

**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 7:02 pm on August 10, 2023 by Mayor Ada Puzzo. Council members present: Bob McDevitt, Marty Manning and Wayne Irons.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

The Swearing in of Council was led by Mayor Ada Puzzo. Bob McDevitt recited and signed his oath for Council. Marty Manning recited and signed his oath for Council. Mayor Ada Puzzo and Wayne Irons attested.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Mayor Ada Puzzo, seconded by Marty Manning Irons to approve the June 2023 Minutes. Motion carried.

There were no minutes or July 2023 as the meeting was cancelled.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Marty went over the reports for June 2023. Ada made a distinction about the ARPA funds expense and how the funds were granted last year so for the profit and loss sheet it can be misleading when the town did not lose much. A motion was made by Marty Manning, seconded by Wayne Irons to approve the Treasurer’s report for June 2023. Motion carried.

Marty went over the reports for July 2023. Ada discussed looking into building expenses as some should be disclosed as ARPA funding – will confirm next month. A motion was made by Wayne Irons, seconded by Bob McDevitt to approve the Treasurer’s report for July 2023. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Parking Lot:** Wayne spoke about meeting with the parking lot bidders. Anthony showed them the lot and what needed to be done. The website is open for bidding and luckily there was a lot of traffic on the site.

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

**Parks & Recreation:** Tink completed the bike repair station. DMPO paid for it.

**Planning/Zoning Code Revisions:** Bob went over the yearly comprehensive plan report. Marylisa did a great job. This is not something that requires a vote from council, but this will be emailed to council to review before submitting. Marylisa and the rest of the planning committee were looking to add some last minute things to the 2022 and 2023 report.

**Public Water:**  Joe Conlin came later to the meeting and discussed how Tom is taking care of assembling the mail and it should be going out in the following weeks. The plan is to have similar wording like the online survey that was sent out a few months prior. MaryLisa asked about filtering in the water. There was one question about how long it would take to get this completed and it would be a minimum of two years before this kicks off.

**Streets:** No Report

**Code Enforcement:** No Report

**Board of Adjustments:**  No Report

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ORPT Grant:** Judy requested a resolution form for funding for the pirate ship. A motion was made by Mayor Ada Puzzo, seconded by Wayne Irons for allowing funding. It was signed by Council, motion carried.

**FY 24 Budget:** Ada went into great depth over the budget. Some of the funds that show up are from previous years, so it will not show up as revenues this year. Ada spoke about looking into the existing balance for the USDA loan, she believes it is lower. In regard to lighting, there was a distinction made between state and town funding – blue is town and yellow is state. The budget was not balanced so there was an effort made to cut $5,950 out of the $10,000 for general maintenance. A motion was made by Wayne Irons, seconded by Bob McDevitt to adopt the FY 24 Budget as amended. Motion carried and the resolution was signed.

**RESIDENT TOPICS AND CONCERNS**

None submitted

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Marty Manning - None

Wayne Irons – Wayne is going to fill out the requisition for Tink for the band – Bad Juju $400. Marty will write the check. A couple residents have been complaining about the speeding and racing happening within the town. Wayne has reached out to the State Police regarding this issue and is looking to try and get someone out here. A resident suggested speed bumps, but that is not authorized on state roads. Ada suggested having a greater conversation about speed bumps at a later date after gathering more information. Another resident asked about traffic cameras, but they are illegal In Delaware.

Shirley Pennington - None

Bob McDevitt - None

Ada Puzzo – Starting the process on security cameras. Proposed a location for the single tower – asking Judy and other museum volunteers to stay after to discuss the prime location for the tower. It is going to be 56 feet – it has to be higher than anything in the town. Ada is going to talk to Bob about the zoning and making sure that it is not going to cause any issues. There was an executive decision to give Ada the executive power to negotiate the purchasing of land. Ada did the negotiation with Ray Shore in reference to the purchasing of 11.3 acres of Marsh. They are interested in this purchase for reasons of restoring the marsh which helps with flooding and other coastal issues like drainage. There is about 150 feet on Main St. that is not in wetlands, so it is probably buildable. Bowers was selected by Bayshore Byways to be included in a grant for amenities recommended by the DMPO study done last year – like a bathhouse with toilets and self-sustaining equipment like timed lighting and self-closing faucets.

**NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Marty Manning, seconded by Wayne Irons, adjourn at 7:56 pm. Motion Carried.

The next town meeting will be held on September 14, 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,

**Ada Puzzo**

Mayor