

**The Town of Bowers**3357 Main St.
Frederica, DE 19946
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bowersbeach.delaware.gov

**MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm on September 9, 2021 by Mayor Ada Puzzo. Council members present: Shirley Pennington, Bob McDevitt, Wayne Irons, and Marty Manning.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

**Minutes:**

There meeting minutes were tabled for July and August 2021 and will be approved at the next meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

The treasurer's report was given by Marty Manning.

We received $ 11,572.74 in Street Aid.

$3500.00 will be reimbursed by USDA.

There was a question about the $49,000.00. This is earmarked for street repair and should not be considered a liability but was entered that way by the previous treasurer.

There was a question on the amount for legal fees and it was explained by Marty. The Profit /Loss and Balance Sheet were also discussed.

A motion was made by Bob McDevitt, seconded by Wayne Irons to accept the August 2021 Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Parks & Recreation:** Tink is looking for a mobile welder for the basketball rim and he is having trouble finding someone. He has an appointment with Sullivans' who were the lowest bid on the mulch for the playgrounds which was $ 1,950.00. Tomorrow the big brush pile will be removed. The town offers a mileage reimbursement for anyone that is available to help starting at 8am. Tink is getting a quote to grind the stumps that remain in the old park.

There was a question asked about DNREC helping with the stumps but it is the town's responsibility.

One of the dome lids on the trashcans is missing and the other needs to be replaced. bob McDevitt said that he will handle it.

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

**Streets:** No Report.

**Board of Adjustments:** No Report.

**Code Enforcement:** Bob McDevitt said that there will be a new house on N. Bayshore.

There will be a partition on N. Flack/N. Bayshore and it will be ready for signature at the October meeting. There was a question from a resident who asked if this new construction would add to the flooding. They were told that it will be addressed when building.

There are two pending shed permits.

**Parking Lot** : Moving forward. RFP is out and they are on schedule for fall.

**Watermen's Park:** No Report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Drainage on North Bayshore:**

There was a special meeting held on August 31st where the engineer presented the possible solutions.

No matter which option we decide to go with there will be future maintenance and we will need to figure out a way to get the money to cover the expenses. We can count on the tax revenue but cannot count on the transfer tax because it is not guaranteed. The street aid that we get could go up or down.

Mayor Ada then explained the table on assessed value and presented an option to either raise taxes from 60 cents a year to 78 cents a year or just go with a flat increase of $37.39.

The options are as follows for Drainage:

1) Gravity Solution - Wayne Irons said that he likes this option if we could raise the road and clean out the ditches. This would use a check valve and take longer to drain.

2) Pump the excess water to N. Flack with a cost of $ 168,000.00

3) Pump the excess water to the Bay - We are not sure that this is allowed.

Mayor Ada said that at this time she feels that we do not have enough information to make a decision. She would like to have a better understanding before a decision is made.

So we are left with:

Clean the ditches and replace all pipes which probably won't happen without a place for the water to go.

Drain out to the marsh.

Drain to North Flack.

In order to vote on this matter council will need to talk to the engineer again so we can make an informed decision.

A resident asked if this was a prevailing wage project, we are certain that it most likely is.

Mark Puzzo noted that the engineer did say that we could go with gravity and add a pump at a later time.

Mary Keeling said thanks for explaining the tax bill. She said that it seems like those who are paying their taxes are being penalized because of those who don't pay. She realizes that we want to have a balanced budget but it doesn't seem fair.

Joe Collins said that adding the flat rate may be too progressive and he feels that the percentage would be the way to go.

Mayor Ada said that it is too early to make a decision concerning an increase in taxes.

Jay Baker said that Main Street, Hubbard and N. Flack are all state streets. Is it possible to make N. Bayshore a state street as well. Mayor Ada said no that is not possible.

So we need to keep in mind that the cost for maintenance would include maintaining the pump, cleaning out the ditches, and anything else that would need to be done to keep the system working.

A resident said we need to keep in mind that the gravity option won't work in certain weather conditions.

A resident asked where the drainage goes. Mayor Ada responded that all drainage goes to Hubbard.

After the discussion Mayor Ada made a motion, seconded by Marty Manning to table the vote on the drainage system until we are able to get additional information from the engineer.

**Channel Dredging and Rock Jetty:** There is a pontoon boat that is out doing measurements and they got permission to stage their equipment at South Bowers.

The dredging is set to begin in December or January. The disposal site will be off shore.

There was an approved $2.6 million, $1.4 for the jetty and $1.2 for dredging.

Residents gave kudos to Mayor Ada for her efforts in moving this forward. Mayor Ada said it was definitely a team effort.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Upcoming Museum Events:** Judy Martin reported that October 10th is Heritage Day.

Tree planting will be October 17th and we are in need of volunteers. Help will be needed on October 16th as well when the trees arrive.

**RESIDENT TOPICS AND CONCERNS**

Offensive Flag and Sense of Town: Carol Baker said that she is offended by a flag that is flying on her street. We are trying to make our town look better and this very rude and offensive.

Mayor Ada said that she has received several emails regarding the flag. She reached out to our legal counsel who said there is nothing that we can legally do about it even though there were so many people against it.

The "F" word is inappropriate for our town. Some residents wondered if anyone had actually spoken to the property owner about it. Many agree that it is offensive and profanity should not be flown in our town. Some said this is a way for the property owner to seek attention.

Marylisa Manning said she finds it disheartening that someone feels the need to be that disgusting and it makes her angry. The flag says "F" Biden and whoever doesn't agree. She feels that you can have your opinion without being distasteful.

Doug Schuck said that this has been an ongoing personal battle between the homeowner and his neighbor.

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 Marty Manning to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm. Motion Carried.

The next town meeting will be held on October 14, 2021 starting at 7:00 pm and will be and in person meeting as well as Zoom.

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

Respectfully submitted,

**Shirley A. Pennington,**

Secretary