



The Town of Fenwick Island

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SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL APRIL 8, 2019

MINUTES

In Attendance

Town Council Members:

Mayor Langan, Vice Mayor Mais, Treasurer Bunting, Council Member Carmean, Council Member Williams

Absent:

Secretary Merritt, Council Member Lee

Staff in Attendance:

Town Manager Tieman, Chief Boyden

Also in Attendance:

John Rieley (Sussex County Council)

Mayor Langan began the meeting at 10:33 AM, then the meeting went into recess at 10:32 AM so the Town tour could be conducted.

The meeting reconvened at 11:23 AM. Mayor Langan noted the 5 topics that would be discussed today: Sidewalks, Dredging, Beach Replenishment, Police, and Lifeguards.

Sidewalks

Council Member Carmean stated that thousands of people visit the Town during the summer and it is hard to walk through the community. It is very unsafe to walk through, especially at nighttime.

The sidewalk project plan provided by DelDOT was over \$10 million. Town Manager Tieman noted that the Town is looking into grants to fund the project or making sidewalks a capital project.

Mr. Rieley commented that the Town should contact Millsboro, since they are currently in the process of replacing their sidewalks, to see how they are approaching their sidewalk project.

Mr. Rieley questioned how many people have been hit due to the lack of sidewalks. Chief Boyden responded quite a few, with most of the occurrences happening at nighttime and with minor injuries. Mr. Rieley then asked about the traffic counts. Chief Boyden replied that he could get the count from DelDOT.

Mr. Rieley commented that the Town could do a presentation on the sidewalk project to the Sussex County Council in May. Town Manager Tieman replied that she would like to contact DelDOT first, but will let him know when the Town would be ready to do the presentation.

Dredging

Town Manager Tieman noted that the Little Assawoman Bay has never been dredged and it is very difficult to navigate through. Soil samples of the Bay have been taken and no contaminants have been found. The dredge material can be placed to develop the wetlands, and the Town has also spoken to Freeman, who confirmed that they can use the material for their development off of Route 54. Dr. Evelyn Maurmeyer has been hired for guidance on the project as well as Tony Pratt.

Mr. Rieley commented that he knows Senator Hocker and Representative Gray are both in favor of dredging. Council Member Carmean added that Senator Hocker has sponsored an increase in the voters tax and the gasoline tax to fund dredging.

Beach Replenishment

Mayor Langan noted that beach replenishment was done in Fenwick Island last year and will be done again in 3 more years. The State has already said that municipalities would need to contribute next time towards the cost of beach replenishment.

Police

Chief Boyden noted that the Town receives yearly funds from the Revenue Sharing Grant. With the cost of service increasing due to most calls being out of our jurisdiction, Chief Boyden is requesting an increase of the grant to \$50,000 and also change the amount received based upon the size of the department.

Mayor Langan questioned how far does the Fenwick Island Police Department cover. Chief Boyden stated up to the Williamsville curve and to South Bethany, as well as in some cases into Ocean City.

Chief Boyden noted that it is just not the Fenwick Island Police Department that has an increase in calls but other agencies are stretched too. Mr. Rieley agreed and stated as the County grows, additional coverage will be needed.

Lifeguards

Town Manager Tieman commented that the Town receives \$15,000 from the County for the lifeguard coverage of the State Line Beach, which covers 3 stands with a total of 6 guards. Due to an increase in payroll to the starting salary of \$15.00/hour, she is requesting the County increase the amount to \$20,000.

Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Mais, seconded by Council Member Williams, to adjourn the meeting. The MOTION passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 1:06 PM.