDRED, SUSSEX COUNTY. Public Hearings thereon will be held in the Chamber of the Sussex County Council, County Administrative Office Building, Georgetown, DE, June 29, 1999 at 1:30 P.M. or as soon thereafter as may be heard.

President Dalton explained that Waste Management Company wants to move its business from Georgetown to North Bridgeville.

6. Three notices were received from Pet Poultry for non-compliance of their permits.

7. A letter was received from the Sussex County Council pertaining to the Sussex County Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee Report.

8. A letter was received from the Department of Transportation reminding towns that no work may be performed without prior written request and approval. Also, their office must be notified of any emergency repairs.

9. An invitation was received from the Lower Delaware and Maryland Building Officials Association to attend a course to introduce the understanding of the history of the International Building Code and development process. The course will be held June 16, 1999 at the West Complex, Sussex County Offices, US Rt. 113, Georgetown, DE. Deadline for enrollment is June 5, 1999.

10. An invitation was received from the Seaford Chamber of Commerce to attend an after-hour mixer on Thursday, May 20, 1999 at the Boys and Girls Club in Seaford.

## **B. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

1. Police-(see attached) Commissioner Miles reported 235 traffic arrests, 18 criminal arrests, and 68 complaints for the month of April. Commissioner Miles said after holding a discussion with Chief Parsons, he did not believe it necessary for Bridgeville to send an

2. President Dalton reported the town secretary is looking into prices and design for a handicap ramp to be located in front of the Town Hall building.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

1. President Dalton said last year the Commission appointed Chief Handley Orr to be the housing code enforcement officer. He said the problem was that Chief Orr did not have the information and knowledge about code enforcement that is necessary to make decisions concerning properties. President Dalton said the question is 'does the Town need a person who is code enforcement educated, or do we leave it up to the police department?' He said he would find out what level of inspections the county officials do in other municipalities.

2. It was decided at last month's meeting that the Town would conduct a spring clean-up day for the residents. President Dalton said after checking with last year's hauler (BFI) they do not have a Saturday available in May. The Waste Management Company can do the work on May 22, 1999 for \$125.00 per hour per truck and \$65.00 a ton to dump at the collection pit. The M-T Trash, Inc. quote is two trucks with two men each at \$480.00 each plus the dumping fee. Last year the one day pick-up cost approximately \$2,000.00. President Dalton said flyers can be mailed by Thursday of this week to give the residents time to get their items ready for pick-up. After much discussion it was decided to hold clean-up day on May 22, 1999. MOTION: Commissioner Singman made a motion to proceed with spring clean-up on said date and issue the restrictions to the citizens of the Town of Bridgeville. The contract was awarded to M-T Trash, Inc. (2 trucks and 2 men each for a four hour work schedule). Motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and carried unanimously.

3. Commissioner Singman said the issue of the Waste Management proposal to locate outside of Town will not be hooking up to the Town's septic system. The Town will not benefit in any way from this company coming to Town. He said he is concerned about the possibility of vermin and odor coming from the trucks that will be parked outside of the building. Commissioner Singman said all citizens of Bridgeville should take a serious look at this project and attend the hearings pertaining to the project. If it cannot be stopped, then our citizens should make sure they get enough guarantees about the issues that concern them.

4. Commissioner Sipple said she had spoken again to a representative from DELDOT concerning the truck traffic on Church Street. She was told that trucks are prohibited from using that street unless they have a bill of lading, and the Commission has the authority to enforce that regulation. Commissioner Singman said he believes a statement should be in writing from DELDOT stating what authority the Town does have.

5. (Carried from correspondence) President Dalton said the Commission needs to address the complaint of low tree branches at 109 N. Main Street and the shrubs at the corner of John and N. Main Streets. After some discussion, Commissioner Singman

officer to Dover to help patrol during the car race. He said that during the Apple-Scrapple Festival we use officers from surrounding communities.

2. Waste Water-(see attached) Commissioner Singman reported there were 190 million gallons used per day for a total monthly flow of 5.691 million gallons. There were three septic haulers for a revenue of \$1,650.00. The two on going projects are: a) the grit in the septic waste is wearing out the grinder pump in the receiving station. Presently other types of pumps are being looked into along with prices: b) two prices have been received on the sludge de-watering system. The small unit is \$59,520.00 and the larger unit (which suits our needs) is priced at \$98,040.00. Commissioner Singman said additional expenses would be required to enclose a building to house the de-watering unit to prevent it from freezing.

Commissioner Singman reported the resident at 104 N. Main Street had paid their past due water bill, and the water had been turned back on.

3. Drinking Water-(see attached) Commissioner Pierce reported that water supplied for April was 3,151,00 gallons for an average daily supply of 105,000 gallons. A water leak was repaired on April 30, 1999 at 109 Jacobs Avenue. Total income for the water department was \$9,514.24 and expenses totaled \$4,576.95. Commissioner Pierce said the department needs to purchase 12" dry cut diamond tipped saw blades for sawing blacktop roadways. Cost for the saws is \$250.00.

4. Streets-Commissioner Sipple reported that the repaving of the streets and alleys will start the first week in June. She contacted someone to mow the grass along the railroad for the season. Commissioner Sipple said she talked with Sussex Tree about shaping the Christmas tree across the street from Town Hall. The cost for trimming would be \$150.00. The tree experts told her the tree does not look bad from a distance, but it is in bad shape when you get up closer and can see the problems. Commissioner Sipple said maybe the boot camp workers could take the tree down in the fall. It could be replaced with a smaller tree.

Commissioner Sipple said she had information on a new truck for the WWTP plant, but she was waiting to see what other repairs might need to be done. She was hoping to divide the money between the salt and sand building and the new truck. Commissioner Sipple said the cost of the new truck is about \$40,000.00, and so the Town would have to make payments over 4 to 5 years. President Dalton asked her to find out how much of the street fund money can be taken out each year. He said then it can be decided how much to put toward the truck and the drying shed. Preston Ford has agreed to give us the same contract on the truck as they do for state vehicles.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

1. President Dalton reminded the Commission that the yearly budget needs to be approved at the June meeting. A tentative date of May 24, 1999 was set for the budget meeting. A notice will be issued as soon as the date is confirmed.

suggested the resident at 109 N. Main Street be sent a letter stating the contents of Chapter 90 of the Town Code. Commissioner Sipple said the resident with the large shrubs blocking the view on John Street knows of the situation.

## **VII. CITIZEN'S PRIVILEGE**

1. Mr. Philip Davis stated his concerns regarding the new business that wants to establish on the north side of Bridgeville. President Dalton explained the Town cannot take any legal position because the land is not in Town limits; but as citizens they can make their concerns known to the county officials. President Dalton said all citizens who have concerns should contact their senator, representative, and the county council and make them aware that that type of business is not what we need or want in Bridgeville. He said if there are people who feel it is okay for that type of business, they too should make that known. Mr. Davis explained that the garbage trucks would be serviced inside of the building but would be parked outside when not in use. Mr. Davis has scheduled a meeting at Mt. Calvary Fellowship Hall, 28 Church Street, Bridgeville, DE. on Wednesday, May 19, 1999 at 7:30 P.M. for all concerned citizens to voice their concerns and questions to members of the county council.

2. Ms. Pat Correll asked if a panel had been appointed to select the new police chief. President Dalton said all the applications had been received, and the Town is in the process of completing the background checks on those applicants. He said after the background checks have been completed, then it will be decided who will be selected for an interview. President Dalton said the selection will be done 'in house'.

President Dalton said that some people seem to be concerned about DNREC employees working out of the police station. He reported that DNREC supplies their own paper products, has donated to the department a \$10,000.00 base radio for the new 800 system that the state is requiring us to install, and one of the DNREC employees, Richard Jefferson, will be doing the background checks on police applicants saving the Town money.

3. Mr. Ralph Collie said the police are enforcing the 'no parking' on Church Street but do not seem to be enforcing the 'no truck traffic'. He said signs are posted at the beginning of that street prohibiting trucks. President Dalton said everything is being done to see that both regulations are being enforced. The Town Attorney will be looking into the matter of what the Town can do and cannot do because that street is state maintained. Mr. Collie asked the Commission if they were aware of the inconvenience they have caused for the people living on Church Street.

Ms. Correll said she has noticed lots of people congregating at the old Harry Banning property late at night. President Dalton said when the weather gets warmer they will be congregating at the corner of First and Cannon Streets.

4. President Dalton explained to a new resident, Rose Bowen, that the Town Codes are available to anyone who wants to read them or to make copies of them.

5. Ms. Estella Carter said she is a day-care provider and the no parking on Church Street is not working for her. She said cars and trucks are using the street like a highway since the double lines have been installed. Commissioner Miles said he believes a day or two could be set aside to patrol that street to make sure all rules were followed, thus getting a message out to those who use it.

#### **VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Singman made a motion to convene to executive session at 8:12 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Sipple and carried unanimously.

Commissioners reconvened to regular session at 8:40 P.M. President Dalton said the Commission discussed the procedure and plans for hiring a police chief but no motions or decisions were made.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

President Dalton said before the meeting adjourned there was one item of old business that needed to be taken care of.

He said the month before last the Commission voted in favor of a Planning Commission for the Town of Bridgeville, but the Town Code does not have a provision for such a commission. The Town is required by the state to submit a comprehensive plan for the Town. Mr. Speakman has given the Commission information on a Planning Commission and what is needed. President Dalton explained that under the Delaware regulations the Planning Commission must consist of five to nine people serving between two and five year terms. He said the Commission has been advised that citizens who own property in Town should be the ones selected to the commission. Mr. Speakman said the first item needed is to create an ordinance and determine how much power will be given to such a commission. President Dalton said other towns have given their Planning Commission the authority to develop the Comprehensive Plan but anything else has to be taken to the Town Commission for approval.

President Dalton said eleven people had been considered for this commission but that number will be lower to nine people as required. After some discussion the Commissioners decided to place two exofficios from the Commission to be on the Planning Commission. Mr. Speakman will prepare the ordinance for the June meeting.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Singman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Sipple and carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Margaret W. Sipple  
Secretary