

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2010**

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Mayor Pro-Tem John Fields; Councilpersons Bob Cestone, Tim Saxton, Sue Callaway, and George Junkin; Town Manager Melvin Cusick; M/Cpl. Lee Davis; and Administrative Assistant Pam Smith

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Mayor Jay Headman and Councilman Rob Youngs

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Pro-Tem Fields called the September 10, 2010, Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PROPERTY OWNERS' PARTICIPATION

- Mike Matera (311 W. 9th St.) – Stated that there were "save the trees signs" on township property and they should be moved back onto personal property. Mayor Pro-Tem Fields said he had spoken to Mayor Headman regarding this and the Code Enforcement Constable had orders to either move the signs back or inform homeowners that the signs should not be on public property. The Town Manager said that the Code Enforcement Constable had checked on the signs but there may be more signs that have gone up that he has not checked on yet. The Town Manager said the Town will continue to check on the signs.
- Dick Ridgway (600 S. Ocean Dr.) – Stated that he and his wife have been South Bethany residents for 38 years, and during those years their children and grandchildren have never asked for a park. He said that when children come to South Bethany they want to participate in all the other things that South Bethany, Bethany Beach, and Ocean City has. Mr. Ridgway believes we are overstepping what we think we need in South Bethany. He feels it would be improper to spend a considerable amount of money at this time for that means. He thinks the Town should leave the property the way it is. Mr. Ridgway said he would be interested in seeing how Council puts the survey together because surveys can be worded in such a way that they can lean towards what the Council might want. Mayor Pro-Tem Fields said there is a committee working very carefully to structure the survey so that it will be honest, fair, accurate, and complete. Mayor Pro-Tem Fields is confident that when the survey results are in, Council will respond to those results in an appropriate manner.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- Town Council Workshop Meeting Minutes, August 26, 2010 – A motion was made by Councilman Cestone, seconded by Councilwoman Callaway, to accept the August 26, 2010, Town Council Workshop Meeting Minutes. The motion was unanimously carried.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

- Mayor's Report—Mayor Headman reported:

In Mayor Headman's absence, there was no report.

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

The Community Rating System Annual Recertification Form, which is due by October 1, has been mailed.

The Code Enforcement Constable's Report was available on the sign-in table.

The BBVFC Ambulance Service Sponsors Committee (the four major representatives being Bethany Beach, Sea Colony, South Bethany, and Fenwick Island) met today. The Ambulance Service budget for the upcoming year (October 1, 2010, through September 30, 2011) was adopted as presented to the Committee. The fee charged to each property should be the same in the upcoming year.

- **Treasurer's Report**—Tim Saxton reported as of August 31, 2010:

Balance Brought Forward	\$ 1,627,787
August Revenue	\$ 105,548
August Disbursements	\$ 208,439
Balance	\$ 1,524,896

The Budget and Finance Committee met today to review the budget. As of the end of August everything continues to remain on track. Mr. Ridgway asked if the Budget and Finance Committee discussed the cost estimate on the park that would be included in the survey. Councilman Saxton said the Budget and Finance Committee tabled it awaiting final approval from the Richard Hall Memorial Park Committee on the pro and con arguments.

- **Police Department Report/Questions**—M/Cpl. Lee Davis reported for the month of August, 2010:

For the month of August the Police Department had a total of 26 complaints:

- One alarm
- Two domestic situations
- Six thefts (The majority were bicycle thefts. One subject picked up a backpack on the beach. No break-ins.)
- One assault
- One accident – property damage only
- Eleven code arrests
- One dog off the leash
- Two incidents at the barricade
- Five loud parties
- Two fireworks
- One disorderly conduct – skinny dippers

Mr. Ridgway asked if there were any plans next year for handling the children that come down for beach week. The Town Manager stated that the Chief of Police, the Mayor, and a few other people are meeting to make preplans for the "June Bugs" next year.

Referring to an article in the local paper regarding a plan for special covering of houses that are empty in the winter months by the Bethany Beach and Rehoboth Beach Police Departments, Mr. Wise inquired if South Bethany has a plan for covering houses that are empty during the winter months. M/Cpl. Davis stated that when a property owner leaves town they can notify the South Bethany Police Department, and during their routine patrols the officers will check those properties. The Police Department generally patrols every street through town at least once or twice a shift.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Assawoman Canal Dredging** – Councilman Youngs reported:

In Councilman Youngs' absence, there was no report.

- **Beautification Committee** – Councilwoman Callaway reported:

At the August 26, 2010, Workshop Meeting Council approved the proposed Adopt-a-Canal End and Adopt-a-Road End Program. The Beautification Committee will finalize the program details at the September 23, 2010, Beautification Committee Meeting.

The Beautification Committee is working with the Canal Water Quality Committee to come up with ideas that will improve the drainage along the median strip on Rt. 1 and will deter some of the harmful runoff that goes into South Bethany's canals. The Committee is also working on the beautification budget for FY12.

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

The Budget and Finance Committee met today. The FY11 Budget remains fine through month four of the year.

A subcommittee regarding long-range planning has been formed. They will come up with a list of long-range plans, and they will put funding numbers around those plans. Some expense items that the committee knows will be on the list are future paving of roads, street drainage, and beach walkways. On the revenue side the committee is looking at methodology used in obtaining rental tax to insure rental properties advertised on the internet are paying the rental license fee and the rental tax if they do rent. The Budget and Finance Committee has also asked the Planning Commission for a list of long-range planning ideas. The goal is to present the list to the Town Council and have the Council prioritize the items on the list.

A couple of months ago Councilman Youngs and the Financial Administrator submitted a five year IT plan. In that plan there was a proposal to improve the Town's computer financial administration software. The goal is to make the Financial Administrator's job more efficient. The FY11 Budget has \$30,000 for capital expenditures in the IT area. The cost of the Edmunds software package under a State municipal contract is \$32,525. The Budget and Finance Committee asked the Financial Administrator to negotiate with the software company to split the cost over two years (\$30,000 in FY11 and \$2,525 in FY12). Councilman Saxton stated that he would like to get approval from the Town Council to allow the Town to go forth with signing a contract for the \$32,525 to purchase the software knowing there is a \$30,000 limit to spend in FY11; therefore, they will need to spend the money over two years. One caveat is the Town will eliminate the need to do maintenance of software for the financial package at this time because it is a new package and will be under warranty. A motion was made by Councilman Saxton, seconded by Councilman Junkin, to approve the signing of the contract with Edmunds & Associates, Inc., for the Town to purchase the software package for \$32,525.00 with the caveat that the Town can only spend \$30,000.00 of it this year, and they need to spend it over the two fiscal years. After a discussion the motion was unanimously carried.

- **Canal Water Quality Committee** – Councilman Junkin reported:

The Canal Water Quality Committee and the Beautification Committee are working together on projects that will help both water quality and beautification. One of the requirements for the projects is that they don't make the flooding situation any worse than it was before. In fact the goal is to try to improve the flooding situation.

The Committee is working on educating the community on things like lawn care (too much fertilizer is bad for the canals).

There are a lot of people in South Bethany interested in the oyster gardening program. All volunteers for this program are welcome.

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

A Planning Commission subcommittee is working on developing a survey similar to the survey that was sent out in 1999 by the University of Delaware. The committee is updating the questions to be more relevant to the way things are today. The survey is in review with the Planning Commission and will come before the Town Council for their approval at a workshop meeting. Then the Planning Commission will have a professional review the questions to make sure they are unbiased questions and to help with collating the results. The survey is in connection with the Comprehensive Plan.

- **Richard Hall Memorial Park Committee** – Councilman Fields reported:

There is a group of South Bethany residents who want to establish a recreation area in the park and a group of South Bethany residents who don't want anything in the park. The Richard Hall Memorial Park Committee is working on a survey regarding this issue. It is a considerable task to ask the question and at the same time provide enough information so that the public who is responding to this opinion survey understands the issue. The Committee will continue to work on the survey question. Hopefully before too many more months, the Committee will have the survey question completed and in the mail. Mr. Gestwicki asked if there is a standard (a percentage) that Council is looking for in order to lean one way or the other. Mayor Pro-Tem Fields said that no standard has been set by the Council. He said that this is a survey to provide the Council an opinion and then the Council will decide what it does with that information. Mayor Pro-Tem Fields said it is a non-binding referendum as it were. Mr. Ridgway asked if the questionnaire will tell how much it will cost to build the park. Mayor Pro-Tem Fields said that is a challenging question because there are those who say the park won't cost the citizens anything and that it will be done by donations and contributions, and there are those who say the park has got to cost the Town something. The Richard Hall Memorial Park Committee is dealing with the issue of what the cost would be, and if the Committee decides that there will be a cost that will be in as part of the survey question.

ADJOURNMENT

Before adjourning Barbara Jayne announced that the annual Coastal Cleanup is September 25, 2010. South Bethany meets at 9 a.m. on S. 2nd St.

A motion was made by Councilman Cestone, seconded by Councilman Saxton, to adjourn the Sept. 10, 2010, Town Council Regular Meeting at 7:45 p.m.