

Town of Bowers
3231 Main Street
Bowers Beach
Frederica, DE 19946

Regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm on December 11, 2008 by Mayor Ron Honsicker.

Council members in attendance were: Ron Hunsicker, William "Frenchie" Poulin, Carl Fultz, Shirley Pennington, and Wendell Kinney.

The meeting was held in the Engine room of the firehouse due to renovations of the hall. There were 18 accounted for from the town who signed in to the meeting.

Reading of the minutes by Shirley Pennington and finished by Mayor Ron due to the heavy downpour of rain. Motion was made by Frenchie, 2nd by Wendell to accept the minutes as read.

Treasurer's report was read by Carl. Motion was made by Shirley, 2nd by Wendell to accept the report as read.

Voter Registration book was available for anyone who hasn't registered to vote yet.

Mayor Ron introduced two representatives that had come to the meeting to talk about the Fragmitis Grant. They were Frank Buck who is a consultant with the Wildland Urban Interface and Jim Dowd with State Forestry. They discussed the grant and informed us that it would be a 2 year commitment at least on our part. Signing on for 3 to 4 years would make a bigger difference. There would be a 50/50 match for this grant but as Frank discussed this would come from in kind services and we would not have to put up any actual money. The match would come from our meetings and outings where we would hand out literature on the fragmitis program. Also any time that the fire department committed to would count as well. There will also be some mowing involved which if performed by someone in the community would also count toward the match. Anything that DeDOT or the Forestry department does would count as well. There would have to be accurate records kept of the time that was spent on the project.

Concerns were raised about the chemicals that would be used. Residents wondered if there would be any danger to their children, yards, or the bay. We were assured that the chemical is safe, has been tested, and would pose no threat to our community. This would have to be applied from September thru October during a 24 hour non rain period. Property owners would have to sign a release that would allow for someone to come onto their property to apply the chemical when needed. To get started there would have to be an assessment of the town, then an application completed. Once we were accepted Jim Dowd would get us started. Mayor Ron spoke after the presentation was given and said that we need to pursue this grant. He asked that Chief Pennington be involved for the Fire Company and together we will develop a plan with the target areas to be addressed. A motion was then made by Frenchie, 2nd by Carl to move forward with pursuing the Fragmitis Grant.

Committee Reports:

Community Emergency Alert - No Report

Parks and Recreation - The equipment in the park has been installed. Next there will be mulch put in and the building will be painted as well. The tree lighting ceremony will be held December 12th between 6 and 7 pm. There will be Hot Chocolate, Cookies, and Caroling. Ray asks that you feel free to bring an ornament to put on the tree to help decorate it. The flags have been ordered. The sign as well as the flagpole are ready for lighting. The trash bags have also been ordered for the park.

Budget - No Report

Streets - No Report

Planning - Motion was made by Shirley and 2nd by Carl to make Bob the chairperson for this committee.

Old Business:

Tax Collection - The tax collection records were not kept properly over the past two years. Carl is working on those and will have an update at a future meeting.

Town Hall - Tim will be heading a committee for the purpose of designing a town hall. He will need 4 people to serve on that committee with him. He

asked that if you have any activities that you might want to hold in the building to please let him know in case there would be any special considerations to be made when designing the building.

New Business:

New ordinances - Mayor Ron gave an overview of the first ordinance which pertained to Subdivisions. A motion was made by Shirley and 2nd by Carl to schedule a hearing on this ordinance. Mayor Ron then gave an overview of the second ordinance which pertained to animal control. A motion was made by Frenchie, 2nd by Shirley to schedule a hearing on this ordinance. The third ordinance pertained to dangerous buildings. After an overview by Mayor Ron, a motion was made by Frenchie and 2nd by Shirley to schedule a hearing on this ordinance as well. All three hearings will be scheduled at the same time. They will be listed on our website which is www.townofbowersbeach.org.

Channel Dredging - Mayor Ron read a letter from Tom Carper's office to which he wrote a response. A meeting will be scheduled concerning this matter with the following in attendance: DNREC, a representative from Carper's office, the Army Corp of Engineers, and also representation from Town Council.

Backflow Preventer @ Hubbard - Funding was approved for this project through DelDOT (09-P-PROG-69) in the amount of \$13,093.00. After receiving the funding it now appears that there is resistance to the project from someone who posted their opinion on our website. After a brief discussion it was decided to go ahead with the backflow preventer. It should be monitored and if it is found that it is causing more harm than good, it will be removed. Ron then read the agreement with DelDOT to the floor and also read the proposal from the contractor that will be performing the work. A motion was then made by Shirley and 2nd by Carl to go ahead with the project.

Beach Preservation - Sand and sand bags will be going in after Christmas or around the beginning of January per DNREC.

Mayor Ron made mention of the website for Delaware Governor Jack Markell. They are looking for things you want to improve Delaware. Anyone with ideas should visit the site.

Mayor Ron discussed the NOAH workshop that he attended. This was a 2 day workshop and its purpose was to evaluate the town as to our vulnerability to storms and also our ability to recover from them. Those involved in the workshop included: DEMA, FEMA, DNREC, and a Consulting firm. Ron gave an overview as to what took place during the workshop. The purpose is to develop a plan with the help of a consultant. Our contact is Sue Love. There is funding available through a grant for a feasibility study to be done on our town. The consultant will also come up with ideas for improvements. A motion was made by Shirley and 2nd by Carl to go ahead with this study.

President Willie Trowbridge of the Bowers Fire Company apologized for the inconvenience of having to hold the meeting in the engine room. He also addressed the problem of limited cell phone access in the town. He said that the more complaints that are submitted to Verizon or other networks, the better. He hopes that eventually the providers will put another tower in our area to handle the problem. Someone suggested that Markell's website may be a good place to voice our concern about this problem as well.

President Trowbridge was also questioned about the EMT funding problem. He discussed the new power unit that Kent County has implemented. He told us that it roams throughout the county but will still not alleviate the problem that the Bowers Fire Company has been experiencing and that we are still in need of either additional trained EMTs or paid part time EMTs for when there is not adequate staffing.

There being no further business a motion was made by Shirley, 2nd by Carl to adjourn meeting @ 9:14 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shirley A. Pennington
Secretary for the
Town of Bowers Beach