

TOWN OF BETTERTON
Mayor & Council Meeting
October 11, 2022 @ 7:00 P.M.
Berterton, MD 21610

Meeting was held via GotoMeeting link.

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

ABSENT: Councilman Bob Pyfer

RESIDENTS: (in person or virtually via GoTo link) Cheryl Fracassi, Dick Story, Ginny Story, Carolyn Sorge, Mary Anne Wasko-Smith, and Sharon Sutton.

MINUTES: *Councilman Fracassi motioned to approve the Council meeting minutes on September 12, 2022, Public Hearing September 13, 2022, and Council workshop on September 27, 2022. Seconded by Councilman Gilchrest; all in favor, motioned carried.*

FINANCIAL REPORT: *Councilman Marcy motioned to approve the September financial report; seconded by Councilman Fracassi; all in favor, motioned carried.*

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Mayor Sutton read the September report. The Sheriff's Department handled 14 calls for service, 2 criminal complaints, 15 traffic warnings, 3 traffic citations, 3 foot patrols, 13 Man hours and overtime cost of \$599.09.

GUEST SPEAKERS: United Way Kent County, Hope Clark. Ms. Clark talked about United Way Mission and gave an overview of what United Way does for different agencies in Kent County. Some of the agencies that they support are Camp Fairlee, Character Counts, Community Food Pantry, Compass Regional Hospice, Echo Hill Outdoor School, KART, Rock Hall Sailing School Scholarship Program and many others. Donations may be made online at unitedwayofkentcounty.org.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BCC: No Report.

BCDC: Candi Sorge reported that the Berterton Heritage Museum will be closing to the public next weekend. The museum committee will be working over the winter to update and improve displays. Working on getting information together for a holiday sale.

PLANNING: Next meeting will be held on Monday, October 17, 2022. Questioners pertaining to the town's future and updating the Comprehensive Plan have gone out to several people in town.

APPEALS BOARD: No Report.

ROADS: There is a water leak on Main Street near the Sixth Avenue Park. Brambles Construction will be in town this week to repair the line.

PARK: No Report.

SAFETY: No Report.

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FIRE CO.: Dick Story reported that the fire company is seeking long term solution to keeping the ambulance in service. There is an issue with the fuel pump. The company receives an overwhelming number of calls for the EMS service.

WATER/SEWER: Mayor Sutton read the report that Jeff Miller, Plant operator submitted. The water treatment plant pumped 1,057,00 gal. of potable water in the month of September. A leak has developed on main street by the park, A contractor scheduled to make repairs Thursday. Schultes well contractor was on site at well #2 to test the function of the pump and the well, they were also scheduled to perform the same inspection to well #1 but due to problems encountered with well #2, I decided it best not to perform the inspection on well # 1 as it is functioning as it should, according to our flow meter readings. The water meter replacement project for the Bath house is scheduled for the first of Nov.

The wastewater plant treated and released 989,000 gal. of Effluent to the Sassafra River the month of September. We have use leftover material from the green house drying bed to cover one of the SBR'S in a experimental effort to keep the temperature from plummeting this winter. We will continue to monitor temps and proceed to cover SBR 2.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES: No Report.

Trash: New company does not break the tonnage out for either service. We will
Recycling: eliminate this from our report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Tower Leases –Town Attorney Yeager has mailed a letter to Bridgmax stating they will need to sign the lease or remove their equipment from the tower.

Bayside Project Working with MDE, Tidal Wetland Division Chief, Eastern Shore Region, Jonathan Steward to learn more about the channelward pilings and if they can be covered on our license. A meeting has been arranged with Duane Lindstrom to speak with Bayside Homeowners interest in placing pilings before the revetment is built. Building the revetment around the pilings will strengthen the dock/pier design.

Ericsson Avenue Project – Chris Rogers will have 2 – 3 weeks to finalize the ER to incorporate the Clearinghouse attachment. Also, AECOM will be revising the Per to indicate additional fire hydrants and to describe drainage issues. AECOM is working on the proposal for the final design and construction. This proposal involves survey, soil testing and maybe Geotech.

NEW BUSINESS: Credit Card Processing program – Town Clerk reported that she has been looking into a couple of companies that offer government support on processing credit card payments. The Town of Chestertown and Kent County Finance Office use the same company and the Town of Millington has just install a program from another company and really like the system. There is no cost to the Town to have either of these systems. The cost gets passed onto the consumer. Asking council to give the go ahead to pick one and have it installed. Council all agreed that the Town Clerk can select one and proceed.

AFLAC Supplemental Insurance – Town employees met with an AFLAC representative this past week. The policy must have a minimum of 3 employees to enroll. The representative stated that usually the employer will pay for the short-term disability insurance and an accident policy and supplied a yearly fee. Asking for the Council to consider adding this to the employee benefit package. The 3 employees that met the other day are all interested in the insurance and will enroll on their own if the council do not wish to participate. *Councilman Marcy voted to pay the employees portion for the Short-Term Disability and the Accident Insurance. Councilman Gilcrest seconded; all in favor, motion carried.*

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Retirement – Have been working on setting up retirement accounts for the employees that are eligible. The employee handbook has a retirement plan built in with an “up to 3% match”. The “up to 3% match” has been in the budget over the years but has not been used. The previous company has not been very helpful. Found a broker and they supplied 5 companies and broke out the fees. The broker recommended 2 of the companies with lesser fees, John Hancock and Lincoln. He pointed out that John Hancock was a little higher in fees but offers more options to the enrollee. After brief discussion, *Councilman Marcy motioned to go with John Hancock for the employee retirement fund, Councilman Fracassi seconded, all in favor, motion carried.*

Town Manager Report –

Mayor Sutton and Jeff Miller were very helpful in planning the basketball and tennis courts construction. Met with Jeff and Mid Atlantic Asphalt’s, Jonathan Allmond to discuss the construction. The week of October 24th, the contractor will be removing fencing and posts. Will need to get a price to remove a dead cherry tree.

Bramble’s Construction will be replacing the meter at the County Bathhouse the first week in November.

There will be a public hearing prior to the Council Workshop on October 25th to discuss MDE, Maryland Rural Water PSL project. There will be representatives at the hearing to answer any questions.

Working on a new website and enhancing security for the town’s systems.

OPEN FORUM: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: -

Train Show – December 3rd & 4th

Betterton Fire Co. – Nov. 1, Food Trucks

Betterton/Still Pond Lions Club – Night at the Races, Nov. 12th at the Betterton Fire House

Betterton American Legion –

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

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

October 22nd – Auction at 5:00 p.m.

October 29th – Dance at 7:30 p.m.

November 12th – Veteran’s Day Luncheon 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Betterton United Methodist Church Youth Group – Oct. 14th & Oct. 28th , and Nov. 4th. Children’s Christmas Party Dec. 10th at the American Legion, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

TRICK OR TREAT – October 31st – 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Candi Sorge thanked Councilman Gilchrest for the walk at the Sassafras Wildlife Management area in the morning. Councilman Gilchrest stated that they will be offering more group walks on a regular basis.

Motion was made by Councilman Marcy to close the October 11, 2022, meeting, seconded by Councilman Fracassi; all in favor; Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dlugoborski, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Approved:

November 8, 2022