

ONANCOCK TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2009
7:00 P.M.

TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Fletcher Fosque
George Miles
Travis Bradley

Kathyanne Runninger
Kris LaMontagne
Maphis Oswald

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bruce Paone, Mayor
Sandy Manter, Interim Town Mgr.
David Rowan, Town Attorney
Bill Bagwell
Jeff Barrett
Sandra Bilinski
Vera Bruton
Bill Burnham
Mike Carpenter
Linda Cicoira, E.S. Post
Dick Cole

Karen R. Simpson, Admin. Asst.
Bryan Horton, Plant Mgr.
Caleb & Lynne Fowler
Sandra Fox
Valena B. Gibb
Carol Hales
Anne Nock
Richard Pearsall
Haydon Rochester
Alan Silverman
Shirley A. Zamora

- I. Mayor Paone called the Town Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., after which the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation were recited.
- II. Consideration of Minutes from December 15, 2008 and January 5, 2009 Meetings. *Councilman Miles made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes of December 15, 2008 and January 5, 2009, Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.* The second sentence in paragraph 2 under Item XI on page 5 of the December 15, 2008 minutes should be deleted, as it is incorrect. *Councilman Fosque made the motion to approve, after correction, the minutes of the December 15, 2008 and January 5, 2009 minutes, Councilman Miles seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.*
- III. Public Comment. Vera Bruton thanked the people who helped her at the gazebo for the Christmas Parade, namely Karen Simpson, Sandy Manter, Victor Talbott, Dewey Borufsen, Ruth Ann and Evan Dize and Sheila Spelman.

Alan Silverman commented on the new water treatment plant project and expressed his concerns about the funding deficit.

Charlie Landis endeavored to make the point that even if the numbers are correct regarding the sewer treatment plant, using end income as a basis is not the way to determine how much cash is available for debt service. The basis should be a cash flow basis.

Haydon Rochester believes Council should make every effort to achieve consensus on the Town's financial position regarding the treatment plant. The discrepancies among the UCC, Task Force and Town Manager need to be cleared up. The Town also needs to understand the risk they are taking and not to under estimate it. A clear statement should be made to the public of the implications for the rate payers and the Town should make an all-out effort to obtain government funds and reduce capital costs.

- IV. Eastern Shore of Virginia Anglers Club. The Anglers Club requests use of the Wharf for their fishing tournament on June 6, 2009, with a rain date of June 7, 2009, which Council approved.
- V. Resolution. Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church on Boundary Avenue requested a Resolution from Town Council recognizing their 141st anniversary. Councilman Miles made a motion to adopt the Resolution Recognizing the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Councilman LaMontagne seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Councilwoman Oswald made a motion that all resolutions honoring someone/something should be published in the local newspaper, Councilman Miles seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- VI. Appointments. A list of term expirations for the Tree Board, Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals was presented. The Town Manager reminded the gathering to complete Volunteer Bank forms if interested in serving. Councilman LaMontagne introduced Richard Pearsall and suggested he replace Stephen Ramsey on the Wharf Committee.
- VII. Wastewater Treatment Plant Project Update. The Town Manager went through her memo to Council regarding her plant project update item by item. The Town Manager answered Councilwoman Oswald regarding high gallons predicted for Hospice – figure would be put more in line by actual usage when their meter is read for billing. Councilman Fosque asked what the projected deficit is, to which the Town Manager answered, \$125,000 starting 2010/11, which does not include pump out dollars. We should be back on the positive side 2013/14. The Town will run tests taking in a limited amount of pump out effluent at the water tower pump station, which will create a bit more sludge. Long range, we are looking at a package septage receiving system, which handles solids and reporting and access. At Councilman Fosque's query, the Town Manager admitted that she did not agree with Alan Silverman's \$200,000 deficit figure, because cost reductions and septage receiving will nullify any deficit. Councilwoman Oswald called for a Council work session. The Town Manager is on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors' next work session, hopefully to open the doors of communication so that the future PSA will communicate with Onancock.

The Virginia Resource Authority, which handles the loan portion of our funding package is requiring the Town to obtain a standby letter of credit in the amount of \$1.6 million, which is four years of our debt service payment on all of our loans, because of the impending law suit against the Town. BB&T will structure the letter of credit on a quarterly basis. Councilman Miles made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to pay the necessary funds

to obtain a standby letter of credit in the amount of \$1.6 million to meet Virginia Resource Authority requirements regarding loan funds for the wastewater treatment plant project. Councilman La Montagne seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The Town Manager was commended by several Council members for her hard work on the report.

- VIII. Personnel Committee Report. Councilman LaMontagne presented a draft of the Town Manager job description advertisement and new Town Manager position description and Town Manager hiring process drafts. Discussion followed regarding whether or not to require that the Town Manager live within Town limits. Council consensus was allowing a 20 mile radius that the Town Manager can live within, as long as a residency requirement is legal. The words “Chief Executive officer” in the 4th line of the newspaper ad should be changed to “Chief Administrator”. Councilman LaMontagne explained the process the Personnel Committee will follow in hiring a new Town Manager. Even though the Town Manager is a member of the Personnel Committee, she has removed herself from any discussion of the hiring of a new Town Manager. Council approved the newspaper ad for the Town Manager position. Councilman LaMontagne made a motion that the Town provide sixteen (16) hours of annual leave and sixteen (16) hours of sick leave retroactive through January 26, 2009 and four (4) hours each annual and sick leave hereon out each pay period. Councilman Miles seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- IX. Capital Projects List for Potential Economic Stimulus Funding. Tier 1 “shovel ready” projects include the wastewater treatment plant upgrade, sidewalk at the east end of Kerr Street and improvements to roads owned/maintained by the Town, such as Parker Street. Tier 2 would include wharf improvements (the Wharf Committee needs to meet regarding this subject), road drainage improvements and broadband route extensions. Other projects are Tangier ferry, Onancock School improvements and energy efficiency upgrades to public buildings. Priorities can be given within each of the eight (8) categories under the Recovery and Reinvestment Bill. Council requested the Town Manager to respond to the Committee on Appropriations with our priorities in each category we are requesting money for.
- X. Broadband Project Update. A management team is being put together, which includes the original task force and more business people. A meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 30th, at the Hospice conference room. The Town has provided the Task Force with a list of business owners to contact. Councilman LaMontagne presented a FAQ sheet from the Broadband Authority. In order to get \$200,000 in funding, a third party has to certify that a certain number of jobs have been created – there is a four year timeline to filling these jobs, or money has to be returned. The business community chooses who they want for these newly created jobs. On February 2nd, Todd Christensen of HCD will be breaking ground for the “backbone”, which should be “lit” by the end of 2009. The price per mile has lowered. The Broadband Authority will assume the Town’s debt when the line is done
- XI. Tangier Ferry Committee Update. A meeting will be held on January 30th at Mallard’s. A budget work sheet (business plan) should be presented. Freddie Pruitt is interested in running a boat, and will compile some financial information. A grant can be applied for from the Ferry Discretionary Fund, which VDOT must apply for. We are also trying to get the mail run to Onancock. Tangier would like to purchase other items from Onancock, rather than from Crisfield. A personal shopper service here for Tangierites would be helpful.

XII. Mayor's Report. No report.

XIII. Town Manager's Report. i. The committee appointed by Council during the Onancock Fire Dept. work session has not met yet due to the delay in receiving information from DHCD regarding the Town's ability to transfer the fire station property. The Town budgeted \$35,980 in FY 2008-09.

ii. Regarding Onancock Landing, the engineer is finishing up his work and will bill us.

iii. Onancock Fest, Inc. is in the process of being dissolved. Council needs to address the future of Harborfest. Bill Burnham mentioned that the Environmental Education Council is interested in reinstating the Watershed Festival.

iv. VML and Virginia Association of Counties are sponsoring Legislative Day on February 5, 2009. Councilman Bradley is interested in attending.

v. Board Bank application from Accomack County for people to serve on the PSA.

vi. Correspondence: a) e-mail from Jeff Barrett; b) letter from Joe Ann Marsh; c) resignation letter from Roland W. Stahl from the BZA; d) e-mail from Charlie Landis; and e) e-mail regarding solar power for Town buildings.

Anne Nock made an earnest request that the Town Manager and Council meet with the Silverman Task Force to come to an agreeable understanding of the status and procedure to follow. Council set February 2, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. as a date for a work session among the Town Manager, Town Council and Task Force in this regard.

Councilwoman Oswald wondered why the Town still employs the person who admitted publically in the E.S. News his incorrect behavior that is contrary to our employment policy. Councilman LaMontagne interjected that the actions of accused Town employees have been dealt with by the Personnel Committee, which decision(s) they have chosen not to share with anyone. They are protecting the employees' rights. The committee thinks they handled the situation appropriately.

IV. Mayor and Town Council Comments. Councilman Miles thanked the Town Manager for doing a good job.

Councilman Bradley agreed and hoped the work session scheduled for February 2nd will make a lot of progress. He asked for clarification of dog complaint policy. He was advised that there is a form for such at the Town Office. No one has been turned away.

Councilman LaMontagne thanked the Town Manager for getting the information together and looks forward to the work session on February 2nd.

Councilman Fosque reported that the Planning Commission just talked about the Town Plan, which should be ready for the next Town Council meeting.

Councilman Miles made the motion to adjourn, Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Sandy Manter
Interim Town Manager

Bruce Paone
Mayor

ATTACHMENTS:

Revenue/Expenditures for 6 mo. ending 12/31/08
Check Register
Revenue/Expenditures Summarization
Plant Report
Police Report