

**MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS OF BRIDGEVILLE
AUGUST 9, 2010 – 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President William Jefferson at 7:00 P.M. Present: Commissioners Patricia Correll, Michael Collison, Lawrence Tassone and Town Manager Bonnie Walls. The meeting began with the Flag Salute and the Lord's Prayer.

II. QUORUM PRESENT

President Jefferson reported a quorum was present to conduct the business of the Town of Bridgeville, despite the absence of Commissioner Mervine.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Jefferson presented the July 19th Commission meeting minutes and the July 19th Executive Session minutes for approval. Commissioner Tassone made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Correll seconded the motion. Motion carried.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

Town Manager Walls reported the receipt of a letter from the Bridgeville Lioness Club. They have requested that the Commission consider including the Lioness Club as a recipient of Bridgeville Charity Open Golf Tournament proceeds. They also requested information concerning how the charities are chosen. Commissioner Correll recommended the request, although directed to the Commissioners, be forwarded to the Golf Tournament Committee for their consideration. Town Manager Walls advised the Committee is meeting this week and she will be glad to present the Lioness Club letter for their consideration.

Town Manager Walls reported the Town is the recipient of a Tree Planting Grant in the amount of \$655.31. The Town has received this grant a number of times in the past, but was not chosen last year as a grant recipient. The Town is very glad to be considered again.

V. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND BILLS PAYABLE

Finance Director Savage directed the Commission to the Balance Sheet for the period ending July 31, 2010. (The following amounts are in rounded figures.) The General Fund, including checking and savings accounts, totaled \$74,230. There is currently \$4,356 in the Emergency Services (EM) Fund and \$12,770 in the Library Fund. All accounts total \$618,214, an increase of \$1,000 from last month. Accounts Receivable stand at \$264,000 and include the second quarter Greenwood billing. In lieu of taxes and fire line billing are also included. The fiscal year 2010 final budget report is now available for review. Total income for the year was

\$2,211,000; total expenses were \$2,143,000, for a net income of \$67,700. The Town will have its annual audit by Lank, Johnson & Tull in two weeks, since the FY-10 year has been closed out. Concerning the Budget Report, the Town should be at 8.3% of its budget. Income for the month totaled \$223,000, or 10% of the budget. Expenses totaled \$124,000, or 5% of the budget. Regarding Bills Payable, the Town has received bills totaling \$17,800; expected expenses, including health insurance, payroll, utilities, etc. are \$89,000, for total bills to be approved of \$106,784. Commissioner Correll made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Commissioner Tassone seconded the motion. Motion carried.

VI. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

President Jefferson advised Department Head Reports are available to the public. Commissioner Collison questioned the Wastewater Report and the pump that was first repaired and then replaced by DSI. He questioned whether the pump was under warranty. It was not. Town Manager Walls has instructed Wastewater Superintendent Collins that, should there be any further concern with this pump, the next service call from DSI must be free. Commissioner Collison stated that most companies provide a 30 to 90-day warranty on a re-build and a 1-year warranty on a complete replacement. Town Manager Walls will look into the situation.

VII. CITIZEN'S PRIVILEGE

Mr. Bill Atwood of 113 Emily's Pintail Dr. asserted that when he and his wife were considering a new home in Bridgeville they came to the Town Hall to find out about the Town. Town Manager Walls spoke with them and she was instrumental in their decision to move to Bridgeville. She spent time with them answering their questions, and still does so whenever they have concerns. He commended her for the great job she has done and wished her well as she retires.

Mr. Russ Beard of 25 Amanda's Teal Dr. wished to thank Town Manager Walls for her efforts with the Department of Transportation in endeavoring to permanently reduce the speed limit at the Route 13/404 intersection. He also advised that Water Superintendent Doug Jones is home after surgery and he is sure Doug would continue to appreciate cards while he recuperates. Mr. Beard also expressed concern regarding possible chain sawing and logging in the wooded areas south of the developed portion of Heritage Shores, in the agricultural area between Route 13, Route 18 and Wilson Farm Road. He is looking for information about the work and has not been able to identify the exact area or intentions. He questioned whether anyone at the meeting might have knowledge of the activity in that area; there was no response.

Ms. Dottie Harper from Brookfield Homes reported the loss of a Heritage Shores resident who passed away at their home. Ms. Harper praised the Town and Police Department for the efforts of the emergency response team; Officer Bonniwell handled the situation very professionally and provided needed assistance at the scene that was very much appreciated.

Mr. Frank Mills of 64 Emily's Pintail Dr. requested a further breakdown of police statistics concerning complaints – i.e. property crime, aggravated crime, warrant service, arrests, robberies, etc. Sergeant Parker from the Bridgeville Police Department advised the Commissioners' report is more detailed and includes those breakdowns; the public receives only the first three pages of the full report. The complaints are broken down into categories on the Commissioners' report, but there is no indication which resulted in arrest or other actions. Solicitor Schrader viewed the Commissioners' report and advised that, legally, there is no harm in releasing the information; he suggested the full report would be more helpful to homeowners. Commissioner Correll does not want to alarm the residents by publishing all of the information. Commissioner Collison made a motion that the Town continues to disseminate the reports as they do currently; the full report is available to residents through an FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request. Commissioner Correll seconded the motion, commenting that the Town cuts down a lot of trees to provide reports. Motion carried. The votes were reported as follows:

Commissioner Collison	Aye
Commission Correll	Aye
Commissioner Tassone	Nay
President Jefferson	Aye
Commissioner Mervine	Absent

VIII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

As reported in previous meetings, Sussex County is moving forward to update its Emergency Operations Plan. They have contracted with a firm to complete the update, which is expected to be submitted to the County Council in mid-November. Later this month, the contracting firm will hold a workshop with representatives from county agencies, first responders and Towns. The Commissioners will be updated as the plan moves forward toward submittal to the County Council.

Sealed bids were received by the Town to accomplish handicap ramp and catch basin repair work. Monies are available from Senator Booth (\$50,000) and Representative Wilson (\$25,000) for a total of \$75,000. Two bids were received, with the low bidder being L&B Concrete Construction, Inc. from Seaford, Delaware, in the amount of \$86,200. The second bid was \$124,280. L&B Concrete understands our limited funding and Street Superintendent Passwaters will re-prioritize the work list to stay within the \$75,000 available. Commissioner Correll made a motion to accept the low bid of L&B Construction, Inc. for handicap ramp and catch basin repair work. Commissioner Tassone seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Regarding the RBC (rotating biological contactor) replacement project, an invitation to bid will be advertised this week and the week of August 16th. Bids are due by September 14, 2010. As reported in the Wastewater monthly report, the partial structural break in one of the existing RBC's has been repaired, thanks to President Jefferson's firm, and has been placed back into service.

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Requests for proposals for a comprehensive feasibility study for a full service Civic Center in Bridgeville were due today at 4:30 P.M. The proposals will be opened and reviewed tomorrow by a panel of individuals who have been involved in setting the parameters for the study. Town Manager Walls will report back to the Commissioners on the successful bidder for the project.

The auditing firm of Lank, Johnson and Tull will begin their yearly audit of Town finances later this month.

At this time, President Jefferson presented a plaque to Town Manager Walls as she retires for her eight years of dedicated service to the Town of Bridgeville, followed by a standing ovation from the Commissioners and residents present. Commissioner Correll acknowledged this is a sad day for the Town of Bridgeville. Mrs. Walls has done an outstanding job of organizing the Town and bringing it to a high level of accreditation within the county and state; Bridgeville is now a Town to be proud of. Commissioner Correll added that wherever she attends meetings in the state, she has discovered that all of the people and agencies never question Mrs. Walls' work – they know it will be perfect, without errors or omissions. Commissioner Correll commended Mrs. Walls and her staff. Mrs. Walls will be sorely missed.

State Representative David Wilson came forward to represent himself and State Senator Booth, who was committed elsewhere this evening. Representative Wilson read a Tribute to Town Manager Walls from the Delaware State Senate and Senator Booth extended his best wishes to Mrs. Walls through Representative Wilson. Representative Wilson then read a Certificate of Recognition from the Delaware House of Representatives honoring Mrs. Walls for her years of leadership as the Bridgeville Town Manager.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Public Hearing and Second Reading of Ordinance A10-9, Creating a New Chapter of the Code of the Town of Bridgeville Requiring the Registration and Licensing of Businesses Within the Town of Bridgeville

President Jefferson opened the Public Hearing at 7:29 P.M. Solicitor Schrader distributed copies of a revised Ordinance A10-9 (copy attached to the permanent minutes). He was asked to recommend business uses that would not be subject to the proposed licensing; they include home occupations, casual workers employed on an hourly or daily basis, or vendors in tents, trailers or other temporary sites for a period not to exceed three days for community events. This would include vendors for the Apple Scrapple Festival and Christmas in Bridgeville, along with others. Casual workers include those who would come to your home one time to rake your leaves, do maintenance work or mow your lawn; this category would include housekeeping services. The third category of proposed businesses not subject to the proposed licensing includes home-based businesses, which are defined as a business, occupation or activity undertaken for gain within a residential structure that is incidental to and secondary to the use of that structure as a dwelling unit. Solicitor Schrader advised this is a list to work from in determining what may or may not

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be a home-based occupation that may cause concern if it were included in the licensing requirement. None of these occupations offer goods for sale by showing the goods and having people come in to look at them. An exception might be a customer coming to the business to review a construction drawing or plan.

Mrs. Jacqueline Vogle of 124 Widgeon Way questioned the intent of the business license; she, personally, is looking for some protection concerning the workmanship done by contractors, in Town, i.e. shoddy workmanship. President Jefferson advised the purpose is predominantly licensure; the Town does not intend to negotiate disagreements between homeowners and contractors. Solicitor Schrader advised this Ordinance does not address the workmanship issue; it is not a consumer protection Ordinance; there are state laws concerning consumer protection. Commissioner Collison advised the purpose of this Ordinance is to insure that businesses establishing themselves in Bridgeville are state-licensed, that they are licensed to do the work/provide the services they offer and that they have insurance. Any business that works at Mrs. Vogle's property will have to obtain a Bridgeville business license. Mrs. Vogle questioned lawn mowing services. Solicitor Schrader advised if the lawn mowing service is based in Bridgeville, they will need a license. If she hires a 16-year-old to do occasional mowing, that is a different circumstance. Solicitor Schrader spoke to the insurance requirement and advised, as a lawyer, he is not required to have insurance; doctors also are not required to have insurance, although both trades would be foolish not to. Building contractors are required to carry insurance in order to obtain a general contractor's license, but only a few businesses are actually required to carry insurance. Mrs. Vogle asked specifically about the individual who mows her lawn. Lawn mowing is not his primary job; he mows approximately 22 lawns in Heritage Shores, with his children's help. Does this individual need a Town license? President Jefferson understands if he is working for profit, he would need a license. Solicitor Schrader does not know what the final wording of the Ordinance will be, but he is inclined to believe the casual lawnmower service would not need to be licensed. He added that this Ordinance does not establish minimum competency for any occupation; the Town carries no liability concerning competency of businesses receiving a Town license and multiple businesses may require multiple licenses. Mrs. Vogle believes the final Ordinance must be very specific concerning those who are exempt from the licensing process; additional clarification is necessary.

Mr. Steve McCarron of 416 Laws St. works for Kenny Brothers Produce in Bridgeville. He expressed concern about how unmanageable a business license would be for the 40-50 vendors that they have coming to their site. Do each of these vendors need a license? Commissioner Correll advised if they are here less than three days they won't need a business license. President Jefferson advised a business such as UPS would not need a license and farmers bringing produce would not need a license. Commissioner Collison added that if Mr. McCarron has a business in Town limits and is then selling those goods for profit, then he, as a business owner, is required to have a business license.

Mr. Jim Durkin of 49 Ruddy Duck Lane questioned if there is no protection offered, why have the licensing? It appears to him its purpose is only to raise money. What will be the cost of

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implementing and maintaining the program? He added that many businesses are already licensed through other agencies.

President Jefferson advised the business licenses, building permits, rental fees and inspections will likely result in hiring a second employee in the Code Enforcement Department to complete all the work. President Jefferson doesn't feel this is the time and the place to begin licensure.

Commissioner Correll believes the business license is being instituted because a lot of homeowners have had their money tied up because contractors, etc. did not finish jobs. Commissioner Correll believes the Town will be able to go after the unscrupulous contractors if it institutes a business license. There was disagreement whether this is true and whether this is the purpose of the license.

Ms. Dottie Harper from Brookfield Homes advised she has a number of contractors at her jobsites: roofers, framers, concrete, etc. She disagrees with Commissioner Correll's comments because the audience has been told there is no consumer protection element in this Ordinance. Commissioner Collison advised the protection in this Ordinance is that anyone coming into Town to do business must be licensed to do business in the state of Delaware and have proper insurance. Our licensure gives us a method of oversight concerning businesses coming into Town. This is the consumer protection; it is not a moneymaking scheme. This is for current and future businesses.

Solicitor Schrader advised the Ordinance will have some benefit in identifying businesses in Town, with information such as business name, phone number, the principals in any partnership, etc.

Mr. Robert Hunsberger, a business owner in Bridgeville, questioned whether the Ordinance refers to established businesses. His business has been in Town for 40 years and now he needs a license? He understands requiring it of new businesses, but not established businesses.

Commissioner Tassone advised the law must be equal and must cover everyone.

Mr. Michael Layton from Layton's Hardware believes it is redundant to pass a law for a license that is already required and managed by the state. The county also already has laws.

Mrs. Shelly McCarron of 416 Laws St. asked why the Town should become involved in what homeowners choose to do to their homes with contractors. If the homeowner wants a contractor to do any work, it is up to the homeowner to make sure the contractor has a license. If a state-licensed contractor reneges on the contract, the Town would be of no help anyway.

Mr. Mario Hernandez of 200 S. Main St. believes that protection against poor workmanship, etc. is the homeowner's responsibility. The owner must check the credentials and

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authenticity of the business. Also, the state licensure is \$25 less than the proposed Town license. Mr. Hernandez does not see any value in this licensure to him as a business owner; the Town is not protecting the homeowner or the business.

Commissioner Correll reported there are only three Towns in Sussex County that do not have business licenses.

Mr. Paul Wolpert of Cannon Cold Storage is confused concerning whether this license is or is not a protection and whether it is or is not a revenue-maker. There are small and large businesses represented here with some doing business in Bridgeville and others doing business elsewhere. The Town will not just be hitting the businesses with a tax, but will also be taxing every company who provides services to Bridgeville businesses and they will raise their fees to cover the Town's licensure. That is a hidden cost of doing business placed on the Town businesses in addition to the business license each Town business must also pay. He recommends thinking it through further.

Mr. Tim Curry from the Bridgeville Emporium at 105 Market St. doesn't understand this action by the Commission. With the current poor economy and with the downtown area needing strengthening, the Commission should be encouraging businesses; adding fees is not encouraging businesses. He applauds the recent merchant meetings that have searched for ways to improve and help the downtown area; this seems like a kick in the butt. He believes it is a money-making effort. Where will the license fee money go? Will it improve the downtown area? Will it fund a community center or some other viable improvement? If it's not to raise revenue, why do it?

Mr. Bill Atwood of 113 Emily's Pintail Dr. questioned the permitted businesses. It was mentioned that the martial arts studio that requested permission to locate on Elm St. last year might fit into this category now, and he is concerned that if the Town allows permitted businesses that aren't anywhere in the code book today, that could turn around and bite us. He suggested looking into the issue in that context; there are some venues the Town would not want. Secondly, he doesn't believe we would be here tonight continuing this licensing discussion, if at the last meeting President Jefferson didn't say that several people called him who didn't like the business license. Mr. Atwood acknowledged he could get two hundred people to call President Jefferson about the 50% increase in their water/sewer bills. Mr. Atwood continued that it was indicated in June that our budget could not be achieved with our current fee structure. Therefore, the budget was managed properly by looking at fees, tax increases, licensing, etc. to make up the budget shortfall of approximately \$400,000. Mr. Atwood stated that the business licenses are projected to bring in approximately \$20,000 in income. If the business license does not pass, will the Town increase water/sewer charges again? Will it lower its expenses? How will it account for the loss of \$20,000 in income? How will it impact the homeowners?

President Jefferson acknowledged that water/sewer and property taxes were raised to balance the FY-2011 budget. He believes that enough is enough on the taxes. The Town has \$385,000 in escrow monies that could be used. He does not believe the Town businesses and those out-of-Town businesses that come to Bridgeville to work will bring in the necessary

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\$20,000 to balance the budget. At the July meeting, President Jefferson was asked what businesses he had talked to that were against the new business license. President Jefferson has brought with him tonight a list of 41 businesses that are not in favor of the business license. President Jefferson believes these signatures should be enough to prove to the Commission that this is a bad Ordinance that should be voted down. President Jefferson reported, with the increase in water/sewer and taxes, the Hunsberger businesses will have to pay \$30,768 per year. Commissioner Collison interjected that this discussion is not about water/sewer and taxes, it is about business licenses. President Jefferson asked Mr. Robert Hunsberger if he had any comment. Mr. Hunsberger said it was a real surprise to wake up one morning and read in the newspaper that your water, sewer and taxes are going up with no letter, no notification, no vote, no nothing. As a non-resident, he is not allowed to vote in the Town of Bridgeville. Commissioner Collison advised the Town had open budget hearings where these matters were discussed with public notices; anyone may attend these meetings, whether they are a resident or not. Mr. Hunsberger believes every taxpayer should receive a letter concerning these hearings. (It was noted that the upcoming increases were in the Town newsletter.) Commissioner Correll reported that every one of the Commissioners voted to approve the budget with the water/sewer and tax increases and fees, although Commissioner Mervine was not yet appointed to the Commission. Now, over a month later, the increases are being criticized.

Mr. Rob Richey of 203 S. Main St. stated that the issue tonight is solely the business license fee. He believes that with the increases that have already been initiated in this new fiscal year, it is time to put the brakes on and not add more fees. He assumes the Commission has the best of intentions with its business license fee; however, enough is enough for right now. Perhaps there will be a time in the future to institute a licensing fee, but not now. Commissioner Collison responded that this licensing fee was a part of the balanced budget and was already approved. President Jefferson stated that the budget can be amended.

Referring to Solicitor Schrader's earlier comments, Mr. Layton suggested that small lawn & garden businesses, who may not need a business license, would have an unfair advantage over the larger businesses that need a license.

Mr. Jack Dalton of 207 Delaware Ave. advised the Commission was irresponsible and should not have adopted the budget until this Ordinance was passed. They should not have budgeted money they didn't have. Secondly, he believes that all businesses in Delaware are already required to have a business license. Thirdly, concerning violations and penalties of the Ordinance, there is no documentation in the Ordinance about what constitutes a violation and who determines the violation. He sees nothing in this Ordinance to help the citizens or businesses of Bridgeville; he is both a Bridgeville resident and owns a business in Town. The Commissioners need to hear what the country is saying to national leaders. Stop; enough is enough. The Commission must govern for the citizens not against them.

Mr. Dale Wheatley, a property owner in the Bridgeville area, is against the business license. He believes the Town should act conservatively and believes Bridgeville does not need a Civic Center yet; money should not be spent on a feasibility study. Concerning Code

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Enforcement, Mr. Wheatley believes it is a waste of money; the Town Police could patrol once a day for code violations. That would be sufficient.

Mrs. Ruth Skala of 108 Whistling Duck Dr. sat on this Commission for two years. She advised when she was on the Commission, licensing was discussed as a part of Economic Development so the Town would have a clear registry of all businesses in the Town. New issues have arisen since she finished her term as Commissioner, such as considering the exemption of casual businesses and the issue of protection; however, she would like to go on record as wanting to see Bridgeville's businesses thrive; she wants to see an environment that encourages businesses in Bridgeville.

Mr. Harvey Lieberman of 144 Widgeon Way suggested lengthening the license to 2 or 3 years instead of only one year, or providing the opportunity to pay at different levels for the length of license you prefer. He also acknowledged that the businesses and construction industry will automatically add \$5 to their fees to consumers to mitigate the licensing fee.

Mr. Larry Skala of 108 Whistling Duck Dr. believes the residents will have difficulty bringing out-of-town electricians, plumbers, etc. to Town because of the higher fee of doing business in Bridgeville. These higher fees to the businesses are going to come out of the homeowners' pockets.

Mr. Paul Greenlee of 102 Delaware Ave. stated he doesn't care if the license is only \$1.00; he doesn't want any more bureaucracy, no more big government. He is concerned about the qualifications of the individual deciding who will receive a business license and who won't receive one. Will someone be authorized to pull a license if the business does shoddy work? Who is qualified to make those decisions?

Mr. Russ Beard of 25 Amanda's Teal Dr. expressed concern that a man who simply comes in to fix his hot water heater will need a license.

Mr. McCarron asked about vendors when he spoke earlier in the meeting. Now he asked clarification whether any business that comes to fix equipment at his business would need to pay for a business license. That is true. He responded, that is unmanageable for companies that have contractors coming in daily.

Mr. Elwood Hunsberger of Cooper Realty in Seaford advised the Commission has heard the will of the people tonight. He believes the problem with the whole nation is that people aren't listening to people. This is a time to pull back and pull in, not place extra strain on the backs of someone else. He believes making a 40-year old business pay for a business license to make sure they have insurance is a hollow leg. He suggests making things easier, not harder for economic development in Town.

Mr. Dalton advised a \$100 license will cost him more than that. His company headquarters are elsewhere, so he will have to pay someone at headquarters to do the filing; it

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could take \$300-400 to get the license if you have to send someone out for the day to come to Bridgeville and file for the license. He added that no resident here tonight believes this is a good idea.

President Jefferson advised he is the only person who has walked around Town to 41 businesses to talk to them and ask if they want a business license or not. He stated, "It is time that we sit back and listen to the people of this Town and not our pride. It is time to vote for the people on what the people say what they want."

Commissioner Tassone suggested if he took a survey of all the residents in his district and asked if they would like to vote for the water/wastewater increases, no one would have voted in favor of any of the increases that the Town levied in order to balance the budget.

Commissioner Tassone is a retired businessman and spent over 22 years in business in Maryland and California. He paid a license fee in every single Town. Bridgeville has been fortunate not to have to pay for business licenses; 22 other Towns in Sussex County do require business licenses; they are a normal cost of business in most Towns.

Mr. McCarron suggested that Mr. Tassone probably moved to Delaware because taxes are low, but now they are increasing. He said people shouldn't be surprised, they should have seen it coming. "This is lipstick on a pig; it is a revenue generator." He believes the Town was lied to five years ago when the Town starting growing and residents were assured it would all be paid for. Now he believes the Town is out of money, big surprise. Commissioner Tassone advised the lack of tax raises for the past two years are due to surplus monies generated because of the new development. Mr. McCarron is of the opinion that the new infrastructure is not paying for itself and the whole Town is going to have to pay for it. Commissioner Tassone assured Mr. McCarron the new infrastructure is being paid for by the people who live in the new development. Finance Director Savage could explain all of the increases in Town expenses that have resulted in the water/sewer and tax increases; it is not a new infrastructure issue.

Mr. Ken McDowell admitted he has heard many rumors and chose to come to the meeting to find out the financial facts. President Jefferson advised the Town has \$450,000 in savings and \$385,000 in escrow accounts. Mr. McDowell was uncertain why the Town couldn't meet their budget based on those figures. He suggested the Town is keeping "our" money and levying a tax on all of the businesses and people who work in our homes, etc. It is a good revenue enhancer if you need it, but he doesn't believe we need it with the money the Town has in the bank. The Town has hit the people pretty hard already with water/sewer increases; it sounds like the Town is greedy.

There being no further comments or questions, President Jefferson closed the Public Hearing at 8:27 P.M. and continued to enumerate issues he is aware of concerning the licensing. Farm property owners have questioned whether their property that has been annexed and is tilled will be taxed, since they make a profit on that crop; this issue has not been addressed. The Sussex County Association of Realtors has advised that Ordinance A10-9 has chosen poor wording in the phrase "financial good standing" with the Town. Will the Town investigate

businesses' credit? Commissioner Collison reported if people will read the code, they will find that the Town code defines financial good standing as not owing back taxes or any outstanding fees to the Town. President Jefferson asked the Commissioners to look directly at the citizens of the Town in attendance tonight when they make their vote for or against Ordinance A10-9.

Commissioner Collison stated that this Commission has the best intentions for our Town. Every decision that is made is based on what the Commissioners feel is best for the residents and businesses of our community, for now and for twenty years from now. He was very pleased to see the large number of residents/business owners in the audience; at last month's meeting there were only two business owners in attendance and prior to that, for the past 1-1/2 years he has been on the Commission, no business owners have attended. He encouraged the business owners to come to Economic Development meetings and Commission meetings. Commissioner Collison stated, although Mr. Robert Hunsberger is not a Town resident, he is likely the largest employer in Bridgeville and would be welcome to send a representative to the Commission meetings. The Commissioners do not have all the needed information nor all the right answers to the issues the Town and businessmen face; however, they try to make every decision based on the best interests of the community. Commissioner Collison advised he is a business owner and pays business license fees to every municipality in the states of Delaware and Maryland where his company works. The Commission intends to protect the residents and the businesses, current and future. Prior to this meeting, Commissioner Collison was a firm believer in the business license; however, at this time he has changed his mind. He believes the Town should move forward in registering businesses so that we have accurate information in our files. Commissioner Collison made a recommendation to table the Ordinance with mixed emotions. He believes in his heart that a business license is a good thing, but he hears the businessmen and where they are coming from. He wants the businesses to grow and will use any other avenues (state government, code enforcement, etc.) to make sure businesses are run correctly. President Jefferson suggested not tabling the Ordinance, but voting "no" and writing a new Ordinance to present to the businesses for approval. Commissioner Collison cautioned the Town against seeking agreement from the residents/businesses on all issues, including increases to water/sewer, taxes, etc. Nothing would ever be accomplished with that policy. The Commission is responsible to make sure this Town is run fiscally strong. The Commission could have used all of the reserve funds to balance this budget, leaving zero money in the bank, and we still would have been in the hole. No one here would drain their bank accounts for day-to-day operations.

Mr. McDowell stated that the Commissioners should be commended for having \$480,000 in the bank. Other Towns and even the state government do not have that degree of surplus. Concerning levying a \$20,000 fee for business licenses, the Town has already raised fees substantially. He's uncertain about the intent of the license since it is not supposed to be a revenue enhancer and it really won't protect citizens. Mr. McDowell also stated that the license will cost more than \$100, as businesses will have to increase their prices to accommodate the license fee. The Town is really in great shape and does not need this fee.

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Commissioner Correll advised the Town has had RBC repairs and must purchase two new RBC's. This is expensive equipment, although there is money available to pay for the RBC's.

Commissioner Collison made a motion to vote "no" on Ordinance A10-9. Commissioner Tassone verified through Finance Director Savage that an expected surplus of \$30,674 was anticipated to be moved forward into the FY-11 budget; however the actual surplus moved forward is more than double that figure, \$67,700. Commissioner Tassone seconded the motion to vote "no". Motion carried. Ordinance A10-9 was denied.

President Jefferson thanked all the citizens who came to the meeting tonight to voice their opinions concerning this issue. President Jefferson believes all of the Commissioners should be talking to businesses and citizens regularly. Mr. Dalton thanked President Jefferson for his stand on this issue.

X. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business to discuss at this meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Tassone made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Correll seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Correll
Patricia M. Correll, Commission Secretary

Peggy A. Smith
Peggy A. Smith, Transcriptionist