

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 16, 2014
CHINCOTEAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Council Members Present:

John H. Tarr, Mayor
Ellen W. Richardson, Vice Mayor
J. Arthur Leonard, Councilman
Gene W. Taylor, Councilman
Ben Ellis, Councilman
James T. Frese, Councilman
John N. Jester, Jr., Councilman

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tarr called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilman Taylor offered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Tarr led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Tarr opened the floor for public participation.

There was none.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS AND ADOPTION

Councilman Leonard motioned, seconded by Councilman Jester to adopt the agenda as presented. Unanimously approved.

1. Presentation of NFWF Coastal Resilience Grant Project

Mayor Tarr introduced Ms. Jill Bieri with the Nature Conservancy.

Ms. Bieri stated that she is the Director for the Virginia Coastal Reserve of the Nature Conservancy. She explained what the Virginia Coastal Reserve is and what they do. She then explained the Resiliency Grant Project. She stated that they look at education and outreach programs. She would like to get more people out so they could engage with the community. She explained all of the studies they would conduct and resources along with the opportunity for long-term studies of undeveloped barrier islands without human impact.

Ms. Bieri continued reviewing the slide show discussing NASA and the infrastructure on Wallops Island, the National Wildlife Refuge. She mentioned the Eastern Shore's aquaculture farms. She stated that they have formed a Climate Adaptation Working Group to prepare for the changes. She also discussed the Nature Conservancy's work in New England using nature based solutions for storm protection. She added that preparing for the storm surge is their priority. She

reviewed their goals and a diagram that shows they want to help to add resources and green communities on the Eastern Shore.

Ms. Bieri stated that the Climate Adaptation Working Group has been around since 2008, and the Coastal Resiliency Project on the Eastern Shore has been awarded on the Eastern Shore in the amount of \$1.76 million from round two Hurricane Sandy funds. She further explained that they have been awarded \$1.46 million and are raising \$300,000 locally for a 2 year project. She mentioned the partners in the project. She added that the National Park Service and the Army Corps of Engineers are not partners. She explained the project goals of the study to create a coastal resilience tool and recommended solutions.

Ms. Bieri advised of a workshop scheduled for November. She stated that there is a mapping tool online which shows the populated data for the Coastal Resilience Project and they are modifying it to suit the Eastern Shore. She also stated that they want to build oyster reefs and study how they will protect the shorelines. She added that they are still getting information from communities to see what their needs are.

There were questions and brief discussions.

Ms. Bieri invited the Town Council to her office headquarters in Brownsville. She stated that a lot of their properties have been closed to the public in the past. She also stated that they don't want to open the floodgates but they would like to increase access to the general public. She added that if they want to protect areas they need to have people using them and appreciating them.

There were further comments. They discussed details and the possibility of attendees to the upcoming workshop, as well as a possible field trip to Mariner's Point to view the Inlet.

- 2. Discuss FEMA Floodplain Management Program**
 - a) Status of Coastal flood Study/Flood Insurance Rate Maps**
 - b) Status of Community Assistance Visit**
 - c) Status of Community Rating System Re-Certification**

Town Planner Neville stated that they need to review the schedule for the next couple of months. He stated that the timing is good for considering coastal resiliency with the Nature Conservancy because of the upcoming adoption of the new FEMA flood maps. He advised of his recent required training as a Flood Plain Manager. He added that this will help in the discounted Flood Insurance Program. He reviewed changes in the community flood maps over the history of the flood insurance program. He explained that FEMA is hoping that increasing the regulations administer will continue to reduce risk and possible flood damage.

Town Planner Neville stated that over the summer FEMA has completed the draft flood maps. He also stated that he has contacted FEMA, no one has appealed the map and now Council is obliged to hold a public hearing for adoption. He added that the Flood Plain Ordinance has to be readopted also. He feels that it is important that they have a work session to see whether or not they need to adopt any different standards. He feels that other communities are being encouraged to adopt freeboard standards which exceed the minimum required. He explained that most of the Island has been under the 7-8 feet base flood elevation and are now dropping to 3-4

feet. Town Planner Neville asked how the Town wants to manage the areas taken out of the flood plain. He stated that there will be 2 categories of building permits for the Building and Zoning Department to administer. He asked Council about having a workshop to review the Flood Ordinance so they can prepare to adopt the new Flood Plain Maps with the updated Flood Ordinance. He also explained the “V” zone and the increased building standards for that area.

There were further comments, questions and suggestions. Council agreed to discuss this further at a workshop.

Mayor Tarr advised of a grant called the Sandy Transportation Grant to study of the flooding of roads. He stated that they are developing a model based on what flooded before. He added that it’s mainly for VDOT to look at all the roads.

Town Planner Neville stated that for Chincoteague, the models have to start at the low water mark rather than starting at the worst case higher high tide mark. He advised that this is to see, over time as the tide comes in, what areas need to be protected or evacuated first, recognizing that each storm is different.

3. Review of Chincoteague Veterans Memorial Park Playground

a) Selection of Equipment (2 to 5 year age group)

Town Manager Ritter advised that Chief Lewis donated \$15,000 from the Ride for Kids money for playground equipment. He also reported that the Committee for the playground equipment fund gave a \$15,000 match. He advised that the total cost for the project is just over \$20,000. He stated that Chief Lewis requested a plaque that recognizes the donation from the Chincoteague Police Department.

Town Planner Neville advised of the Playground Committee meeting with a representative from a playground equipment company. He explained the quote with the fall sale and matching grant from the supplier. He described the structures and the modifications to go along with the rocket theme.

Town Manager Ritter gave details of where it was to be placed and which piece of equipment it would be replacing.

Councilman Jester explained the plans to protect the equipment and fencing for the toddler area.

Town Planner Neville stated that with the approval and order they can deliver it within 2-3 weeks, helping the Public Works staff with the installation.

Councilman Jester suggested a sign reflecting the donations from all who gave for the purchase of the playground equipment.

Councilman Taylor motioned, seconded by Councilman Frese to approve the purchase of the proposed playground equipment from Play and Park Structures in the amount not to exceed \$25,000 for the Chincoteague Veterans Memorial Park Playground. Unanimously approved.

4. Resolution(s) Regarding MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Grant Application(s)

Town Manager Ritter advised that they received a grant for the Safe Routes for Schools in the amount of \$205,840 and the engineering consultant used \$80,695 for design and construction documents. He advised that the engineers have come up with a new cost estimate of \$500,953.

Town Planner Neville clarified that this estimate is based on their 15% complete design plan and now they are about 90% complete. He added that the Town has the opportunity to find ways to reduce costs.

Town Manager Ritter stated that because November 1st is the deadline for requesting new MAP-21 funds they should discuss this. He stated that they are hoping for approval to complete the grant application for the additional construction funding needed and to endorse the 20% match.

Mayor Tarr asked about the increase in engineering costs and the reduction of the construction estimate.

Town Planner Neville explained the changes. He discussed the lighting requirements and suggestions in the reduction of the cost estimates.

There were brief comments.

Town Planner Neville stated that when VDOT gave the grant award they didn't award for the full connection from the high school to the elementary school. He added that they only gave enough money to build on the school property. He stated that this application is asking for the missing piece across Town property during the new grant cycle.

Suggestions and comments were made regarding in-kind services, lighting costs and contact with ANEC.

Town Manager Ritter stated that there won't be enough with the \$125,000 they will have left to construct the entire trail connection between the schools.

Mayor Tarr feels they should see the project through. He is not satisfied that it went up substantially in cost. He asked for Council's opinion if they want to apply for the grant.

Town Manager Ritter stated that they will need the resolution when the Town applies for the grant.

Councilman Taylor motioned, seconded by Councilman Leonard to adopt the Resolution regarding MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Grant Application for the Safe Routes to School infrastructure. Unanimously approved.

Mayor Tarr asked if the Town has reviewed the drawings.

Town Planner Neville advised that they have. He explained the design and proposed changes.

Mayor Tarr stated that the asphalt path would be 8 to 10' wide by 3,000 feet.



**Resolution Authorizing the Application for
MAP-21 / Transportation Alternatives Project
FY 2016 Safe Routes to School Infrastructure**

Whereas, in accordance with the Commonwealth Transportation Board construction allocation procedures, it is necessary that a resolution be received from the sponsoring local jurisdiction or agency requesting the Virginia Department of Transportation to establish a Transportation Alternatives project in the Town of Chincoteague.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Town of Chincoteague, Inc., requests the Commonwealth Transportation Board to establish a project for the phased improvement of Chincoteague Safe Routes to School Trail.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Town of Chincoteague, Inc. hereby agrees to provide a minimum 20 percent matching contribution for this project phase.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Town of Chincoteague, Inc. hereby agrees to enter into a project administration agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation and provide the necessary oversight to ensure the project is developed in accordance with all state and federal requirements for design, right of way acquisition, and construction of a federally funded transportation project.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Town of Chincoteague, Inc. will be responsible for maintenance and operating costs of any facility constructed with Transportation Alternatives Program funds unless other arrangements have been made with the Department.

Be It Further Resolved, that if the Town of Chincoteague, Inc. subsequently elects to cancel this project the Town of Chincoteague, Inc. hereby agrees to reimburse the Virginia Department of Transportation for the total amount of costs expended by the Department through the date the Department is notified of such cancellation. The Town of Chincoteague, Inc. also agrees to repay any funds previously reimbursed that are later deemed ineligible by the Federal Highway Administration.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 20____, Town of Chincoteague, Virginia

By: _____
Robert G. Ritter, Jr., Town Manager

5. Mayor & Council Announcements or Comments

Town Manager Ritter stated that Chief Lewis is requesting to apply for a grant from the USDA for 5 police vehicle cameras. He stated that the cost estimate would be just under \$40,000. He added that with grant approval the Town would purchase the equipment including installation and then request reimbursement from USDA Rural Development for up to \$25,000.

Town Planner Neville advised that there isn't a due date for the proposals. He stated that initially, a year ago, the Town would have qualified for 75% funding and now it's down to 55%. He added that this doesn't need to be decided this evening but would be getting in line for Council's budget discussions.

Council agrees that the cameras should be replaced and requested to put this matter on the agenda during the budget preparations.

Councilman Leonard reminded everyone of the Chincoteague High School Homecoming festivities tomorrow night.

Adjourn

Councilman Leonard motioned, seconded by Councilman Jester to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

Mayor

Town Manager