

**The Town of Bowers**3357 Main St.
Frederica, DE 19946
(302) 572-9000
bowersbeach.delaware.gov

**MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm on June 24, 2021 by Vice-Mayor Wayne Irons as Mayor Ada had to step out for a minute. Council members present: Shirley Pennington (Zoom), Ada Puzzo, Marty Manning, and Bob McDevitt .

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

**Minutes:**

There was a motion by Bob McDevitt, seconded by Marty Manning to approve the April 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

There was a motion by Marty Manning, seconded by Bob McDevitt to approve the May 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

The treasurer's report was given by Marty Manning.

Mayor Ada returned to the meeting during the Treasurer's report.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Parks & Recreation:** Tink reported that he installed a device to lock the bench at the museum. He needs to find a welder to fix an issue at the basketball court. The top of the pavilion still needs some repair. We do need some trash removed and there is a piece of equipment that needs to be removed as it is becoming a hazard. The mulch needs to be replenished and sprayed. Mayor Ada would like to increase the budget so that Tink can do the repairs and maintenance that he would like to do.

**Planning/Zoning Code Revisions:** No Report.

**Streets:** Bob McDevitt said that he received a complaint about a pothole on South Flack.

**Board of Adjustments:** No Report.

**Code Enforcement:** No Report.

**Parking Lot:** No Update from Anthony. It was discussed again that the ditches will be moved off of the land owners property so that DNREC can clean the ditches as needed.

**Watermen's Park:** Marge Ventura reported that the most recent grant included funds for the electricity, security cameras, and bridge. There was a new electrical hookup was installed in April. Thanks to Jim and Judy Martin Delmarva Power actually hooked up the power. Judy Martin reminded Marge that we need to put a lock on the electrical box. bob McDevitt said that he can take care of that problem tonight.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Drainage on North Bayshore:** Marty Manning said that they will have a meeting next week about the options that are available. He will meet with the committee before he discussing at a Town meeting.

**Channel Dredging and Rock Jetty:** Mayor Ada has been watching the bond bill hearings to see what the outcome will be for building a jetty and dredging the channel.

**Trash Contract:** Mayor Ada said she will still be needing help to make sure the new cans are accurate. If you have a residence that has been missed you will get cans if you don't have them. Businesses don't receive them except for the church which was donated by the trash contractor. Please be patient as we resolve the issues.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Elections:** There will be two council seats open which are the two currently held by Bob McDevitt and Marty Manning. Information can be found on the Town of Bowers website or the Town of Bowers Face book page. If you still have questions you can also call Secretary Shirley Pennington at 302-242-8148.

**Budget:** Mayor Ada went over the budget figures with the projected figures vs. the actual figures thru the end of May 2021. Take into consideration that this is not for a full year. The interest on our accounts was lower than the year before. Town taxes were down as we were low last year. Transfer tax was up so that saved us but we can't really count on that every year. The DNREC grant reimbursement should have been included. CARES money that were received along with ARPA funds were not included as we had no way to know that we would be able to receive those funds. Donations were low at $100 and we actually donated $2000. Rent will be taken out of the budget as we no longer pay rent. We were pretty close in what we budgeted but we do have extra money. Then she went over the Budget for FY 22. Mayor Ada discussed the changes that were made from last year to FY 22. There are two big placeholders as we aren't sure what we will be spending those funds on. Keep in mind that there are rules that must be followed. Wayne Irons commented that we will need to upgrade our computer and Ada would like to have a printer that would print on 11 X 17 paper. Ada will add a line for Computer repair and other a total of $4,000. Park repairs will be at $13,000 but keep in mind that we will get $5000 of that back from the DNREC grant. So balanced budget with expenditures and income of $441,344.

A motion was made by Bob McDevitt, seconded by Marty Manning to accept the FY 22 Budget. Motion carried.

**ARPA Funds:** Mayor Ada and Marty have taken the necessary steps in order for us to receive the funds. There is a total of $166,000 which we will get half this month and half next year. There are strict rules that must be followed when spending this money and it falls into 5 categories which are as follows:

1) Public Health - We don't have much that this category would cover.

2) Economic Hardship - This may be an area that we could use to get help with the channel dredging.

3) Essential Workers - We don't have any workers so this category won't be used.

4) Public Sector Revenues - We don't have anything that would fall into this category.

5) Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure - Some of the things that would fall into this category would be better wifi coverage, better cell phone coverage, roads, Town water, Expanding our network, upgrading our office etc. Mayor Ada will have to review the rules but drainage may be a possibility as well. We talked about putting a survey together to get input from the town residents.

We will only have until December of 2024 to spend this money.

**Roads** - We have some potholes that we need to be taken care of and we also have some entire roads that will need to be paved.

**Delinquent Taxes** - It was discussed that Marty will send out an initial letter to those that still owe taxes. If there is still no response from them then we will pursue our legal options at that point. Marty will prepare a letter for us to review next month that we will send to residents.

**Rezoning issues** - This can be removed as after we talked with Barrett it wasn't that big of a deal.

Bruce Turner asked how much money and Mayor Ada responded that it would be the $83,000 that we received already and then an additional $83,000 next year.

Marge asked if this would include consulting fees and the answer was yes.

**Mayor's Comments:** Mayor Ada did email everyone that the Governor will be lifting the State of Emergency as of July 13th. With that said we will be able to have and in person meeting in July if we push it to the 22nd of July. We will continue to incorporate the ZOOM as well for those who still don't want to attend in person.

**Upcoming Museum Events:** Judy Martin reported that the museum will open on Saturdays and Sundays from 2 to 4 pm. Last weekend there was a visitor from California. She would like to thank all those that have helped in any way to support the museum. They have new displays and exhibits as well. Bruce Turner donated a model sailboat that he refurbished to the museum which will be on display. July 3rd will be the museums birthday celebration. Horseshoe Crab Authority will be here to talk with everyone about them. October 10th is Heritage Day would like to have ribbon cutting for Watermen's' Park.

Judy also reported that our grant submission was never received. Since Judy had a copy they are going to consider it so we should hear about it in the next two weeks.

**RESIDENT TOPICS AND CONCERNS**

**Dogs on the Beach:** Bruce Turner said that you shouldn't make rules that can't be enforced.

Marge Ventura was told that people were ticketed on the beach by DNREC officers. Mayor Ada said that was not for dogs on the beach. Marge said she is a resident that breaks the rule because she walks her dog on the beach in the morning. Her dog is on a leash and she does clean up after it.

Mike Kozakowski asked if there was an ordinance that coincides with Delaware Code. Mayor Ada said that since there is no ordinance then it falls to State Law. He said that he also breaks the rule and walks his dog on the beach as well and he cleans up after them as well. He has seen others walking their dogs with no enforcement. Mayor Ada said that since there is no ordinance we can't enforce it.

Mayor Ada said that there is a 1973 easement (please see attached) that is now being challenged. Discussed a designated swimming and sunbathing area. Majority of council has to be in agreement. There was a discussion on the matter. It was also asked about fishing as well. Barrett who is the Town's legal counsel has been consulted on the matter as well.

**Wyatt Avenue vs. Wyatt Street:** Mike Kozakowski from Wyatt according to Kent County the actual name should be Wyatt Avenue, this will hold up a refi because of it. He feels that it would be nice to have the actual name on the street. Mayor Ada said she has no problem looking into this matter.

**No Outlet Sign needed on Wyatt:** Mike Kozakowski feels that there should be a no outlet sign posted on Wyatt because there is no access street there. Sometimes trucks need help turning around because they cannot fit down that road. Mayor Ada said that Canal Street is an actual street that is listed as a town road so she is not ready to move on that.

Mayor Ada has no problem with some sort of signage but maybe not a no outlet. We also will look into this as well. Marty Manning will look into both of the Wyatt Street issues and report back with his findings.

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 Shirley Pennington, seconded by Wayne Irons to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 pm. Motion Carried.

The next town meeting will be held on July 22, 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