

<b>TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MARCH 12, 2010</b>
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**ATTENDANCE**

PRESENT: Mayor Gary Jayne; Councilpersons John Fields, Jay Headman, Tim Saxton, Diane Matera, Marge Gassinger, and Rob Youngs; Town Manager Melvin Cusick; Ptlmn. Joshua Rowley; and Administrative Assistant Pam Smith

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Mayor Jayne called the March 12, 2010, Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence for former South Bethany Mayor, Mary Jane Lindblad, who passed away earlier in the week and for Bethany Beach's Mayor, Tony McClenny, who had bypass surgery last week. Mayor Jayne stated that Mary Jane was Mayor in the 1980s and that she was very active in the community and surrounding area. He added that she was a very well known and well liked lady.

**PROPERTY OWNERS' PARTICIPATION**

- Mike Matera (311 W. 9<sup>th</sup> St.) – Suggested having the state prisoners come out to clean up the park (pick up branches, cut the dead trees down, etc.) He stated that it does not cost anything. Mayor Jayne said that the Town can look into it.
- Ed Nazarian (20 Peterson Dr.) – Asked about putting the Town's mercantile license list on the Town's website. The Town Manager stated that if the Council does not object, the Town plans to post the list on the website. It will take a while because the list has to be converted to an Excel worksheet. The Administrative Assistant added that the list on the website will not be updated daily; therefore, it would be best for people to call Town Hall to get the most up to date information. The Town Manager suggested noting on the worksheet that the list is updated monthly.
- Kathy Jankowski (310 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St.) – Inquired if Council had heard if any of the towns are going to make a statement regarding the proposed casino at the Indian River Inlet. Mayor Jayne said that he has not heard anything specific about any particular towns taking a position on the issue.
- Bonnie Lambertson (324 York Rd.) – Regarding a referendum on the playground proposal, Ms. Lambertson stated that it seems this isn't the time to consider anymore expense in the Town and added that a playground might not be legal in the park. She asked if a playground was mentioned in the Town's Comprehensive Plan and stated that she does not remember that it was. She said that the property owners on both sides of the proposed playground have not been considered nor have their considerations been duly noted. She stated that Bethany Beach has a playground and many residents would have to travel nearly as far to get there as they would to come to South Bethany's park. She added that from her neighborhood it is 2.4 miles to Bethany Beach and 1.5 miles to Town Hall Park (about a mile and a half difference). She asked why a playground should be built for a few residents who live within walking distance and not for a whole town.

Ms. Lambertson stated that employee morale is probably the lowest she has ever seen it, and she has been here for 35 years. She stated that the step increases have been cut, the cost of living increases have been cut, decreasing medical benefits and other benefits have been discussed, and the benefits for new employees have been lowered. Ms. Lambertson believes a better proposal would be to put a lid on the benefits and how much you are going to pay instead of starting to cut back. She said that eliminating two lifeguards has been suggested and added that in the past every time lifeguards aren't available, the south end of town is the area that doesn't get lifeguards. Ms. Lambertson said that one employee has already been chased away and she understands that people have been interviewed for the position, but according to Mr. Saxton last year, he said the Town should eliminate two

employees. Ms. Lambertson said it is no wonder morale is low. Ms. Lambertson asked what quantitative qualification is. She said that within the last five years job descriptions have been rewritten and evaluated.

Ms. Lambertson stated that some of the people who ran in last year's election were against tax increases and she added that few complaints were made about the tax increase. She said there were more complaints about the recycling than there were about taxes.

Ms. Lambertson said Bethany Beach is the only other town that does depreciation. She said this is not a corporation and she finds the suggestion ridiculous.

Ms. Lambertson believes that with the economy the way it is, a playground should not be considered. Referring to the December Workshop Notes, Ms. Lambertson said that Mr. Youngs accused the Mayor of stonewalling in reference to a playground point paper. Ms. Lambertson stated that all points need to be considered and she said that the comment was rude and obnoxious.

Mayor Jayne asked if anybody on the Finance Committee wanted to respond. There were no comments. Mayor Jayne stated that there will be another presentation on the budget on Friday, March 19, at 7 p.m. He said the budget is still a work in progress, and Council will vote on the final budget for next year at the April Town Council Regular Meeting.

- Mary Suazo (7 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.) – Stated that she agrees with a lot of what Ms. Lambertson said. It is painful for her to see the staff morale low and she asked that the priorities be looked at again.

Referring to the Feb. 12 Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes, Ms. Suazo said that they were upsetting and puzzling. She stated that there is still a question on whether or not the land can be built on or if it is wetlands, and there is the question of the reversion clause. Ms. Suazo said that she had read in the minutes that if the referendum passes, the Town won't have money in the budget for a year to do the legal work. Ms. Suazo stated that this is not the greatest time to bring the issue up when there are more serious issues confronting the Town. She is concerned about the employees and the beaches. Ms. Suazo asked for an explanation on whether legal work does or does not need to be done on the deed and the wetlands. Before the referendum, Ms. Suazo believes the Town Council owes it to the citizens to tell them what can and cannot be done with the property so that future generations will know. Councilman Fields stated that Council debated the issue at a former council meeting. He said the Mayor was in favor of spending \$5,000 to determine if the Town could legally have one or not, but the majority overruled and decided to have the referendum first because the Town does not have \$5,000 to throw away and the Town does not know if everyone wants a park or not. Councilman Fields stated that the referendum will not cost anything. He stated that the question of "do we want a playground or don't we want a playground" will be settled by a simple referendum along with the election. If the vote is no, then the Town will save \$5,000 and that is the end of it. If the vote is yes, then Council can start looking for money to determine if we can legally have the park or not. If we can't, then Council will say sorry but legally we can't do it. If it can legally be done, then we go about finding the money to do it. Mr. Fields added that there is a reversion clause, and the heirs of the land have come to the Town and said they want to sell the property to the Town. He stated that the Town has to buy out that clause if we want to put a playground in. As a point of clarification, Councilman Headman stated that the lawyers would have to find out if the reversion clause would be in effect. He stated that it is clear that it could be reverted back to the heirs if they have some concerns about what the Town does with the land. Councilman Headman stated that some people interpret it to say that the Town does have the right to do that and there won't be any problems with that. But we believe it is going to be contested so the Town is going to have to get legal advice and information. He stated that the heirs have come to the Town saying they may consider selling it to the Town. Ms. Suazo asked what that meant regarding money. Councilman Headman stated that he did not know. Ms. Suazo stated that she did not understand why Council would want to have a referendum when all of this is pending. Councilman Saxton explained that the same monies to handle legal funds

that were put in the FY 2010 budget are available in the FY 2011 budget. It will be a Town Council decision in FY 2011 if they want to spend those funds on legal searches that need to be done if the referendum passes. Ms. Suazo said that would be a year from now. Councilman Saxton said no and clarified that FY 2011 starts May 1, 2010.

- Dennis Roberts (107 Canal Dr.) – In response to Ms. Lambertson's comments, Mr. Roberts stated that he believes that everybody is hurting now and there are a lot of people without a job. He believes as a nation our morale is down. From his family's standpoint, which has typically been a two income family and now down to one, Mr. Roberts asked that the Budget Committee keep in mind that his family is probably not the only one in his situation. He added that if the means of improving morale means raises or additional benefits, he does not believe now is the time for that. Councilman Saxton stated that there have been long deliberations around those two issues within the Budget and Finance Committee and the Town Council. A resolution has been reached and the Budget and Finance Committee's final version of the budget will be to the Town Council on Tuesday.
- Lloyd Hughes (152 Layton Dr.) – Believes the Town should look into geotubes if the beach is not going to be replenished for two or three years. Mayor Jayne stated that he believes the chances are 50/50 that there will be a supplemental appropriation that will perhaps get the Town pumped up in the fall. If not this fall then next year. It is still up to the Congress. In the meantime, DNREC will continue pushing up sand. Mayor Jayne said that he knows geotubes have been used around the country, but he does not know what the town can do because it is outside of the Town's jurisdiction. Mayor Jayne said he can mention it to DNREC's Tony Pratt the next time he sees him.
- Mike Matera (311 W. 9<sup>th</sup> St.) – Referring to the park referendum, Mr. Matera asked if a slot could be put in at the Town election if you are for the park or against the park. Mayor Jayne replied that is basically what the referendum is. Councilman Youngs said the resolution introduces the referendum so that it will go on the ballot so that everyone in town has the right to make a yes or no vote. Prior to the understanding of which way that yes or no vote goes, we don't want to spend any more money on it because if the majority of the people in the town say they don't need it, then we are done and we can go on and we don't ever have to listen to it again. If the majority of the people in town say they are interested, then there are issues that have to be resolved on that path. Councilman Youngs stated that he feels like he is listening to somebody's talking points when he hears people talking about the park and referring to it as a playground. He believes it has negative connotations and is probably the fastest path to get to a lawyer who is interested in money to say that is not consistent with the deed. Councilman Youngs stated that he is not saying one way or another whether he is in favor or against. He stated that the proposal includes a picnic pavilion, an adult exercise section, and some children's playground equipment. In Councilman Youngs' opinion, to call it a playground and keep berating that point is nothing more than trying to antagonize. He stated that it is a recreation area. Councilman Youngs stated that if the referendum is approved, then it is incumbent upon the Town Council to go to extended lengths to find out what the concerns are with the neighbors to the place and make certain that their concerns are addressed. He stated that we are not trying to avoid or curtail anything – we are just trying to do things in what seems to make sense as a logical progression.

#### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- **Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes, February 12, 2010** – A motion was made by Councilman Headman, seconded by Councilwoman Gassinger, to accept the February 12, 2010, Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was unanimously carried.
- **Town Council Special Meeting/Workshop Notes, February 25, 2010** – A motion was made by Councilwoman Gassinger, seconded by Councilman Headman, to accept the February 25, 2010, Town Council Special Meeting/Workshop Notes. The motion was unanimously carried.
- **Town Council Executive Session Minutes, February 25, 2010** – A motion was made by Councilman Fields, seconded by Councilman Youngs, to accept the February 25, 2010, Town Council Executive Session Minutes. The motion was unanimously carried.

- **Town Council Executive Session Minutes, February 25, 2010** – A motion was made by Councilman Fields, seconded by Councilwoman Gassinger, to accept the February 25, 2010, Executive Session Minutes as amended by Councilman Saxton as follows:

Page 1, Second Paragraph under Executive Session: Change “Council was in favor 5-1 of the Code Enforcement Constable's position being a full-time position” to read “Council was in favor 5-0 with one abstention of the Code Enforcement Constable's position being a full-time position.”

The motion was unanimously carried.

### **LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

- **Mayor's Report**—Mayor Jayne reported:

The BBVFC Ambulance Service Sponsors Quarterly Meeting was held on March 2. The four sponsors are the Town of Bethany Beach, the Town of South Bethany, the Town of Fenwick Island, and Sea Colony. Mayor Jayne stated that his year as the Chairman of the Committee was up and he turned it over to Sea Colony. The sponsors reviewed the budget and it seems to be in very good shape. The sponsors also reviewed the operating performance of the ambulance service. The BLS Monthly Report was available on the sign in table. Mayor Jayne encouraged property owners to take one home. The report contains a lot of statistics and shows the tremendous activity by the ambulance service as well as transit times, response times, etc. Mayor Jayne stated that in every case they are better than the national average on times. Mayor Jayne noted that for calendar year 2009 the total number of calls was 851 over 365 days which is a pretty busy service. Mayor Jayne stated that the report is a worthwhile read.

The SCAT Annual Legislative Breakfast Meeting was held on March 5. All of the senators and representatives of Sussex County attended. The following issues were discussed:

- Municipal Street Aid (MSA) – Last year the municipalities did not receive any MSA grant monies. The Towns made the case that the State ought to continue to provide that grant.
- Real Estate Transfer Tax – The County reiterated the necessity of that funding.
- Paramedic Funding – Funding by the State has been going down and the counties have had to pick up a bigger share.
- Traffic Fines – The County made a recommendation to the legislatures that base fines should be increased. That would be a source of income not only for the state but for the municipalities as well.
- Tipping Fees at the Landfill – The Towns objected to an increase of about 40% in the tipping fees which DSWA is proposing.

DNREC is sponsoring a beach grass planting event on March 20 for the whole Delaware Coast including South Bethany. Mayor Jayne encouraged the property owners to sign up and to tell other people to sign up too.

- **Town Manager's Report**—Melvin Cusick reported:

At the last Town Council Meeting, Tony Pratt, the Shoreline Administrator for DNREC, said that they would start pushing sand up. On the Monday following that meeting the State started pushing sand up using three large pieces of equipment. The Town Manager stated that the Town received good service from DNREC.

- **Treasurer's Report**—Tim Saxton reported as of February 28, 2010:

Balance Brought Forward	\$ 1,500,465
February Revenue	\$ 16,035
February Disbursements	\$ 127,748
Balance	\$ 1,388,752

Regarding FY 2010, the budget continues to be on schedule, and based on the projections that we received today from the Financial Administrator, we anticipate that we will meet the entire budget. Revenue numbers and expenses will come in about on schedule. It looks like the expected values to add to the reserves and the police car capital reserves will be met as well.

- **Police Department Report/Questions**—Ptlmn. Joshua Rowley reported for the month of Feb., 2010:

The majority of complaints in February were related to the snow storms (power outages, alarms, water leaks, property owners wanting their houses checked, and vehicles getting stuck on Rt. 1).

Three local fugitives were apprehended – one was wanted out of Dewey Beach, one was wanted out of New Castle County, and one was wanted out of Sussex County Court of Common Pleas. All three were taken to court and committed.

Ms. Jankowski inquired if the burglaries had been resolved. Ptlmn. Rowley replied that there have been no more leads. The fingerprints came back with no results. They have been entered into the system but there hasn't been an incident since then. It has been three years now that the same person has hit. The Police know this because they have shoe prints that match for three years in a row and they have it tied into the local area.

Mr. Roberts stated that the trash collectors will turn trash cans upside down if they see they are not being used. Mr. Roberts said this can be an indication that no one is home. Mr. Roberts inquired if anything had been done to address this. Ptlmn. Rowley said he would check with the Chief of Police.

### **ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

- **Third Reading of Ordinance 152-09, Chapter 20, Planning Commission, to make revisions and updates. (John Fields)**

Councilman Fields stated that Ordinance 152-09 revises Chapter 20, Planning Commission, which authorizes the Planning Commission to exist and to do the good work that it does. There have not been any changes in Chapter 20 since 2003. The Planning Commission worked on the revisions to Chapter 20 and the revisions have been through two workshops with Council. There have been no changes in this ordinance since the last reading. Councilman Fields asked for questions or comments from Council and property owners. There were none.

A motion was made by Councilman Fields, seconded by Councilman Headman, that Council approve Ordinance 152-09. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Mayor Jayne and Councilpersons Fields, Headman, Saxton, Matera, Gassinger, and Youngs

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

Mayor Jayne declared this the third reading of Ordinance 152-09.

- **Second Reading of Ordinance 153-10, Chapter 145, Zoning, to add § 145-14.3, "Ground covering allowed in setback area". (Jay Headman and John Fields)**

Councilman Fields stated that Ordinance 153-10 has been reviewed by the legal counsel that represents the Town of South Bethany. Councilman Fields read a quote from the attorney, "Based upon my research, the ordinance appears to be legally binding as it is written and does not need any major changes."

Councilman Fields said that the attorney recommended that § 145-14.3A say "at least fifty-five percent (55%)". The intent is that the homeowner could have a greater percentage than that.

Councilman Fields said the second recommendation by the attorney was in § 145-14.3C. It was modified to make sure that only certain materials could be allowed in the town right-of-way so there would not be a conflict between paragraph C and paragraph A in terms of installing pervious pavers.

Councilman Fields stated that after the first reading he modified § 145-14.3G by adding the phrase "except those constructed with pressure treated lumber" because pressure treated lumber does shrink, and if you put pressure treated lumber 1/8" apart and then it shrinks there will be enough space for a pencil size high heel shoe to get caught in that space. Councilman Fields considered inserting the word "new" before "pressure treated lumber" but after a discussion decided not to. Councilman Fields said that a property owner can cover an entire yard with a ground level deck or ground level boardwalk. The 1/8" apart requirement is to allow water to run through and percolate through the soil.

Councilman Fields stated that the essence of this ordinance is to prevent water from running off into the canals. Runoff is a big issue all over the world. Ocean City, for example, has zero tolerance for runoff. Runoff is important because it carries pollutants into our canals and water systems. Councilman Fields stated that this is our effort to do something to improve the water in the canals and to help the environment. Councilman Fields said that this ordinance is not going to clean up the canals, but it is going to prevent runoff from going in and continuing to pollute the water. Councilman Fields stated that the worst runoff is from Route 1, but the Town can't go to DelDOT when property owners cover their whole yards with concrete and all the water that falls on it goes into the canals. This is our little step to do something to improve the canals. The basis for this ordinance is runoff and catching the first half inch of rain that contain pollutants from roofs, etc., from going into the canals.

Councilwoman Gassinger stated that she was concerned about material Council had received from Lloyd Hughes regarding the different soils that we have in South Bethany and that the actual report was flawed. Mr. Hughes stated that it was a flawed report and he hoped that the town would not make the same mistake. Councilwoman Gassinger stated that she would like to discuss the material with Mr. Hughes and suggested that he come to the next Town Council Workshop. Councilman Fields said that he received Mr. Hughes' report and he does not believe this ordinance is in conflict with his report. He said that Mr. Hughes is talking about major stuff. Councilman Fields said that he is talking about trying to catch the first 1/2" of rain that contains pollutants that settle on roofs so that it percolates into the ground. Mr. Hughes said that South Bethany's lots in general are flat. They retain the water. Some people have their drainage going directly into a pipe and into the canal. Other than that I believe the water will work its way into the canal in about three days. Councilman Fields stated that the water percolates through the soil (slowly because of the high water table). He added that a hard surface will let the water run right into the canal. Referring to a vacant lot with "ponds", Mr. Hughes stated it will take four days for the water to evaporate out – it does not flow into the canals. Councilman Fields said that if it evaporates at least it does not go directly into the canals – it goes through the soil to get into the canal. Councilman Fields stated that if it is evaporating it is leaving the pollutants behind. Mr. Hughes said it is a high clay content and water does not run through clay. Mr. Hughes said he does not believe the Town needs the ordinance and added that everybody is going to be "grandfathered" in that has the existing conditions so you might only have a small number of homes.

Mr. Conway stated that when he was looking at renovating his home in South Bethany one of the options the builder presented to him was to cover the backyard with pavers. The design was such that it would have a 4 degree runoff from the house so that all of the water would run away from the foundation of the house and into the canal. Mr. Conway stated that he chose to do something more in line with this ordinance, but he knows of at least two homes on his street that put pavers in and the water comes down the gutter and runs out to the canal. Mr. Conway does not believe that the current houses that would be grandfathered in

is the point. He is concerned about the homes that continually get renovated and protecting the Town from people who want to cover their properties with cement because it is low maintenance.

Mayor Jayne declared this the second reading of Ordinance 153-10.

- **Resolution 1-10, A Resolution for a Non-Binding Referendum on a South Bethany Recreational Area Park**

A motion was made by Councilman Youngs, seconded by Councilman Fields to adopt Resolution 1-10.

Councilwoman Gassinger made the following statement for the record: "I am in favor of a referendum, but not without a legal opinion. We do not know what can or can not be constructed on the parkland. Without that information I think the Town Council looks very foolish."

Mayor Jayne stated that he is not going to vote for the resolution and he believes everybody know why. Mayor Jayne stated that he has mentioned numerous times over many years in the past that the history of the property is complicated and he does not believe Council should go ahead without doing its homework first. Mayor Jayne believes Council should know exactly what it is getting into before going ahead with a referendum. Mayor Jayne said he is not against having a referendum, but he is against proceeding without having done the full research on the property.

Councilman Saxton said the referendum does not indicate where a park would be. It just wants to know if the town's people would like to have a recreational park in the town. Mr. Cestone suggested inserting the words "recreation area in the Robert Hall Park". Councilman Fields stated that the terminology "Richard Hall Park" was removed intentionally. Councilman Youngs said the reason it was removed was that at the last Workshop Mayor Jayne raised the question about whether the heirs of the property could raise a legal question about the referendum, so the referendum is aimed at a recreational area park, yay or nay, and then we will cross all the bridges once we find out what the people of the town want. Councilman Saxton said that his point is the same point that Councilman Youngs made. He said that when Council went into Executive Session over this legal issue there was concern around that and it was Council's recommendation to Councilman Youngs to take out any reference to where it could be in the town.

Ms. Lambertson asked if it would be referred to as Richard Hall Park on the ballot. Councilman Fields and Councilman Saxton said no. Mr. Cestone said that could make a difference in the way people vote. If they think it is somewhere else where it is not going to affect them, they may vote for it, but if they think they are going to do something next to their property, they may not vote for it.

Mayor Jayne stated that he believes you have to be forthright and say exactly what you are doing and not try to hide it. Mayor Jayne also stated, with all due respect to his good friend John Fields, that he does not believe spending money on a lawyer to do a legal research on something that is of this fundamental importance is "throwing money away". He believes that not spending the money is penny-wise and pound-foolish. Councilman Fields apologized for his use of words and said that he should have said "spending money we don't have to spend." Councilwoman Gassinger stated that she only wanted a legal opinion which would be approximately \$1,000 to \$1,300.

Ms. Suazo stated that she does not understand the advantage of trying to circumvent all of this. She requested that Council consider delaying the resolution until this work is done.

Councilman Saxton stated that there is no intention of hiding anything from the citizens of the town. There should be a public meeting where people can comment on it and understand it.

Councilman Headman said that one of the things in the resolution is there will be three public meetings and added that he believes the citizens will be informed on what they are voting on.

Councilman Fields asked who is going to conduct the public meetings. Councilman Youngs said that he will. Mayor Jayne said it would be good to have a committee. Regarding a memo from the Town Clerk, Mayor Jayne noted that anything that goes on the ballot has to be firmed up by April 15.

Ms. Roberts stated that she is in favor of letting the people vote on the issue and if there is enough interest then pursue spending the \$5,000.

Councilwoman Matera asked Councilman Youngs if Richard Hall Park will be referred to at the public meetings. Councilman Youngs said there will be a proposal put forward that that is where it is.

Mr. Conway asked if there would be a mechanism for making sure all of the property owners get their voices heard. Councilman Youngs replied that the referendum would be on the Town Election ballot, and absentee ballots are readily available. We are going to have public meetings and a lot of information about this. If we publicize it enough and get it out there in front of the public sufficiently, those who are interested should participate. He stated that if we think that May is the wrong time for this referendum issue then maybe May is the wrong time to be holding an election.

Councilman Saxton had concerns about not getting the full constituency to vote on the referendum. He stated that at one point he felt the Town should send out a letter to the whole community with background information on the referendum. After a discussion it was suggested to put information in the ZEPHYR regarding the referendum.

Mayor Jayne asked the clerk to call the roll. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Councilpersons Fields, Headman, Saxton, Matera, and Youngs

AGAINST THE MOTION: Mayor Jayne and Councilwoman Gassinger

The motion carried with a 5-2 vote.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Planning Commission** – Councilman Fields reported:

At the last Council meeting, a motion was made and passed to direct the Planning Commission to conduct a survey in town to determine what the priorities of the people who live in South Bethany are. This information could be used in the Town's Comprehensive Plan and also be used by the Finance Committee in terms of setting priorities and in terms of how to spend the money.

- **Canal Water Quality** – Councilman Headman reported:

There was nothing to report.

- **Budget and Finance Committee** – Councilman Saxton reported:

Councilman Saxton addressed some comments that were made earlier in the meeting. There have been three Budget and Finance Committee meetings that had open sessions to allow public comment. There was also one public session to receive public comment on the budget. The budget has been posted as a draft on the website. Councilman Saxton believes the Budget and Finance Committee has been transparent and has greatly improved the ability for public comment throughout the budget process for FY 2011. There have also been two Town Council Workshops where discussion was held that were open to the public to

come and listen. Councilman Saxton commented that there was a lot of openness around how the FY 2011 budget was put together. The Budget and Finance Committee has considered all comments that were received by the Town Council and from public input in putting together the final budget which the Committee has approved for presentation to the Town Council. Councilman Saxton stated that the Budget and Finance Committee has recommended no changes to the Beach Patrol. Regarding the Town employees, Councilman Saxton stated that there was never a recommendation for any employee cuts in the budget process; however it is something he believes the Town Council should be looking at each year adding that the employees and health care is 70% of the budget. He said that it is painful and always the most sensitive thing for employees. Councilman Saxton stated that he believes the Budget and Finance Committee did a superb job in balancing the employee costs and the ability to do some additional projects going forward that the Town has not been able to do because of budget cuts in the past. He stated that the Committee did take into account balancing its constituency versus the Town employees, taking a hard look at both sides.

Mayor Jayne announced two important upcoming meetings: (1) The March 19 Workshop, and  
(2) The April 9 Town Council Regular Meeting at which time Council will vote on the FY11 Budget.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS – ADOPTION OF 2010 SUSSEX COUNTY TAX ASSESSMENTS**

A motion was made by Councilman Saxton, seconded by Councilman Headman, to adopt the 2010 Sussex County tax assessments. The motion was unanimously carried.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Fields, seconded by Councilman Headman, to adjourn the March 12, 2010, Town Council Regular Meeting at 8:40 p.m.