

## MINUTES

### COMMISSIONERS OF BRIDGEVILLE SEPTEMBER 10, 2001 - 7:00 P.M. TOWN HALL

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Conaway. Present: Commissioners Margaret Sipple, Pat Correll, Earl Greason and Bill Jefferson. The meeting started with the flag salute.

#### PRESENTATIONS:

1. Ms. Marlene Elliott, State Director for the USDA Rural Development Program, presented President Conaway and the Town with a check for \$2,257,000 (\$1,000,000 in grant, \$1,257,000 loan). Ms. Elliott explained that Rural Development's mission is to help rural America with housing, sewer and water, libraries, fire departments, and business loans. The most successful program is the water and wastewater programs. The money given tonight will enable the Town to upgrade the wastewater facility. The loan will not start until the Town is actually ready to begin the facility upgrade.

The Town engineers reports that this project will cost over \$3,000,000. It is the role of the Commissioners to bring that cost down. The state has grant programs which the Town will pursue to help defray the cost of this project. The upgrade will bring the facility in compliance with all new regulations.

2. The Commissioners presented Certificates of Appreciation to the following men for their clean up work in preserving the Mount Calvary Cemetery: Lester Williams, Jr, Brad Cannon, Clifton Jackson, Donald Smack, Bobby Dixon and John Burbage and the Sussex Community Correction Center.

#### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION:** Commissioner Correll made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jefferson and carried unanimously.

#### III. APPROVAL OF BILLS

**MOTION:** After reviewing the bills, Commissioner Jefferson made a motion to pay all bills as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Correll and carried unanimously. President Conaway said things seem to be moving in a very positive direction.

#### **IV. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. A letter was received from the Division of Child Mental Health Services explaining their available programs.
2. A letter was received from Comcast regarding their upcoming adjustments to cable television lineups.
3. A memo was received from the Sussex County Emergency Center pertaining to the development of a statewide Emergency Notification System.
4. There will be a Wastewater Facilities Advisory Council business meeting at 9 am on Delaware Technical & Community College's Terry Campus in Dover on October 10, 2001.
5. A letter of was received from the Department of Transportation pertaining to outdoor advertising in Delaware.

#### **V. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

1. Written reports available.
2. Commissioner Greason commented on the increased storm water inflow from Greenwood. President Conaway stated a meeting has been set up with Greenwood Mayor Donnie Donovan on September 24th at 7:00 pm in Bridgeville's Town Hall. All Commissioners are welcome but Commissioners Greason and Correll need to attend to discuss all other problems concerning Greenwood.  
Commissioner Greason stated there are still three storm water catch basins that are tied into the sanitary sewer. Residents need to remove the catch basins or be charged for them. Alma Fleetwood stated at least three residents are currently paying for the their catch basins because they did not want to remove their catch basin. President Conaway stated all storm drains have been located and there conditions noted.
3. STREETS-Commissioner Sipple reported she talked with state officials concerning the bridge and piping on N. Cannon Street, and the Town will probably not receive any state help with repairs.  
Commissioner Sipple said after being told in the spring that the state would repair the bulk head on N. Main Street, she is now being told it might be repaired by Soil and Water Conservation. Commissioner Correll stated Mr. Bill Vanderwende (Bridgeville) is the president of the Soil Conservation.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

1. President Conaway reported the Town Solicitor is drawing up the ordinance pertaining to absentee voting in the Town elections. Registration procedures will remain the same. The new ordinance will be set in place before the January election.

2. The Town and Cannon Cold Storage have been in disagreement as to what the Town's Charter means pertaining to taxes with new businesses brought to Town. This whole issue is over the word "brought". Mr. Schrader has filed a lien for taxes owed by Cannon Cold Storage which means the Town will proceed to "sell" the property. Cannon Cold Storage might seek a judgment to stop the sale and the courts will then resolve this issue. If the Town loses, Cannon Cold Storage will not have to pay taxes for the full ten year period (six left), and if the Town wins Cannon Cold Storage will pay all back taxes. President Conaway stated it is time to find out once and for all the correct interpretation of the charter.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

1. The "2001 N.I.E. Program" sponsored by the Morning Star Publication is an educational outreach for our youth that places their weekly newspaper in our local schools. Varied sponsorships would allow a number of newspapers to be distributed in the Woodbridge High School. MOTION: After some discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Sipple to table the matter until the October. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Greason and so carried.

2. President Conaway announced that a call was made to Mosquito Control last Wednesday morning. In the early evening of the same day Bridgeville was sprayed for mosquitos.

3. On Saturday, September 15th from 9 am till 6 pm the Bridgeville Outreach Steering Committee will be sponsoring a Community Outreach Day. Features for the day will be government and civil representatives, public safety, health awareness, and much more.

4. Cannon Cold Storage has over the years taken some extraordinary measures and spent a large amount of money over the years to correct problems with their pretreatment sewage facility. President Conaway said numerous violations of their permit still continue, and it is time to resolve the problem.

Cannon Cold Storage's plant produces some serious odor problems especially for residents and business who have property near their facility. A letter was sent to DNREC in May to see if the Town could receive help with this matter, but there was no response. Recently a letter was sent to the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources asking for assistance, and we received immediate attention. DNREC has explained there could be a couple of issues: the problem might not be with the sewer side of the treatment facility but could be with the handling of the solids. President Conaway said in either case

there are two groups of people who are responsible. If it is a solid waste situation then the state is responsible, and the other is the Town. The Commission might need to develop an ordinance that controls odors. According to the Town's engineers, Cannon Cold Storage can control the odor problem. The state will help the Town, and if it is Cannon Cold Storage's problem they will help the Town with enforcement and deciding what the problem is. The state will also help Cannon Cold Storage resolve the problem with their recommendation.

This Commission will continue to push to resolve this problem because it is not right for the people of Bridgeville to have to put up with these odors any longer.

5. Rental Properties-President Conaway explained that the Town has some problems with rental properties. He obtained an ordinance from Selbyville to see if it could be implemented in our community. The Selbyville ordinance is based on business licensing. After reading it through, President Conaway stated he is not prepared to bring it forward at this time. The Commissioners will review the Selbyville Rental Ordinance.

6. Tax Sales-President Conaway stated the county is not selling a lot of properties at this time. If the Town contacts the county, we can "piggy back" on. Currently the Town does not have any residents who owe over \$1,000 in back taxes.

7. The Delaware League of Local Governments will be holding a meeting on September 14th for mayors and presidents to discuss legislation. The annual conference is scheduled for Sunday, September 30, 2001.

8. Commissioner Greason had questioned the state health plan for Town employees. President Conaway said he talked with the Town's insurance agent, and the current policy carried with BCBS is better than the state program for the cost. The Commissioners decided to remain with the current insurance carried.

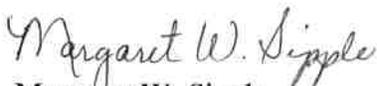
9. Discussions at the Fireside Chat: dogs, mosquitoes, and truck traffic.

10. The Community Development Block Grant Program will hold their annual hearing at the October Commission meeting. Advertising will begin September 20th.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Margaret W. Sipple  
Commission Secretary