

TOWN OF BETTERTON
Mayor & Council Meeting
March 14, 2023 @ 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, Councilman Bob Pyfer, Town Manager Tom Mogle, Town Clerk Sheila Dlugoborski, and Town Attorney Tom Yeager.

RESIDENTS: (in person or virtually via GoTo link) Larry Crew, Candi Sorge, John Erikson, Dick and Ginny Story, Malcolm Kram and Russ Bell.

MINUTES: *Councilman Marcy motioned to approve the Council meeting minutes on February 14, 2023 and the Council workshop minutes on February 28, 2023. Seconded by Councilman Gilchrest; all in favor, motioned carried.*

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

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Have not received the February Sheriff's report.

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BCC: No Report.

BCDC: Candi Sorge announced the Still Pond/Berterton Tree Run will be held on April 1st starting at the four corners in Still Pond and ending at Berterton Beach. Mrs. Sorge asked Council if BCDC could have the community center open to welcome the runners and do awards.

Museums of Kent Driving Tour will be on May 20th & 21st. The train show will be open on May 20th.

Berterton Community yard sale will be on April 29th. Sign up through the town office to have your address listed in the ad that will be published in the Tidewater Trader. Asking \$5.00 for sign-up to help pay for the cost of the ad.

PLANNING: Met last night. Reviewed public information of the Comprehensive Plan. Will meet again April 10th. Discussing adding a new member. Ginny Story reported that they are working through the visions part of the state requirements of the Comprehensive Plan.

APPEALS BOARD: Seeking a new member to fill the vacancy on the board.

ROADS: No report.

PARK: No report.

SAFETY: No report.

FIRE CO: No report.

WATER/SEWER: Mayor Sutton read the report that Jeff Miller, Plant operator submitted. The water treatment plant pumped 772,000 gallons of potable water in the month of February. There were no leaks in the distribution system and the plant had no mechanical issues to report. The wastewater plant treated and discharged 633,000 gallons of effluent to the Sassafras River. Temperatures are slowly on the rise but are still below optimal levels. We are currently having tests performed on the influent to the plant, and the food to microorganism ratio. As our winter inflows are very low operations in the winter months may have to be altered (if possible), to accommodate for the lack of food entering the plant to sustain the population of microorganisms. Each winter bringing different weather patterns. We have to continually monitor operations closely to ensure the plant functions at its highest level possible. Any future questions, please feel free to contact Jeff.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES: Scheduling a meeting for late April/early May.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Vote on Bids for New 244J John Deere Loader, or equal. Two bids were received and opened at the Council workshop on February 28, 2023.

Atlantic Tractor – for a John Deere 244J	GF Mid Atlantic – for a Case 221F
Sale Price \$121,624.32	Sale Price \$88,900.00
Trade Amount <u>- 29,890.00</u>	Trade Amount <u>-36,000.00</u>
Total Cost \$ 91,734.32	Total Cost \$52,900.00

Council had asked Mr. Miller to compare the two pieces of equipment. Mr. Miller said the Case 221F is comparable to the John Deere 244J. *Councilman March made the motion to purchase the Case loader through GF Mid Atlantic; Councilman Gilchrest seconded; all in favor; motion carried.*

Tower Leases –Have not received any payments from Delmarva Wifi now know as East Coast Wifi. Letters have been sent out with no response from the company. Council will have their equipment that is on the town’s water tower shut off in the near future.

Bayside Project – The contractor has been cleaning up the work area as the project has been completed. Reimbursement documents have been submitted to the proper agencies for the town to be reimbursed.

Ericsson Avenue Project – Will be putting the project out to bid for the final engineering and construction. MRDC Beth Hussein will be helping put together the RFP. Filed for Congressional Directed Spending funds to three offices: Van Hollen, Cardin, and Harris’ offices.

Tennis/Basketball Courts Project – waiting for the weather to be more of a consistent temperature to schedule the painting of the courts and lines.

WWTP – Email has been sent to Terry Fearins, USDA about Council voting on the loader. Once the loader is purchased, the project should be closed out.

NEW BUSINESS:

Crew’s Landing – Water at dock - Councilman Marcy spoke on behalf of Crew’s Landing as a resident of the units. Councilman Marcy was asked by the condo association to explore having the water reconnected and turned back on to the dock and what the cost would be. The water was shut off due to leaks in the pipes a few years ago. Councilman Marcy asked the town clerk, Sheila Dlugoborski if she could find out how the condo association was

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being charged for the dock water usage in the past and what the charges would be to reconnect once lines were fixed. The findings once researched were that the condo association was being charged for 2 water hook-ups (1 for dock and 1 for common area) and 1 sewer hook-up (dock pump out for boats). These were the allocations that were applied for when the units were being built. When the water was shut off for the dock, there was notation in the file that Crew's Landing relinquished the allocations back to the town. Mayor Sutton stated that at this time there should be 3 or 4 allocations available but would like to have a water study completed to verify how many water allocations are left in the town. Mayor Sutton stated that the town could use some of the ARPA money to do the water study. The Condo association would need to fill out a form to request an allocation for the dock at the cost of \$1,500.00.

PERSONNEL MANUAL UPDATE - There are two additions/changes that were made to the personnel manual. Town Clerk Dlugoborski reviewed the paid holidays for other agencies, i.e., other towns, county, state, federal and banks and conformed ours to theirs. Also the Council voted in October 11, 2022 to offer Short-Term Disability Plan and an Accident Plan for employees through AFLAC. *Councilman Marcy motioned to approve the additions/changes to the Personnel Manual as presented. Councilman Gilcrest seconded; all in favor; motion carried.*

Town Manager Report –

Maryland Rural Water Association reviewed the Betterton's water supply system and have determined the Town of Betterton's to be free of harmful lead pipes. However, this does not mean individual homes are lead free. MRWA has created an easy-to-use online survey to help homeowners to determine the makeup of their pipes. A link to the survey can be found on the Town's website. There was discussion about treatment for the forever chemical. The town manager will check with MRWA about this chemical.

Submitted an RFP in the Kent County News for scraping & painting of the foot bridge along Bayside and for mowing of the town properties.

Phase 2 of the Bayside Project which is grading, backfill and landscaping is moving forward. MDE Chief Sunita Boyle put the project forward to the Maryland Clearinghouse. Met with homeowners to discuss this portion of the project. Will met again with the homeowners to discuss ways to reduce the overall costs of the project in order to have more participation of homeowners. Mayor Sutton stated that this part of the project will need to be completed for stabilization of the bluff.

OPEN FORUM:

Larry Crew showed Council the plans for the cover for the "Ark". Working on funding for the project. Asked for permission from Council to move forward with the project. Council had no objections.

Candi Sorge asked how will people know to complete the survey for the lead/copper pipes? How will we get the information out to the public? Mayor Sutton stated that we will put it in the newsletter that will go out the end of the month with the water bills as well as we can do an email blast and post it on various social media platforms.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: -

Dick Story had a few announcements for the Betterton Volunteer Fire Company.

April 10th the MD Food Bank will be at the fire house to distribute food for anyone in need.

Food trucks will start in April on Fridays. Will have schedule in the upcoming town newsletter.

Installation of Officers will be held on Saturday, March 18th.

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MD Food Bank @ Betterton Vol. Fire Co. - Monday, April 10th 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

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.

Betterton Youth Group –March 31st, April 14th & May 19th at 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. at Church. April 8th Easter Egg Hunt- Betterton Park, 11 a.m.

Betterton/Still Pond Lions Club – June 10th - Night at the Races.

Town Attorney Tom Yeager commented that the tower leases have not been paid by Delmarva Wifi aka East Coast Wifi and that after Monday, March 20, 2023 they should be shut down.

Mayor Sutton attended the Kent County Commissioner Budget Workshop on Wednesday, March 14 to discuss the tax differential/rebate for the 5 municipalities. Mayor Sutton on behalf of the Town of Betterton informed the Commissioners that he did not dispute the tax differential and knows all the services the County provides to the town.

Request from Joe Sanders asking for the Town of Betterton for sponsorship of a grant that the Betterton American Legion will be applying for. Mayor Sutton stated that the town would provide sponsorship.

Motion was made by Councilman Marcy to close the March 14, 2023, meeting, seconded by Councilman Gilchrest; all in favor; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dlugoborski, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: April 11, 2023