

TOWN OF BETTERTON
Mayor & Council Meeting
August 8, 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, 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) Joe Stock, Candi Sorge, Ginny Story, Mel Rapelyea, Cheryl Fracassi, Gerry Warner, Dawn Daggett, Mary Ann Wasko-Smith, Dave Paltrineri, Don Sutton Jr. and Clyde Warden.

MINUTES: *Councilman Marcy motioned to approve the Public Hearing minutes and Council meeting minutes on July 11, 2023. There was no Council workshop on July 25, 2023. Seconded by Councilman Fracassi; all in favor, motioned carried.*

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

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BCC: No Report.

BCDC: Candi Sorge commented that it was a wonderful Berterton Appreciation Day and thanked the Fire Company for organizing a great event. Berterton Heritage Museum had a booth at the beach and had numerous visitors that shared memories of Berterton.

Outdoor Concert will be on August 19th, 4 – 6 p.m. Phil Dutton and the Alligators will be performing. Bring a lawn chair and non-alcoholic beverages.

PLANNING: Met on August 7th. Mel Rapelyea recommended to Council, Dave Paltrineri to join the Planning/Zoning Board as a member. Mayor Sutton swore in Dave Paltrineri as a member of the Planning/Zoning Board.

APPEALS BOARD: No report.

ROADS: Mayor Sutton reported that there is a request for the town to fix the corner of a blacktop driveway that is deteriorating on the corner of a property along Park Street and Bayside Aly. The area is on the corner of Linda Hall's property. This is due to the re-routing of traffic and people short cutting the turn onto Bayside Aly. Mrs. Hall asked if the area can be fixed and maybe a post installed to stop vehicles from driving on her property.

Mayor Sutton commented that he is concerned if a post or pole is installed, that the larger vehicles, i.e. garbage truck, fuel delivery trucks, parcel deliveries would not be able to make the turn and probably break the post off. Will have the town crew look into it and see what we can come up with.

PARK: Cow plop fencing has been removed by the fire company personnel. Kids have been enjoying the misters.

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SHERIFF'S REPORT: Mayor Sutton thanked the Sheriff's Department for all their help throughout the weekend for the Betterton Appreciation Day activities.

Sheriff Dennis Hickman gave the police report for July. There were 11 calls for service, 11 speed enforcements, 24 traffic warnings; 41 patrol checks, 6 citations, and 4 hours overtime usage.

SAFETY: No report.

FIRE CO: Dick Story announced that this Friday is Food Truck night. Thanked the Town for their cooperation and help for the Betterton Day Appreciation celebrations.

WATER/SEWER: Jeff Miller, Operator, gave the water and wastewater report. The water plant pumped 1,081,000 gal of potable water the month of July. There were no Leaks in the distribution system. Jeff spoke with our Electrical Contractor about writing an RFP for the Generator and electrical upgrades to the water plant, but they do not have an Engineering License for Md. At this point to keep the ball rolling my suggestion would be to contact the Engineering firm that gave us the first quote, have them meet with me at the plant and proceed accordingly. Discussion about generators.

The wastewater plant treated and discharged 984,000 gal of effluent to the Sassafras River . The plant is operating well despite the varying / flows associated with the weekend Beach goer's and the holidays. The Maryland Board of Public Works approved a Grant for the amount of \$20,000 towards costs associated with operation and maintenance, Based on the Plants 2022 Enhanced Nutrient Removal Optimal Performance. Jeff met with White Marsh Environmental, and M E S about their interest in operating our Water, wastewater and pump stations. They both will send their pricing by September. And jeff will be meeting with another contractor tomorrow. Any further questions please feel free to call Jeff.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES: Joe Stock stated his still working on the grant for the Betterton American Legion to do some major upgrades. Mr. Stock stated that the county suggested to annex the American Legion property into the Town. A survey is being completed at this time. Survey must show how the property ties into the existing town limits. Town Attorney, Tom Yeager explained the time frame in which it takes to complete an annexation with advertising in a local paper twice for a public hearing, letters sent to surrounding properties to see if they are interested in annexing as well, council voting on resolution for annexation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Tower Leases – Still waiting on a county employee to determine which can be removed/disconnected.

Painting/Maintenance work for Bayside Bridge – Zierfuss Painting estimate was \$55,700 - \$61,700 based on \$6K estimate for tarping and cleanup and with additional cost for replacement of boards (\$60 per hour plus material). Christophel Painting estimate \$68,000 plus labor and material for replacement of boards. Christophel did NOT recommend Trex decking. Trex specs requires another joist and the Trex does not hold up well over time. Recommends annual maintenance of boards by power washing and staining the boards at a cost of \$3,500. Councilman Gilchrest stated that there are transportation alternative grants available. This type of grant is for projects like doing a historic trail around Betterton and have the trail include the foot bridge. We will look into the grants.

Bayside Project – We received the long-awaited new set of drawings and maps containing the updated as-built information. I will be reviewing and sending back to GMB for final copies. When they've signed off on the final docs, I will to MDE, KC, and a copy to the homeowners.

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Ericsson Avenue Project - CDBG will not pay the \$50K to cover the cost for the design. Beth Hussein will be speaking to USDA.

WWTP – The Town Manager spoke with Terry Fearins, USDA about using some of the money left for a Low Speed Vehicle (LSV) for use at the plant. An RFP has been published for said vehicle.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cover for Ark & upgraded play area – Joe Stock presented to Council plans for both areas that will be submitted to the Maryland Historic Trust. The “Jewel” play equipment is unsafe. Grant application is due on August 23rd. Council approved both plans to be presented.

Vote and swearing in ceremony of new Planning/Zoning member – already done during the planning/zoning report earlier.

Opening Bids for LSV for Town for WWTP maintenance – RFP was advertised in the local paper. Only received bids from All Pro Kustomz from Kennedyville. Four different quotes from this company.

2023 C20S Cruise Car Commercial (includes LSV pkg.), battery operated	\$12,547.70
2023 C20LS Cruise Car Commercial (includes LSV pkg.) battery operated	\$13,554.70
2023 C20U Cruise Car Commercial (includes LSV pkg.) battery operated	\$15,409.70
2023 C20U-L Cruise Car Commercial Vehicle (includes LSV pkg.) lifted model, battery operate	\$16,787.70

The Town Manager will contact USDA to see if we can approval to use money from the WWTP grant to purchase LSV.

Town Manager Report – Go-Live Date for the new website is set for tomorrow, August 9, 2023. In addition, to the documents and the information contained in our previous website, our new website will have several important updates. The home page will display the present temp and weather. The user will be able to switch from English to Spanish or French or one of eighty other languages.

More importantly, users with vision issues will be able to adjust the page, make links more visible, and use color contrast to interact with site. It’s very difficult to be ADA compliant, but this is definitely a very good measure to take. · Links to FB and Twitter (X)—Galena, Chestertown, Centreville, Elkton · Link to KC Parks and Recreation (Beach)—Visitors with questions regarding beach conditions. We get a lot of questions. It will be nice to have info online. · Link to KC Health Department (Health and Wellness) air quality report, vaccine info. · Link to KC Food Pantry (Health and Wellness) · Link to online bill payment service (Value Payment Systems, LLC) minimum payment of \$1.95 or the 2.9% whichever is greater for the convenience fee.

A main reason for choosing Revise over Word Press, is that Word Press is the most prone to hacking because it utilizes plugins which are open sourced. These plugins may contain malicious codes and script which provide a hacker with platform to inject malware and perform nefarious activities.

Revise specializes in government websites. For security purposes, Revise uses its own proprietary software. In short, hackers are very familiar to Word-Press generated websites. While no site is hack-proof, they will have a much more difficult time hacking into a site.

· Link to online bill payment service (Value Payment Systems, LLC) minimum payment of \$1.95 or the 2.9% whichever is greater for the convenience fee.

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OPEN FORUM: Mayor Sutton asked Dr. Stock if the play area at BCC should be removed due to safety concerns. His suggestion was to have it removed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: - Mayor Sutton announced that there will be meetings held for the Bay Crossing Study.

Anne Arundel County

Thursday, September 7, 2023

6 – 8 p.m.

Broadneck High School

1265 Green Holly Dr.

Annapolis, MD 21409

Queen Anne's County

Tuesday, September 12, 2023 6 – 8 p.m.

Kent Island American Legion Post 278

800 Romancoke Rd.

Stevensville, MD 21666

Virtual Open House

Thursday, September 14, 2023 6 – 8 p.m.

baycrossingstudy.com

A link to the virtual Open House will be available on the day of the meeting.

Betterton Vol. Fire Co. –

Friday, August 11th – Food Trucks – 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Sunday, September 24th - Car Show

Betterton American Legion –

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

Sundays at 3 p.m. – Bar Bingo

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

Saturday, Sept. 23rd – Basket Bingo - Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Councilman Fracassi motioned to close the August 8, 2023, meeting, seconded by Councilman Marcy; all in favor; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dlugoborski, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Approved:

September 12, 2023