

**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 7:02pm on September 15, 2022byVice-Mayor Wayne Irons.Council members present:Shirley Pennington,Bob McDevitt,and Marty Manning.

Mayor Ada Puzzo arrived late to the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

**Assignment of Positions:**

**Ada Puzzo - Mayor**(Motion by Shirley Pennington, seconded by Bob McDevitt)

**Wayne Irons - Vice-Mayor**(Motion by Shirley Pennington, seconded by Bob McDevitt)

**Marty Manning - Treasurer**Motion by Shirley Pennington, seconded by Bob McDevitt)

**Shirley Pennington - Secretary**(Motion by Wayne Irons, seconded by Bob McDevitt)

**Bob McDevitt - Code Enforcement Officer**(Motion by Shirley Pennington, seconded by Wayne Irons)

**All motions carried.**

**Minutes:** Minutes were tabled until the Mayor was present for her revisions.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Marty went over the reports for August 2022. Then went over July 2022 thru August 2022.There were two months of electric paid in August due to when the bills were received.

A motion was made by Shirley Pennington, seconded byBob McDevitt toaccept the August 2022 Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Parks & Recreation:**No Report

**Planning/Zoning Code Revisions:**There was a meeting on the 13th. The committee is still in the process of making revisions. The revisions will then go to Barratt for his review.

**Streets:**No Report

**Public Water:**No Report

**Board of Adjustments:** No Report

**Code Enforcement:**No Report

**Parking Lot:**Anthony Gunzon (DNREC) reported that we are getting closer to construction. Legal documents should be out sometime next week along with the property boundaries. This project should be out for bid by Fall and completed prior to the Buccaneer Bash.

**Watermen's Park:**Marge reported that the new LED light was installed but not working. They are not sure what the problem is but they are trying to resolve it with the company. They are thinking that it may be too close to the street light.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Channel Dredging and Rock Jetty:** The survey requirements have been completed. We will now be able to check with the Coast Guard about the light on the day marker.

**Drainage:**Marty Manning reported that they are waiting on Century Engineering to complete their portion. He has nothing new to report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Upcoming Museum Events:**Heritage Day is October 9th there will be lots of activities. The museum is open from 2 until 4 on weekends. Judy Martin said that there are a lot of potholes throughout the town and she is hoping that they can be fixed before the race.

**A motion was made by Bob McDevitt, seconded by Marty Manning at 7:26 pm to take a short recess until Mayor Ada arrives. Motion carried.**

**A motion was made by Bob McDevitt, seconded by Marty Manning at 7:35 pm to return to regular order of business. Motion carried.**

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**Discussion and possible action to approve R-2022-08-11-01**

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEAR2022-2023**

Mayor Ada reviewed the budget for 2022 and discussed changes for 2023. She and Marty did an internal audit. There are rules about what certain monies can be spent on. She said some possible changes would be trash collection and hiring a clerk.

There was a discussion concerning trash collection and charging it back to the town residents as a way to have more funding available in the budget. Another option was to have each town resident get individual trash service and the town would not be involved.

Steve Koener said he feels that people won't pay for their own service and our town will end up looking trashy. He would also like to do away with the ZOOM for meetings. He also asked about park maintenance and said that the pavilion on Church Street park needs to be addressed. Bob McDevitt said that we are having trouble locating a contractor that wants to do the work.

Howie Houseknect said that we should go after the people that aren't paying their taxes. He would rather see taxes raised that have to pay for trash collection. He also said that we need to make sure that the events that we hold in town are profitable.

Maria Kessling said she agrees with Steve Koener about the trash collections and does not want our town to look trashy.

Scott and Nancy Etaugh said we should look into other possible revenues for the town such as parking meters and rental revenue.

Marylisa Manning said she thinks it would be good for the town to charge those who have Air B and Bs or rentals. She also agrees with Steve Koener about the trash collection.

Jena Appecilli said she also agrees with the comments made about trash collection but she does like being able to attend the meetings on ZOOM. She also likes the idea of having a town clerk.

Ray Shore said that he likes being able to ZOOM for the meetings as he lives several hours away. He likes the idea of a clerk and thinks maybe it should be full time or at least 15 hours a week. The clerk should also have a phone that is on from 9 to 5 to answer any questions. He also agrees about the trash collection comments.

Mayor Ada asked council how they felt about the budget revisions.

Marty Manning said he would like more time to review.

Bob McDevitt said that he is unsure about the trash collection being charged back to the resident but feels that we need to start slow.

Wayne Irons said he agrees with the residents paying their own trash but doesn't like the idea of the town footing the bill and then billing the residents.

Shirley Pennington said she will need time to review this before making a decision and would like to know what the fee would be per resident.

All of council was not opposed to the town clerk idea but again wants to start slow and see how it goes.

Mayor Ada said we will table this for now and she will bring more information to the October meeting.

**Discussion and possible action to approve R-2022-08-11-02**

**A RESOLUTION TO AWARD ARPA GRANT TO BOWERS FIRE COMPANY**

There was a grant drafted by lawyers that covered the Lucas Device plus 3 years maintenance for a total cost of $ 16, 070.19. A motion was made by Shirley Pennington, seconded by Wayne Irons to sign the grant and give the Bowers Fire Company the funds to cover the cost. Motion carried.

**RESIDENT TOPICS AND CONCERNS**

None submitted

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

See comments in Budget section

**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 8:25pm. Motion Carried.

The next town meeting will be held on October 13, 2022 starting at 7:00 pm and will be 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