

**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 7:00 pm on March 16, 2023 by Mayor Ada Puzzo Council members present: Shirley Pennington, Bob McDevitt, Marty Manning (Zoom) and Wayne Irons.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Bob McDevitt, seconded Wayne Irons to approve the December meeting minutes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Wayne Irons, seconded by Ada Puzzo to approve the January meeting minutes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bob McDevitt, seconded by Wayne Irons to approve the February meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

A motion was made by Ada Puzzo, seconded by Wayne Irons to table the February 2023 Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Parking Lot:** No Report

**Watermen's Park:** No Report

**Parks & Recreation:** No Report

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

**Public Water:**  Thomas Matich of Delaware Rural Water Association. He would provide technical assistance with the survey that we need to do. He will pull data from the Kent County Records and will have two ways to collect data. One will be written format through regular mail and two would be a link to the website. The data collected will be put into a spreadsheet. We will need 51% of the property owners to be interested to move forward with this project.

Questions asked -

Shawn Devlin at 134 South Flack asked if all property owners would be asked, even those who have undeveloped lots. Answer was yes there will be one per property address.

Maria Keesling feels that we would need to know a cost might look like in order to make an informed decision. Answer is that it looks like there would be no initial cost up front and about $300 per quarter if you sign up initially.

Katera Moore (not a town resident) asked if any current resident wells have been tested. Answer was that it would be up to each homeowner to test their own well. If we have public water it has to meet standards. You can get a test from the Thomas Collins Building at a cost of $5 if anyone is interested.

Next Steps will be to mail the survey out to the residents in the next few weeks. Keep in mind that there will be a cost involved for the mailing.

Hubbard Avenue and Wyatt Street already have Tidewater. If we get past the 51% and move on, then different companies would bid on the job. Tidewater would still have the rights to the area that they already serve.

There are FAQs that will be included in the survey that goes out.

**Streets:** No Report

**Code Enforcement:** No Report

**Board of Adjustments:**  No Report

**A motion was made by Ada Puzzo, seconded by Wayne Irons to recess to locate a presentation that needs to be shared.**

**A motion was made by Ada Puzzo, seconded by Shirley Pennington to return to regular order of business.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Drainage:** Shawn Devlin this is in a holding pattern. The proposal was submitted to FEMA. The match may be 90/10 or 75/25. They are still going through the approval process with DNREC. The Kent Conservation District has issues with the Archeological Historical and Cultural Affairs.

There was a question concerning grounds keeping and ditches and also the Pump system vs. the gravity system. At this point the town is leaning toward a pump system and we will have to see what the cost involved would be to maintain that.

**Town Network:** There was a handout provided. Henry Forester of Bits and Bytes was in attendance. He has been doing office networking and computerized accounting since 1990. He also works with other towns and fire companies. With this network we would have a Guest Wi-Fi password. All of our equipment is 10 plus years old and needs to be updated.

Questions -

Joe Conlin suggested that we may need to increase some items. Mayor Ada said that she was comfortable with what is suggested.

Aaron Warren asked if this would be going out to bid. Mayor Ada replied that this is considered open market and doesn't have to go out to bid.

Jay and Carol Baker asked if the other building server was temperature controlled and the answer is yes.

Would there be an offsite backup the answer is yes.

Have you thought about a Cloud based solution and the answer was that there would be a subscription cost with that.

**Town-wide Security Camera Project:** There was a handout provided. Mayor Puzzo said we don't have a police presence in the town so this project would help with security.

Clayton Carlson with Diamond Electric explained the process that would be involved with installing these cameras. These cameras will be good quality images and will provide 60 days of video. The poles would be 30 to 35 feet tall and would essentially look just like a telephone pole. The poles will also have lights on them and we could also add outlets to any of the poles that are installed. If we choose to add the outlets they can be locked. There is a special process done to prevent lightning strikes or make them minimal. They will try to cover the areas in the town where there is the most concern first. All equipment as a lifetime license, so there will be no reoccurring fees. It will be an upfront, onetime cost to the town. There all several steps to this project, but we will only be discussing step one tonight. Our timeline projection was to have this done by Memorial Day.

Questions -

What is the life of the cameras? Answer is that the life of the cameras is 10 plus years. They will function beyond that but won't be state of the art at that point. Most will upgrade before there are issues. The infrastructure will last much longer at least 50 to 60 years.

Jay and Carol Baker had some privacy concerns and asked who would be able to view the cameras. Mayor Puzzo replied that anyone on council would have access.

Katera Moore asked if this video can accessed by Kent Comm. Mayor Puzzo replied that they would not have automatic access.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Upcoming Museum Events:**  The Buccaneer Bash will be Memorial Day weekend. They have started a new Face book page just for the Buccaneer Bash. There is a volunteer form for the museum on the page. Also the Fire company will be doing a dinner and breakfast during the weekend.

**Elections:** Elections will be held the second Saturday in August which is August 5th. There are two council seats open, which are the seats currently held by Bob McDevitt and Marty Manning. We will continue to give information at upcoming meetings.

**RESIDENT TOPICS AND CONCERNS**

None submitted

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Wayne Irons - DSP was here last month for one night. Tink is currently in Florida. Judy Martin applied for a $1,000 grant for the music nights. Tink wanted to get approved the amount of $700 for handouts and a banner. Also the T-shirts are almost depleted. We need to review the budget to see if there is a surplus. Mayor Puzzo said that she was almost positive that there was no surplus from last year but she will review it. There will be a fee for each ban of $400 so $1,600 total and there will be a fee for the porta potties as well. Council is okay to approve the T-shirts as they will make money. Council will review the rest.

Marty Manning - None

Shirley Pennington - Upcoming events with the Bowers Fire Company.

 Bingo every Sunday night doors open at 5:30 games start at 7:00pm

 Quarter Auction on April 22nd

 Shrimp Feast on April 28th

 Check out their Face book page for more information.

Bob McDevitt - None

Ada Puzzo - Spoke with Structural Engineers about the Museum and will have a report by the end of March. That leaves the month of April to look for funding and/or grants. The grant is due the beginning of May. This year there has been a lot of water damage and the walls are bowing. It is an old building and there were non-bearing walls that weren't connected so they are separating.

Asked for council to approve the amount of $2500 to cover the cost of the Structural Engineer. Charlie Postles is also looking for funding to help cover the costs when we know what needs to be done.

**NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Marty Manning, seconded by Wayne Irons, adjourn at 8:45 pm. Motion Carried.

The next town meeting will be held on April 13, 2023 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