

TOWN OF BETTERTON
Mayor & Council Meeting
June 13, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.
Berterton, MD 21610

Meeting was held via GotoMeeting link.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Donny Sutton, Councilman Bill Fracassi, Councilman Harry Marcy, Councilman Wayne Gilchrest, Councilman Bob Pyfer, Town Manager Tom Mogle, and Town Attorney Tom Yeager.

ABSENT: Town Clerk, Sheila Dlugoborski.

RESIDENTS: (in person or virtually via GoTo link) Candi Sorge, Dick and Ginny Story, Mary Ann Wasko-Smith, Rick Bisgyer, Malcolm Kram, Cheryl Fracassi, Joe Sanders, Joe Stock and Jake Williams

MINUTES: *Councilman Marcy motioned to approve the Council meeting minutes on May 9, 2023, Public Hearing minutes on May 23, 2023 and the Council workshop on May 23, 2023. Seconded by Councilman Gilchrest; all in favor, motioned carried.*

FINANCIAL REPORT: *Councilman Gilchrest motioned to approve the May financial report; seconded by Councilman Pyfer, all in favor, motioned carried.*

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BCC: No Report.

BCDC: Candi Sorge reported that the Berterton Heritage Museum hours will be Saturday and Sunday 1 – 3 p.m. Hosted a great lunch and learn. Museum will be open the first Saturday in July, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

BCDC has scheduled a concert with Phil Dutton and the Alligators for August 19th. Judy Kohl had initially planned to arrange this concert. More details to follow.

PLANNING: Will be meeting in August.

APPEALS BOARD: No report.

ROADS: No report.

PARK: The park amenities are being used by many.

SAFETY: No report.

FIRE CO: Mayor Sutton will meet with the Fire Company on Wednesday night to discuss the water usage reporting for pool filling.

WATER/SEWER: Mayor Sutton read the report that Jeff Miller, Plant operator submitted. The water plant pumped 923,000 gal. of potable water in the month of May. There was a leak discovered at Rigby 1 on the 30th. That was not repaired until today, a considerable amount of water was wasted causing excessive run times on the pumps as well as chemical usage. Rigby I had a plumber scheduled to do the repairs, but they had scheduling

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Water/sewer cont'd.

issues. In the future we will strongly suggest homeowners be more diligent with following up on water leak repairs with their contractors.

Mayor Sutton stated he contacted the manager at Ribby I to have the leak fixed as soon as possible due to the high usage on the plant and the drought we are experiencing.

The Wastewater Plant treated and discharged 804,000 gal of Effluent to the Sassafras River. The Summer season has kicked off and we are seeing Higher weekend flows and of course Memorial Day weekends flows were 10 to 15,000 gallons higher per day. On average the weekend flows run B to 10,000 gal. higher than Mon -Fri. The maintenance contract with Ingersol Rand for the Denitrification Filter Compressors is up for renewal in July and I have been reaching out to other Contractors for Bids, yet no one has returned a package. There is issue with our Geographical area being at least 1 & 1/2 hour in travel time. The plant is steady with exception of the High Flow weekends being a little shocking to the microorganisms, but they recover quickly and settle back down by Tuesday. Any questions feel free to contact Jeff.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES: Joe Stock stated that the Betterton American Legion approached him a year or so ago that they needed a new roof and asked if he could help find funding. Dr. Stock applied through a private foundation grant and was denied. Then he looked into the community legacy grant requirements that state that the property must be in a sustainable community area. The Legion property is not within the town limits. The town council approve and signed a resolution and forwarded to the Kent County Commissioners for their support and signatures. Planning, Housing and Zoning, William Mackey, Director stated he did not have the staff to support filing the paperwork. He encouraged Dr. Stock to ask the Town to annex the Legion property into the town. Mayor Sutton and Attorney Tom Yeager both commented on the lengthy process it is to annex an area. Discussion but no decision was made at this time.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Sheriff Dennis Hickman gave the police report for May. There were 7 calls for service, 12 speed enforcements, 17 traffic warnings; 21 patrol checks, 0 citations, and no overtime usage.

Discussion on the use of golf carts in town. Mayor Sutton expressed concern about under age people driving them, not paying attention and abiding by the rules of the roads. Regular golf carts are not permitted to be driven on the road. Low Speed Vehicles are permitted and must be registered through the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA). Anyone found operating an unregistered low speed vehicle on the roadway may be cited.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Tower Leases –We have tried to contact someone from Verizon to meet with Jeff Miller to determine which equipment and wires are Verizon's. Once we determine which lines are Verizon, we can disconnect the others on the tower due to non-payment per their contract.

Bayside Project –GMB is putting together documents. Lindstrom Excavating had a crew out taking measurements for the as-builts.

Ericsson Avenue Project – Published an ad again in last week's Kent County News. A few companies responded. Seeking the final design to determine the funding we need to obtain.

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Tennis/Basketball Courts Project – We are still awaiting our last grant payment from DNR for reimbursement. The Project Open Space sign has been installed which was mandatory for funding. There are still some ruts that the company needs to address.

Firefly Park at Sixth Avenue park is in need of repair.

WWTP - Still need a few items closed out. Replaced the front-end loader this past fiscal year. Mayor Sutton asked if there is any money left to use for anything else.

NEW BUSINESS:

Betterton Vol. Fire Co. water rate for pool filling. Mayor Sutton will be meeting with the Fire Company Wednesday evening to discuss water usage for pool filling. The Town has not received any water usage reports or payments for several years. The old rate of \$10.50 per thousand gallon was in effect for several years. Discussion on a new rate.

Mary Roe Walkup has requested to have the Sixth Avenue Park named after Mayor Clark. It was addressed several years ago but was put on hold. Mrs. Walkup would like to see it happened in the near future. Mayor Sutton has discussed with a family member that we would like to name the pavilion after Mayor Clark and they said they will reach out to other family members and will let the mayor know their decision.

We have discussed purchasing additional benches for the park. Councilman Gilchrest suggested we contact the high school carpentry class to construct benches.

Town Manager Report – Has been in contact with the county to remove the sand off of the walkway area, jetty and boat ramp at the county beach area. Joe Stock commented that he talked with the county and DNR about doing a grant to rebuild the water area at the ramp. Kent County Commissioners approved funding to have an engineer look into it.

OPEN FORUM: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: -

Dick Story reported that he attended the hearing at the County Commissioners meeting in reference to changing the zoning requirements of the height of buildings along the Rt. 301 corridor. Asked if the Mayor would send a letter stating if the Town of Betterton is in favor or not of the height regulations. Three other Mayors from Kent County Municipalities have sent their letters.

The walkway into the old town hall on Third Avenue is buckling and needs to be repaired and/or replaced.

Councilman Gilchrest spoke about his opposition about the building height proposal and about the growth along the Rt. 301 corridor. Discussion. Councilman Pyfer commented he would rather see the buildings be built higher instead of spreading out.

Mayor Sutton announced that there will be no council workshop on Tuesday, June 27th due to members attending the MML conference.

Councilman Gilchrest commented that we should reach out to MDE, Jay Jacob and others to visit our wastewater treatment plant and express the need for WWTP operators and supervisors. Discussion on lack of operators/supervisors nationwide.

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Councilman Gilchrest asked if at the next workshop we could discuss on the billing setup for commercial properties. Expressed that council should know the billing process due to people ask sometimes and it would be helpful. Mayor Sutton stated that commercial properties are billed differently than a residential property.

Betterton Vol. Fire Co. –

Sunday, July 16th - Designer Purse Bingo

Saturday, August 5th - Betterton Appreciation Day

Dick Story announced that there will be fireworks on Friday night, August 4th.

Mr. Story also commented that the BVFC are prepared to approve a new set of bylaws which includes having an liaison from the town council.

Betterton American Legion –

Thursday nights – Open Mic Night, Open at 5:00 p.m.

Sundays at 2 p.m. – Cash Bingo

Sundays at 6 p.m. – Queen of Hearts drawing.

The office will be closed on Monday, June 19th in observance of Juneteenth.

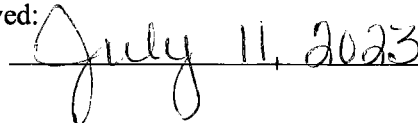
Councilman Marcy motioned to close the June 13, 2023, meeting, seconded by Councilman Gilchrest; all in favor; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dlugoborski, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "July 11, 2023", written over a horizontal line.