

REGULAR MEETING

October 21, 2019

Approved

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner President Ross Benincasa at 7:38pm. Attending the meeting were Commissioners Ross Benincasa, Steve Higdon, Sandra Higdon; Circuit Rider Jennifer Shull; town clerk Michael Garrett; Chelsea Benincasa from Planning and Zoning; town residents Ronnie Stafford, Peggy Stafford and Warren Thomas.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public meeting opened up to discuss Ordinance 74, an ordinance regulating open air burning within the Town of Hillsboro. Clerk read revised ordinance 74. Commissioner Benincasa stated that the burning ban definition is to be removed from the Ordinance, amending said ordinance. Residents Ronnie Stafford and Warren Thomas raised concerns as to whether or not the ordinance was necessary and how it would be enforced. Commissioner Steve Higdon motioned for the close of public comment at 7:51pm, second by Commissioner Sandra Higdon.

Regular meeting opened at 7:51pm

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2019 meeting by Commissioner Steve Higdon, 2nd by Commissioner Sandra Higdon.

Financial Statement read and accepted as read. Motion made by Commissioner Steve Higdon, 2nd by Commissioner Sandra Higdon.

OLD BUSINESS

In regard to the playground mulch and upkeep, the Caroline County Recreation and Parks will be bringing 80-100 cubic yards of new mulch but they need the trees trimmed on Church Street so their trucks can get to the playground. Asplundh is to come out tomorrow to cut back overhanging tree branches. Once tree trimming is done, Caroline County Recreation and Parks has mulch ready for delivery.

In regards to Delmarva Power replacing the last 7 street lights, they are slated to be done in the beginning of November.

In regards to the storm water project update, Commissioner Benincasa spoke with Leslie at Planning and Zoning. They are running a month or two behind but anticipate starting work within the next couple of months.

In regards to Hillsboro becoming a Sustainable Community, we need to get our community projects in to our representative sooner rather than later as our representative will be going out on maternity leave in December.

In regards to the eradication of the wild cherry trees, it appears that trees are trying to make a comeback. Commissioners will call the man who does the spraying of the trees to come back and kill off the new growth.

In regards to snow removal for the upcoming winter season, Commissioner Benincasa spoke with Alan Knotts who confirmed he would take care of snow removal for the town of Hillsboro again this year.

In regards to the Narcan training introduced by Circuit Rider Jennifer Shull, she would like a count of how many people will be attending the training about a week before the next scheduled monthly town meeting. The training is quick and can be done at the meeting.

In regards to Halloween, Trick or Treat will be 5pm to 7pm and the Town of Hillsboro will make a 300.00 donation to the Queen Anne-Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Company to help offset the cost of the annual Halloween party.

In regards to Luminaries, the Planning Commission is set to discuss that at their upcoming meeting.

In regards to the Holiday dinner at the Retreat House, it has been confirmed that there will be a potluck dinner on December 21, 2019 for the Town of Hillsboro.

NEW BUSINESS

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy is in the process of purchasing the property at 11206 Tuckahoe Road for the Caroline County Commissioners who will turn over the property to the Town of Hillsboro for \$1.00 as part of the Open Space Grant. It may be necessary to access part of that property for the Storm Water Management project on Church Street.

The 2020 Census will be starting up in the Spring. Every person not counted by the Census, costs the state of Maryland over 18,000.00 per missed person. Commissioners Sandra and Steve Higdon will check with Debbie at the Post Office to see if she is able to match up physical addresses with post office box numbers. While they are there, they will check to see if we can put a Questions/Comments/Concerns box in the Post Office.

Motion was made by Commissioner Steve Higdon, Second by Commissioner Sandra Higdon to pass Ordinance 74 as amended to remove the definition of "burning ban" from the ordinance.

In public comments, resident Peggy Stafford brought to the Commissioners a letter from the descendants of Mrs. Grace Bowman, the last teacher of the Hillsboro School before the school was closed. The letter accompanied a newspaper clipping of the names of the students that last attended there and hand bell that was used at the school. The intention is to put the hand bell on display in the old school house which is the current Hillsboro Town hall, after a presentation at a Maryland Historical Trust meeting, to be held at the Caroline County Library, where former Hillsboro school students are expected to attend. The commissioners are in support of displaying the historic hand bell and are considering ways to best display it.

Motion to approve bills to be paid, Commissioner Steve Higdon, 2nd by Commissioner Sandra Higdon:

Michael Garrett Clerk Fee --\$250.00 ✓

Infinity Recycling --\$125.00 ✓

APG Media of the Chesapeake LLC Star Dem Ord 74--\$26.25 ✓

APG Media of the Chesapeake LLC Times Rec Ord 74—18.00 ✓

Chesapeake Waste--\$745.50 ✓

Delmarva Power Street Lights--\$433.34 ✓

Delmarva Power Town Hall Electric--\$49.95 ✓

Joey's Lawncare Grass Cutting--\$180.00 ✓

Sandra Higdon Reimbursement Cleaning Supplies \$48.38 ✓

Motion made to Adjourn at 8:41pm by Commissioner Steve Higdon, Second by Commissioner Sandra Higdon