

**The Town of Bowers**3357 Main St.   
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**MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm on May 13, 2021 by Mayor Ada Puzzo via Zoom. Council members present: Shirley Pennington (Zoom), Wayne Irons, Marty Manning, and Bob McDevitt (Zoom).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

**Minutes:**

Council requested additional time to review the minutes as they didn't have much time to go over them this month.

There was a motion by Ada Puzzo, seconded by Marty Manning to table the April 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

The treasurer's report was given by Marty Manning.

Mayor Ada clarified the expense for office supplies and let everyone know that we purchased envelopes, copies, stamps, and labels for the letters that we are mailing concerning the channel dredging. Someone said that the bond committee has made comments of receiving over 200 letters so far.

She also discussed the liabilities of $57,786.79 which is a USDA loan that we are responsible to pay back and the amount of $49,689.55 which is not really a liability but has certain requirements and can only be spent on streets. We will start talking about streets in our working group.

A motion was made by Shirley Pennington, seconded by Bob McDevitt to accept the April 2021 Treasurer's Reports. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Parks & Recreation:** Special Olympics have been using the Bocce courts for practice.

**Planning/Zoning Code Revisions:** Bob McDevitt reported that the there is a new house going up on North Bayshore, they stated driving pilings today;

Permit on Cooper for a roof extension

**Streets:** Bob McDevitt did mention that there have been a lot of dogs on the beach this month. He thinks that we need larger signs in the parking area. This is state law that there should not be dogs on the beach from May 1st to September 1st.

Bob would like to get estimates on larger signs.

Have we considered an ordinance allowing the dogs on the beach like they have at Broadkill Beach. Problem is that if we create an ordinance we have to be able to enforce it. We can't afford to many things with our current budget.

Mayor Ada said everyone should take some time to think about it and we can add it to the agenda and have a discussion. Just remember that even if we allow the dogs there will still have to be rules involved and consequences for breaking those rules. This will be tabled until next month.

Debbie Houseknecht said that tonight when they came down there were 6 dogs on the beach. Her husband almost go into an altercation with a couple whose large dog went to the bathroom on the beach. Another resident said that someone was bit in the face by a dog as well. Mayor Ada reminded everyone that in order to have a conversation about this it has to be on the agenda. We will add this to next month's agenda and residents who have a strong opinion on this matter should attend.

**Board of Adjustments:** No Report.

**Code Enforcement:** No Report.

**Parking Lot:** No Report

**Watermen's Park:** Judy Martin reported that the electricity has been installed they are just waiting for Delmarva Power to hook it up. We will now be able to use this during events. This was made possible through the grant.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

R-2021-05-13-01 RESOLUTION ADOPTING REVISIONS TO THE DECEMBER 14, 2004 ALL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF BOWERS AND KENT COUNTY

Mayor Ada explained that in order for us to be eligible for grants, etc., we have to do this process every few years. She read the resolution for everyone. She also mentioned the issues that we are currently having such as the dredging and mentioned all of the items that we have been working on as well throughout the town. A motion was made by Ada Puzzo, seconded by Marty Manning to adopt the resolution as read. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Drainage on North Bayshore:** Alex Schmidt from Century Engineering was in attendance and gave an update as to the progress.

The survey is complete and they have come up with three solutions to correct the problem.

1) A pump system to drain the water.

2) A gravity system that drains the water to the marsh.

3) A gravity system that drains the water to the bulkhead.

Alex said that options 1 and 2 will work. They have also been using the old information that was provided to them. He said that council will have information to review prior to the next council meeting.

Bob McDevitt asked if there was an elevation done on North Bayshore or North Flack.

Marty gave his opinion on what he thinks would work but it all depends on the cost of the solution. He also asked if there was a dip on North Bayshore that is creating a problem and if so will that be fixed as well.

**Channel Dredging and Rock Jetty:** Mayor Ada said if there is anyone that is not on the distribution list to receive her emails please call or text her your email address if you would like to receive the updates that she puts out.

Mayor Ada said that it the Army Corp does not have to budget for the dredging so then it would fall to DNREC and we would have to go after state funds. There was a planning session last week that she attended and was given the chance to speak. The Bond Bill committee consists of 12 people who each get to vote. There will not be a vote until the end of June so we will keep sending the letters until then.

It is also important to remember that although we do need emergency dredging we also need to address the jetty and the flow of water.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Upcoming Museum Events:** Judy Martin reported that the museum will open on Memorial Day weekend with new exhibits. Would be good to have people come out and make it an event for the town. She would also like volunteers for this year. Judy will be there most weekends but would like to have an additional person as well to help. The museum will be open on Saturday and Sundays from 2 to 4 pm.

**RESIDENT TOPICS AND CONCERNS**

Remember to contact Secretary Shirley Pennington or Mayor Ada Puzzo 10 days prior to the meeting if you have resident topics or concerns that you would like to see on the agenda.

**NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Marty Manning, seconded by Wayne Irons to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 pm. Motion Carried.

The next town meeting will be held on June 10, 2021 starting at 7:00 pm and will be held via Zoom.

Town Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month unless changed by the Mayor.

Respectfully submitted,

**Shirley A. Pennington**

Secretary