

TOWN OF BETTERTON
Mayor & Council Meeting
July 11, 2023 @ 7:04 P.M.
Berterton, MD 21610

Meeting was held via GotoMeeting link.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Donny Sutton, Councilman Harry Marcy, Councilman Wayne Gilchrest, Councilman Bob Pyfer, Town Manager Tom Mogle, Town Clerk, Sheila Dlugoborski, and Town Attorney Tom Yeager. Also, Plant(s) operator, Jeff Miller. **ABSENT:** Councilman Bill Fracassi

RESIDENTS: (in person or virtually via GoTo link) Candi Sorge, Dick and Ginny Story, Mary Ann Wasko-Smith, Malcolm Kram, Joe Stock and Clyde Warden.

MINUTES: *Councilman Marcy motioned to approve the Council meeting minutes on June 13, 2023. There was no Council workshop on June 27, 2023. Seconded by Councilman Pyfer; all in favor, motioned carried.*

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

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Lieutenant Scott Duhamell gave the police report for June. There were 8 calls for service, 11 traffic enforcements, 28 traffic warnings; 38 patrol checks, 13 citations, and 4 hours overtime usage.

Discussion on the use of low speed vehicles and golf carts in town. Mayor Sutton expressed concern again 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). LSV must be equipped with a windshield, turn signals, rearview mirror, windshield wipers, headlights, taillights, brake lights, parking brake and seatbelts. Lieutenant Duhamell stated that if any of the none registered one become an issue, citations will be issued.

WATER/SEWER: Jeff Miller, Operator, gave the water and wastewater report. The water plant pumped 1,108,000 gallon of potable water in the month of June. There were no leaks in the towns distribution piping and the plant is operating as it should. The generator project/electrical upgrade for the plant is turning out to be a slow-moving endeavor with the hiring of an electrical engineer to write a RFP in order to put the job out for bids. With that situation in mind, Jeff is presently putting together a RFP on re-piping the plant with PVC and demoing the old water conditioning tanks no longer in use. This should expedite the project as well as save money on engineering costs.

The wastewater plant treated and discharged 794,000 gallons of effluent to the Sassafras River the month of June. The plant is operating well, and Jeff is monitoring inflows and making corrective action as our inflow increases due to weekend water usage as well as temperature increases and rainfall.

For the last couple of months, we have been experiencing intermittent "network" problems with the plants computer system, which activates alarms all hour's day and night. Our electrical IT contractor is not convinced it is within the plant network but perhaps the incoming network from the County service. They have emailed the county to as if they are having issues with their service.

Page 2 7/11/23 Mayor and Council Meeting

The Town's preventative maintenance agreement for the denite filter compressors expires this month and Jeff has reached out to other contractors for comparative bids but have yet to receive any other than from our initial contractor Ingersoll Rand. Which leaves us with no other option that to "re-up" with them, Jeff has included the 1-year price with this report.

Pump station #2 is in dire need of re-piping the pump well, new pumps and repairs to the wet well. Re-engineering of the pump station is not an option due to time constraints and is not cost effective. Jeff's suggestion is we declare this an emergency and hire a contractor to perform the work ASAP.

Another issue that needs to be addressed is the hiring of the county or another outside contractor to operate the plants. We have exhausted all efforts in hiring a trainee over the past 4 years. Even if we were to find someone at this point it would take years for someone to get to the point they could take the plants over, as well as the EPA & MDE reporting. We have been in touch with the County public works department with regards to this issue and frankly their initial response was weak, as they are also understaffed and overworked. If they cannot man our plants, it leaves us no other choice than to see an outside contractor to run them. The 24/7/365 on call is too much for one person to manage. Jeff is researching contractors in the surrounding area to inquire about their services and their interest in bidding the job.

Town Attorney Yeager stated that the Commissioners want to provide the service to the town but the county is having the problem of not having the personnel to do the job. They want to do it and thinks it's the right thing to do but at this time it's not possible. Discussion on hiring an outside contractor with a short-term agreement.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BCC: No Report.

BCDC: Candi Sorge reported that the Betterton Heritage Museum hours will be Saturday and Sunday 1 – 3 p.m.

BCDC has scheduled a concert with Phil Dutton and the Alligators for August 19th. Planning to have the concert outside, weather permitting.

PLANNING: Next meeting will be August 7th. Will continue to work on the comprehensive plan.

APPEALS BOARD: No report.

ROADS: No report.

PARK: Working on closing out the grant.

SAFETY: No report.

FIRE CO: Council received letters requesting someone from council to be a liaison. Mayor Sutton stated he will assume the role.

WATER/SEWER: reported earlier.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES: Joe Stock is working with the Betterton American Legion on a grant to do some major upgrades. The Legion is not within town limits so the towns sustainable community will not apply to this property. The County stated that the best option is to annex the legion into the town. At the legion's meeting

Page 3 7/11/23 Mayor and Council Meeting

Sustainable Communities cont'd...

they voted to proceed with the annexation if the town agrees. The legion will need to submit a letter to the town requesting the annexation. The town will ask if other properties in the vicinity would be interested into annexing into the town as well. DHCD would consider the application for the grant if the annexation goes through in a few months. If not, it will have to wait another year to apply for the grant. Town Attorney, Tom Yeager stated that he felt the annexation would take more than 90 days to complete. The annexation requires a public hearing along with other legal proceedings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Tower Leases – County will have someone look over the hook-ups and determine which can be removed/disconnected.

Bayside Project – GMB have possession of the as-builts and will have maps by the end of the week. Once the maps are here, we can submit to MDE for their approval and send off to Kent Soil Conversation for license. Once plans are approved, we can speak to Bayside residents about the funding participation to create bid documents.

Ericsson Avenue Project – received a bid that will be opened tonight. Had resistance from companies to bid on project. Reported that companies are either stretched too thin with projects or can't get this done in the timeframe.

WWTP – Closing out items.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vote on Resolution 2023-02 - A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF BETTERTON AUTHORIZING THE TOWN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MARYLAND CIRCUIT RIDER/TOWN MANAGER PROGRAM. Mayor Sutton read into record Resolution 2032-02. *Councilman Marcy motioned to adopt Resolution 2032-02; Councilman Gilchrest seconded; all in favor; motion carried.*

Bid Opening for the Design of Reconstruction Ericsson Avenue – One bid was received by RK&K, Baltimore, MD company. Total project cost is \$549,932.90. Bid proposal will be reviewed for compliance with the project RFP by an engineer.

Paint Proposal for the Bayside Bridge - Received proposal from Christophel Painting and Construction. The bid consists of power washing deck and all metal, replacing/repairing any bad/loose boards, scraping and painting metal and clean and seal decking, etc. Project cost is \$68,000. Mayor Sutton asked the town manager to reach out to the previous bidder for an update proposal. Discussion on replacing the decking with Trex decking. Council with take a look at the project and discuss further.

Town Manager Report – Kent County received funding for Waterway Improvement Fund and approved Betterton for preliminary engineering for the waterfront infrastructure which will be the boat ramp and pier area.

MaryAnn Wasko-Smith commented that MDOT funds a lot of bridges, walkways, etc. Suggested the town look into this for the foot bridge. Sustainable Community had applied previously with MDOT for the Rigbie Step project. Maybe worth trying for the bridge.

OPEN FORUM: MaryAnn Wasko-Smith commented that the crosswalk has never been marked/replaced since Main Street has been repaved by the State. SHA was supposed to put it back once the road was complete.

Page 4 7/11/23 Mayor and Council Meeting

There was discussion about speed cameras. Mayor Sutton commented that you cannot have a speed camera that issues tickets unless you have a school. This is a state law. Comments about speed bumps or speed deterrents. Cannot have any on Main St and the fire company request that none be put on town streets.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: -

Betterton Vol. Fire Co. –

Friday, July 14th – Food Trucks 4 – 7 p.m.
Sunday, July 16th - Designer Purse Bingo
Friday, August 4th – Fire Works
Saturday, August 5th Betterton Appreciation Day

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.

Town Attorney Tom Yeager thanked the council for giving him the opportunity to attend the MML.

Mayor Sutton stated that we are currently looking for a Low-Speed Vehicle for the town employees to use.

Councilman Marcy motioned to close the July 11, 2023, meeting, seconded by Councilman Gilchrest; all in favor; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Dlugoborski, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Approved:

Aug. 8th 2023