

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS OF BRIDGEVILLE MAY 7, 2007 – 7:00 P.M. TOWN HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Joseph Conaway at 7:09 P.M.
Present: Commissioners Patricia Correll, Margaret Sipple, Earl Greason, William Jefferson and Town Manager Bonnie Walls. The meeting began with the flag salute and Lord's Prayer.

II. QUORUM PRESENT

President Conaway reported a quorum was present to conduct the business of the Town of Bridgeville.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the March 22nd Public Hearing & Town Meeting; April 9th Commission Meeting & Conditional Use Hearing and April 19th Workshop were presented for approval. President Conaway advised the April 16th Fireside Chat was a public meeting and the minutes were available as a public record; however, the Commissioners did not convene to take action and therefore the minutes do not need to be approved. Commissioner Correll made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, excluding those of April 16th for the Fireside Chat. Commissioner Sipple seconded the motion. Motion carried.

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Patrolman Robert H. James, Jr. was honored with the Officer of the Quarter Award, through a new program instituted by Police Chief Parsons and Public Safety Director Aaron Chaffinch. During the first quarter of 2007, Patrolman James handled 225 traffic arrests, 82 criminal arrests and 79 complaints. He handled cases involving marijuana seizure, underage consumption of alcohol, apprehension of an out of state fugitive, a criminal arrest for assault in the second degree, an arrest for carrying a concealed deadly weapon and a criminal arrest for criminal impersonation. The Commissioners congratulated Patrolman James for his efforts.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

Town Manager Walls reported the Commissioners have been invited to the Sussex County Council Prayer Breakfast scheduled for June 25th. Town Manager Walls asked the Commissioners to RSVP to her before the June 15th deadline so she can reserve tickets for the event.

The Commissioners have been invited to attend the John Smith Delaware Voyage of Discovery 2007 at the Blades/Seaford Landing scheduled for May 30th at 10:00 A.M.

The Spring 2007 Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware newsletter is available for review.

The Town has contacted Congressman Michael Castle concerning beach replenishment monies for Bethany and South Bethany. Congressman Castle responded that federal funds have been allocated for those projects in the amount of \$14.4 million and the projects will go forward. Sand will be pumped onto the coastline and a 100-foot dune and 200-foot beach will protect the coastline from future erosion.

A thank you letter has been received from the Woodbridge School District acknowledging the Commissioners' \$1,000 contribution to the Student Uniform Assistance Fund.

A request was received from Police Chief Parsons to participate in the Click It or Ticket Campaign on May 13-28, 2007. This \$2,000 grant is available from the Delaware Office of Highway Safety. The Commissioners were contacted before this meeting to elicit their approval to apply for this grant, due to an early application deadline.

VI. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND BILLS PAYABLE

Finance Director Savage directed the Commissioners to the Balance Sheet. As of April 30th there was over \$89,500 in the General Fund; there was approximately \$522,400 in the Money Market account; each escrow account had over \$83,100. Not including the escrow accounts, the Town has approximately \$612,000 in funds. On the Profit & Loss Report the target percentage for this month of the budget year is 83%. The April transfer tax check of \$120,000 arrived after this report was printed. Income in the transfer tax category is already above budget with two months remaining in the budget year. President Conaway advised the Recorder of Deeds has stated his department intends to turn the monthly report out quicker. Miscellaneous income overages are due to the SLEAF Fund and duplicate taxes. Miscellaneous fee overages cover the facility plan and annexation fees which came after the budget was finalized. The Town is on target in most budget categories. Concerning Accounts Payable, there are three payroll periods in the next month. The A.C. Schultes bill concerns the fluoridation improvements scheduled to be completed this month. Davis, Bowen & Friedel invoices are all reimbursable, except for a \$750 bill in Administration for a new street map; the bill will be held as the map has not yet arrived. The Tim Judy Fuel bill concerns fuel for the well. Commissioner Correll made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Commissioner Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

VII. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

President Conaway reported \$331,000 in traffic tickets have been written, although only \$66,000 has been received. Building permits increased this month. The Wastewater Treatment Plant continued its record of no violations of its NPDES permit. Commissioner Jefferson has heard reports of vehicles speeding on Jacobs Ave. This is a yearly problem as beach traffic increases. He requested Police Chief Parsons and Public Safety Director Chaffinch be informed of the problem.

VIII. CITIZEN'S PRIVILEGE

Mr. Russ Beard of 25 Amanda's Teal Drive asked, in view of the new annexations, whether No Exhaust Breaking signs could be placed on Route 13 within Town limits. President Conaway was uncertain due to the fact that Route 13 is a state highway. Generally speaking, roads do not exist in annexations. Seaford does have a sign concerning this issue on Route 13A. President Conaway requested that Town Manager Walls look into the situation. Mr. Beard also mentioned the dangerous circumstances at the u-turn lane on the northbound lane of Route 13 at the Route 404 intersection. Mr. Beard had concerns about yield and speed limit signage on Route 404 as well. President Conaway commented that signage is controlled by the Department of Transportation, and unfortunately, due to the upcoming improvements, he does not believe they will address these issues at this time. The new intersection will take care of several of these problems. The Town is expecting work to begin on the intersection June 1st. President Conaway advised he and Town Manager Walls met with the Delaware Department of Transportation Signage Department regarding moving the directional signs in front of Town Hall. The initial response from the department had been negative; however, the response after the meeting was much more positive and different types of signs and combined signs are being considered. Mr. Beard was concerned about safety on Wilson Farm Road where it meets Railroad Avenue. There are no lane lines on Railroad Avenue which makes a very dangerous situation in foggy conditions. President Conaway advised Railroad Avenue is a state road and requested that Town Manager Walls look into the situation. Commissioner Greason reported the state has put lines on some Town streets in the past and, because the streets are so narrow, parking spaces were lost.

IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Walls advised the first revived Fireside Chat was held on April 16th. These meetings were held several years ago to allow residents to discuss concerns, share ideas, etc. with the Commissioners in a more relaxed setting. The Commissioners recently decided to investigate interest from the residents to reinstate the chats. Three residents were in attendance at the April 16th Fireside Chat with no concerns or comments voiced. The next meeting is scheduled for May 21st.

The Water Tower Lease Agreement with Verizon has been reviewed and approved by the Town's attorney and executed by the Town. The agreement becomes effective as of the date of execution by both parties and will allow Verizon to install, maintain and operate radio communications equipment, antennas, etc. on the Town's water tower, located on Main Street. The annual rental agreement for the first five years is \$19,800.

Town Manager Walls and Secretary Smith met with Mr. Paul Baldwin from the State Department of Elections to review the recently adopted municipal election laws. The election law was reviewed in its entirety – the board of elections and its role, complaint procedures, notices and postings, voter eligibility, election results, etc. For the most part, the Town already has the appropriate procedures in place. President Conaway commented the Town has not had an Election Board in place and that is being addressed now.

Candidates have been interviewed for the part time position within the Public Works Department; a total of 31 applications were received. Town Manager Walls hopes to make a choice within the next few days.

Town Manager Walls attended the Woodbridge School Board meeting on April 24th. She had the honor of representing the Town in recognition of the Spring Health Walk held on March 31st. Bridgeville was awarded the trophy for greatest citizen participation among the Towns that sponsored walks. The trophy is currently housed and proudly displayed at Town Hall. The trophy will be shared between the School District, Mercantile Peninsula Bank and Town Hall.

A Certificate of Appreciation and gift certificate were presented to Wastewater Superintendent Mowbray for his hard work and efforts regarding the Town's 100th consecutive month compliance without an NPDES violation. Street Superintendent Passwaters and Water Superintendent Jones also received Certificates of Appreciation and gift certificates for their assistance to Superintendent Mowbray.

The Town's Community Yard Sale was held on May 5th. Town Manager Walls reminded the Commissioners that Clean Up Day is scheduled for May 12th.

Town Manager Walls gave an update on the Summer Youth Programs. The Town has applied for one youth through the State of Delaware Department of Labor Program, but has not received grant confirmation as of this date. She is confident that the Town will receive a grant, as it has in the past. Last year the Town initiated its own program and Town Manager Walls would like permission from the Commissioners to hire one youth for the Town program, with a 3 day per week, 24 hour per week program for nine weeks. Approximate expense would be \$1,600 at \$6.65 per hour. Commissioner Jefferson made a motion to hire one summer youth employee through the Town's employment program. Commissioner Sipple seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Town is considering a recycling program with the Delaware Solid Waste Authority. In order to go forward with the program, the Town must have 75% participation from the total number of Town residents (900 households). The Town anticipates either a once or twice a month pickup. A cart would be provided for recyclables. The cost would be \$1.00 per pickup. A response form will be enclosed in the next Town newsletter to track residents' interest. President Conaway advised there is talk in the legislature to make it a mandatory program; however, it would be better if the Town could control the program.

X. OLD BUSINESS

A. Town of Bridgeville Committee Appointments

President Conaway advised the Commission created a number of committees to stimulate public input in the operation of the Town. The Committee appointments are as follows:

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Purpose: To investigate the creation of a park system and recreation program.

Steve McCarron – Chairman

There is no term of office for this Committee,
serving at the pleasure of the Commissioners.

Kelly Davis

Anthony Flanagan

Sonny Hardesty

Jean Lynch

Larry Skala

John Tomeski

Commissioner Jefferson made a motion to create this committee with the above members.
Commissioner Correll seconded the motion. Motion carried.

EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Purpose: To assist the Town in developing an emergency plan to handle potential weather and terrorist-related circumstances.

David Levy – Chairman

There is no term of office for this Committee,
serving at the pleasure of the Commissioners.

Dale Brown

Kevin Carson

William Mason

Public Safety Director Aaron Chaffinch (ex-officio member)

State Police Representative (ex-officio member)

County Representative (ex-officio member)

Commissioner Correll made a motion to create this committee with the above members.
Commissioner Sipple seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

Purpose: Review requests for zoning changes, subdivisions, annexation requests, conditional use requests and make recommendations to the Commission, who will then make decisions. This committee is created by law and a length of term is required.

	<u>Length of Term</u>
Mike Collison – Chairman	3 years
Bill Atwood	1 year
Jack Cannon	3 years
Sandie Rementer	2 years
John Shockley	3 years
Ruth Ann Tull	1 year
Vacant Seat	2 years
Code Enforcement Officer (ex-officio member)	

Commissioner Sipple made a motion to create this committee with the above members.
Commissioner Correll seconded the motion. Motion carried.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Howard Hardesty – Chairman
Cathy Connor
Kay Sue Hardesty
Sally Jefferson
Jill Lewandowski
Margaret Sipple (Commissioner: ex-officio member only)

There is no term of office for this Committee,
serving at the pleasure of the Commissioners.

Commissioner Correll made a motion to create this committee with the above members.
Commissioner Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ELECTION BOARD

President Conaway advised the Commissioners have one individual to appoint to the committee and will table the decision until they have a full complement of three members to appoint.

COMMEMORATIONS / CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE

President Conaway advised Commissioner Correll is willing to serve as the Commission representative to the committee; however, there were no other residents interested in serving on the committee at this time.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

President Conaway advised the Library Board will appoint members to this Committee and Commissioner Earl Greason will represent the Town

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COMMITTEE

Public Safety Director Aaron Chaffinch will direct this committee. President Conaway advised he has spoken to Captain Nolt from the Delaware State Police, who has offered his services.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / MAIN STREET COMMITTEE

President Conaway commented there is a need to look at business and job opportunities in Bridgeville and to protect our Main Street. Letters were sent from Mr. Conaway to all the businesses in Bridgeville inviting them to participate in this committee. Commissioner Jefferson will represent the Commission on the committee.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This committee is being re-activated from several years ago. Each Commissioner appoints three committee members. Since they are individual appointments, no action is necessary by the Commission.

Jack Dalton (Conaway)
Fred Leger
Leo Lynch

There is no term of office for this Committee,
serving at the pleasure of the Commission.

Don Gibson (Correll)
Bill Hartzell
Carol Warren

Carlos Alvarez (Jefferson)
Margaret Doordan
Les Williams

Steve Kendall (Greason)

Mike Harrigan (Sipple)
Bernadette Moyer
Tammy Williamson

B. Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc. Proposal for Engineering Services for 2007 Street Projects

There was discussion on this proposal from Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc. at the April Commission meeting as to whether a proposal was necessary since they are the Town engineers. The proposal is in the amount of \$18,600 to provide specifications and bid packages. Monies have not yet been received from Senator Adams and Representative Ewing for street projects. The specific street projects have been recommended by Street Superintendent Passwaters. Commissioner Greason made a motion to accept the Davis, Bowen & Friedel proposal contingent upon receipt of street funding. Commissioner Correll seconded the motion. Motion carried.

C. Ordinance Amendment – Construction Noise

President Conaway commented an amended Ordinance is on the table tonight which exempts roofing work from the time restrictions of Ordinance A07-3. The Town has solicited similar Ordinances from Fenwick Island and Ocean View for review by the Commission and President Conaway is hesitant to adopt an Ordinance until the Commission is able to review the Ordinances from other municipalities to aid them in making the best decision for Bridgeville. Commissioner Jefferson made a motion to table this Ordinance. Commissioner Correll seconded the motion. Motion carried.

D. Ordinance A07-5 Conditional Use to Operate a Day Care Center

Chantel & Timothy Banks

A Public Hearing was convened on April 9, 2007 by the Commissioners of Bridgeville to consider this Conditional Use Request. The Ordinance allowing the conditional use is before the Commissioners tonight. Conditions are imposed on the property and owners, as indicated in the body of this Ordinance (attached). President Conaway reported the Commissioners approved the conditional use application during the April 9th Commission meeting. Commissioner Jefferson questioned whether insurance coverage is included. President Conaway advised Mr. and Mrs. Banks could not receive a day care license from the state without proper insurance coverage. Commissioner Sipple made a motion to approve Ordinance A07-5. Commissioner Greason seconded the motion. Motion carried.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc. Construction Administration & Inspection Services for Bridgeville Farm Spray Irrigation Project

Town Manager Walls advised the Town has received a proposal from Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc. for Construction Administration & Inspection Services regarding the Bridgeville Farm Spray Irrigation Project (formerly the Tatman Farm). The proposal is in the amount of \$198,644. This is separate from the contract awarded to Daisey Construction for the spray irrigation project. The money has been budgeted for this contract proposal. Final approval from the state and federal government for funding is anticipated in the near future. Commissioner Correll made a motion to award this contract to Davis, Bowen, & Friedel, Inc. Commissioner Sipple seconded the motion. Motion carried.

B. Delaware Land & Water Conservation Trust Fund Pre-Application

Town Manager Walls reported the Town is submitting a pre-application to the Delaware Land & Water Conservation Trust Fund to initiate a walking path, or "Riverwalk," south of the branch from North Main Street to the Bridgeville Cemetery. The approximate length would be 1,800 feet long by 10 feet wide and the Town proposes that it be paved and lighted with benches. If approved, the Trust Fund would provide 50% matching funds. This project has been placed in the budget, with the hope that the Town will be asked to submit a full application. Acquisition of land is a part of this project; however, President Conaway believes there is an easement from the Soil Conservation Service along the branch and the Town may not need to buy any land; it may only be necessary to gain permission to join on that easement. At this point Town Manager Walls will submit a pre-application. If it moves to the full application stage, she will need Commission approval to move forward. The Town is asking for \$60,000, with \$30,000 to be matched by the Town.

C. Donald & Suzanne Hibbs, Market Street – Utility Services

President Conaway advised the first issue to be resolved when you build a new home anywhere in Sussex County is the location of the sewer lines, as they are not always where you would expect them to be. The sewer lines for this property are on the opposite side of Market Street, calling for Market Street to be opened and closed at an expense of \$28,000. The Town engineers, Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc. have suggested a less than ideal alternative since the sewer main is located in a DelDOT roadway. A wye could be installed within DelDOT's right of way (under the sidewalk, if possible) with cleanouts installed at each bend and at the property line of each lot until such time as a permanent standard service can be installed. The best opportunity of installing a standard service would be concurrent with any future utility or road reconstruction work in front of the property. Ms. Hibbs is willing to commit to installing the permanent service at a later date when this opportunity arises. President Conaway advised they have investigated this problem thoroughly to find a better solution than the one suggested here and none is available. He is not in favor of this connection without the express agreement to install permanent standard service as soon as is possible when road repairs necessitate the opening of Market Street. The Town attorney will prepare an agreement between the Town and Mr. & Mrs. Hibbs; a deed restriction will also be placed on this house so the owner of record will always know that when and if work is done on Market Street, the permanent standard service must be accomplished. All of this work will be done at the Hibbs' expense. It is in the hands of the Commission to decide if this alternative should move forward. Commissioner Jefferson commented these issues should be brought up at the very beginning when a home owner comes in to receive a building permit for a new home from the Code Enforcement Constable. Commissioner Jefferson made a motion to allow this alternative sewer hookup with the stipulation that whenever Market Street is opened for other work, the permanent standard service installation be required of the homeowner with all expenses being paid by the homeowner. Commissioner Sipple seconded the motion. Motion carried.

D. First Reading Chesapeake Utilities Ordinance A07-4

Town Manager Walls reported the Town has been considering for several months a renewal agreement with Chesapeake Utilities to use and occupy the streets and other public places and ways of the Town for constructing, maintaining and operating a gas distribution system. The agreement originated in 1957 and was renewed in 1981. The Ordinance Agreement has received approval from the Town solicitor; he believes it protects the Town and Chesapeake Utilities. Town Manager Walls is also comfortable with the agreement; she has made an addition to the agreement that, should Chesapeake Utilities need to cut a street, it will be replaced within a certain time limit with penalties imposed if the deadline is not met. Mrs. Walls added to the agreement a \$25 permit fee and a restoration fee of 5% of the actual cost of any restoration, not to exceed \$1,000 per application. Commissioner Jefferson made a motion to introduce the Chesapeake Utilities Ordinance A07-4 for a first reading. Commissioner Greason seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following votes being recorded:

Commissioner Correll – Yes

Commissioner Greason – Yes

Commissioner Jefferson – Yes
Commissioner Sipple – Yes
Commissioner Conaway – Abstain

E. Legislative Update

1. House Bill 30

This bill is of interest to the municipalities of the Sussex County Association of Towns (SCAT), which includes the Town of Bridgeville. The bill has been amended many times. There was a misunderstanding that the state was allowing the spraying of wastewater on state-owned park land; however, actually the county had a lease agreement with Townsend to spray from the Wolfe Run plant in the Lewes area. The state eventually bought the land from Townsend with the lease and the county continued to spray. This bill was introduced to stop the spraying. Concerning the possibility this bill could affect our spray irrigation site, President Conaway advised it does not include spraying on agricultural preservation land, which is what Bridgeville intends to do and it does not appear to affect our intentions for that land; however, the Town will continue to monitor the bill.

2. Senate Bill 52

This deals with private water companies choosing areas of the county they would like to serve. Originally the bill made sure that property owners would need to “opt in” to a water company plan, rather than having to respond and “opt out” if they weren’t interested. The bill was amended in the senate making it ineffective. It is currently in the House and there is hope it can be controlled.

3. Senate Bill 77

This bill concerns the same issue with wastewater companies and basically does the same thing as Senate Bill 52, except it allows private utilities to go into all the municipality growth areas, and with the agreement of homeowners, provide services right up to Town boundaries. This would provide problems if the properties were ever to annex into Town. A Town would not want or need to buy the water/wastewater system that is already in place at the property. Municipalities must be able to provide water and sewer to future annexed properties in their growth areas. The Towns of Milton and Lewes have been joined by SCAT in opposition to this bill. SCAT opposes the bill as written and has asked that a summit be convened of all interested parties to resolve the problem and avoid ultimate confrontations. President Conaway suggested that if the Town does not offer services to growth area properties in 3-5 years, then they should be free to select companies who would provide services to their property; however, the Town should have the first opportunity to provide the services. President Conaway asked that the Town of Bridgeville support SCAT’s position and oppose the senate bill with a letter from the Town. Commissioner Jefferson made a motion to write a letter from the Town opposing Senate Bill 77. Commissioner Correll seconded the motion. Motion carried.

F. Inaugural Bridgeville Charity Golf Tournament

President Conaway advised the Town will host its First Bridgeville Charity Golf Tournament on Friday, October 12, 2007, with registration at 8:30 A.M., a golf clinic at 9:00 A.M. and a shotgun start at 10:00 A.M. There will be a 4-player scramble with great gifts and prizes, including a golf shirt, sleeve of balls and \$25 gift certificate to the pro shop. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served. The Kiwanis Foundation and the Lions Club will benefit from the tournament. President Conaway advised he tried to find a black service organization to benefit, but was unable to find one. President Conaway asked permission to include the Bridgeville Senior Center as a third organization that would equally benefit from the event. President Conaway wants community organizations to benefit, rather than individual entities. The money will stay in the community. Hearing no objection, Mr. Conaway will add the Bridgeville Senior Center to those who profit from the tournament. The Town has one \$5,000 Platinum donation to begin funding the project at this time.

G. Proclamation – Come to Church Week

Commissioner Correll recommended the Town follow the lead of other communities and adopt this Proclamation to encourage residents to attend a church of their choice during “Come to Church Week,” May 20 – 26, 2007. Commissioner Greason made a motion to proclaim May 20-26, 2007 as “Come to Church Week.” Commissioner Correll seconded the motion. Motion carried.

H. Introduction of the FY-08 Budget

President Conaway reported the Town must present the FY-08 Budget for public review. New this year is a Bridgeville Capital Improvement Plan with short term goals of 3-5 years and long term goals of 5-10 years. It becomes a fiscal plan for the creation of capital expenditures. Over time the Town has lost its maintenance programs for Town facilities; those have been re-instituted in this budget. The budget will be reviewed and adopted at the June Commission meeting.

Town Manager Walls advised she and Finance Director Savage have prepared the proposed FY-08 budget. A detailed line item report is in the hands of the Commissioners. The total projected income is \$2,588,520, with expenses of \$2,511,754 and a reserve of \$76,766. Highlights of the budget are as follows:

- Municipal tax rates remain the same
- Water/sewer services will not increase, although operational costs have increased
- The garbage fee will remain at \$13.25; however, it is subject to an increase in November when the M-T Trash contract comes up for bid.
- Fall & Spring Clean Up Days are budgeted.
- The Police Department will apply for a \$25,000 grant from Sussex County for a new vehicle and retire an older vehicle in the fleet.
- The Town is hopeful monies will continue to come from Senator Adams and Representative Ewing for necessary street and curbing repairs.

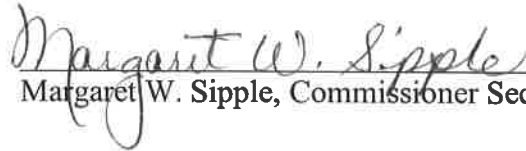
- Funds are included in the budget to complete the Public Works storage and office building.
- The Town intends to continue offering grants to community organizations.
- The Town will continue to offer a quality benefit package to employees; 2% cost of living increase and merit rate increases will be provided based on Commissioner approval and employee evaluations.
- The Town code will be updated.
- Additional seasonal banners will be purchased for Town streets.
- The wastewater sand filter building will be painted.
- Construction upgrades will be accomplished at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- The maintenance lease will continue on the water tower at the wastewater treatment plant.
- Bridgeville will host its 3rd Annual National Night Out in September.
- An additional police officer will be hired in January 2008.
- A full-time secretary will be employed at the Police Department.
- The Water Department will begin upgrading the older water meters throughout Town. Heritage Shores water meters are designed to be read as Public Works employees ride by the home. This technology will soon be operational.


President Conaway reported this is a lean budget. Steps have been taken to adjust revenues. Last year the Town anticipated \$507,000 in revenue from transfer taxes and that goal has been exceeded. The legislature may make changes concerning transfer taxes in the future, which would greatly impact the Town's income. The budget has been constructed to allow the Town to continue to grow and manage growth, while managing and maintaining services. Tax revenues are higher than ever due to the increase in assessments due to growth. The real estate market is such that the Town must be cautious and conservative in its future projections. President Conaway congratulated the Town Manager, Finance Director and Department heads for their efforts in preparing the budget. The budget is available for public review. It will be amended if needed and presented for adoption, as required by law, at the June meeting. The Verizon contract for \$1,600 per month will be advantageous to our budget reserves. The Town will be conservative with the taxpayer's money. Surprisingly, insurance benefit costs did not increase this year. Mr. Anthony Flanagan of 6 Amanda's Teal Drive asked if there were any plans for painting or other work on the water tower next to the Town Hall. Town Manager Walls advised there is a 10-year maintenance agreement with Corrosion Control for the water tower. This year there will be a visual inspection of the water tower. The tower was painted in year 5 and again be painted in year 10. We are currently in year 8 of the contract. The last water rate increase was to pay for the maintenance agreement for the tower in 2000 or 2001. Once the new water tower is accepted by the Town, it will also have a maintenance contract on it. The two water towers will eventually be connected. Town Manager Walls advised there have been issues with the slowness of work on the new water tower.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sipple made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Correll seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:


Margaret W. Sipple, Commissioner Secretary


Peggy A. Smith, Transcriptionist