

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6, 2014
CHINCOTEAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Council Members Present:

John H. Tarr, Mayor
J. Arthur Leonard, Vice Mayor
Ellen W. Richardson, Councilwoman
John N. Jester, Jr., Councilman
Tripp Muth, Councilman
Gene W. Taylor, Councilman
Terry Howard, Councilman

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION

Councilman Howard 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.

- Ms. Teresa Bulger stated that the residents on Filmore Street have formed somewhat of a garden club. She urged people to say “thank you” for those who go above and beyond their call of duty. She presented Public Works Director Spurlock with a trophy and thanked him for working with them and helping them. She advised that they would be doing this each year.

STAFF UPDATE

Police Department

Chief Lewis advised that the monthly report was included in the agenda packet.

Mayor Tarr thanked Chief Lewis for the yearly totals included in the report.

Public Works Department

Public Works Director Spurlock advised that the monthly report has been included in the agenda packet. He stated that they look forward to getting back to work on both of the Main Street projects.

Councilman Howard asked if the dead trees have been removed from the nature trail.

Public Works Director Spurlock advised they have removed a couple of them behind the shop but plans to remove more when the weather warms up.

Councilman Taylor also expressed his appreciation for all that the Public Works Employees do. He mentioned the work they did on the water line along the Causeway. He added that the Town is blessed to have them and all the staff.

Councilwoman Richardson added that the Public Works Employees missed the Christmas luncheon because of the work on the water line.

Councilman Howard feels Ms. Bulger put things into perspective.

General Government

Town Manager Ritter reported that EMS responded to 50 calls in December 2013 which is 10 less than December 2012. He stated that there will be an ANTARES rocket launch January 8th. He also stated that work started on the Downtown Main Street Project December 9th. He added that the completion date is April 28th. He reported that staff has been working on taxes, employee bonuses and the newsletter.

Planning Department

Town Manager Ritter reported that Town Planner Neville continues to work on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rates Maps. He stated that regarding the Virginia Storm Water Management Program a bill will be introduced to legislature this month.

Councilman Howard mentioned the source of revenues and mentioned that everything ended on the plus side. He feels that's commendable and is thankful.

Councilman Taylor asked if there was an update on the CCP.

Town Manager Ritter stated that after speaking with Mr. Joe McCauley, the CCP would be released possibly in March. He also stated that Mr. Joe McCauley will be acting manager for the CCP rollout.

There was further discussion.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS AND ADOPTION

Councilman Howard motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Leonard to adopt the agenda as presented. Unanimously approved.

1. Consider Adoption of the Minutes

- **Regular Council Meeting of December 2, 2013**

Councilman Taylor motioned, seconded by Councilman Howard to adopt the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of December 2, 2013. Unanimously approved.

2. County Update from Island Supervisor, the Honorable Wanda Thornton

Supervisor Thornton reported on the Storm Water Management Bill. She advised that she requested this and mentioned the length of time it has taken. She added that it is a problem throughout the state not just the Eastern Shore. She feels it hasn't been well thought out. She stated that once legislature has reviewed the report she feels it will be delayed.

Supervisor Thornton brought a notice from the Maryland Coastal Bays. She explained that it's a Notice of Intent to Establish Total Maximum Daily Load of Nitrogen and Phosphorous. She stated that it includes the Chincoteague Bay. She is urging Council to comment. She advised that she will urge the County to comment as this should not be implemented in Virginia. Supervisor Thornton would like to know what the Maryland Coastal Bays means by including the Chincoteague Bay in this notice. She reviewed the information regarding contamination in the report.

There was further discussion.

Supervisor Thornton also advised of a Conditional Use Permit to build 90 apartments at the Senior Citizens Complex adjacent to the Accomack Manor. She discussed the potential problems with the sewage facility and mass drainfields along with responsibility if this system fails. She is concerned with the approval for this mass drainfield system and not approving someone else's. She advised that she is not against this project, however, she feels everyone should be treated equal.

They discussed the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) contract with the Wallops Research Park.

Councilman Taylor thanked Supervisor Thornton and the County for pushing through the bill to exempt Chincoteague from stormwater regulation.

There was further discussion.

3. Approval of the bids on the Downtown Fishing Pier

Town Manager Ritter advised that the Town appropriated \$232,111 for fiscal year 2014 budget, Main Street Fund for the Bridge Street Fishing Pier. He stated that the Town has obtained a grant from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission /Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund in an amount of \$129,083.00 with a matching fund up to \$103,028. He stated that the expenses to date include engineering costs of \$18,967. He reported that they have advertised for bids in a general circulated newspaper, on Contract 01-PIER-13 project and on bid opening day the Town received three bids.

Town Manager Ritter advised that staff recommends award of the contract to Fisher Marine Construction, Inc. based on being the lowest price and qualified bidder. He added that they are hoping to award the bid so that it can be completed before Memorial Day.

There was discussion.

Councilman Howard motioned, seconded by Councilman Taylor to award the contract to the lowest responsive bid from Fisher Marine Construction, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$112,000 for the Contract 01-PIER-13, Recreational Fishing Pier. Unanimously approved.

4. Public Safety Committee Report of December 10, 2013

Mayor Tarr stated that the report was included in the Agenda Packet. He added that Mr. Bryan Rush has been awarded a grant to go to the Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida January 16th – 31st. He advised that it is a well-deserved grant that was approved through VDEM.

There was brief discussion.

5. Judging Results for Christmas Lights

Mayor Tarr read the results:

Judges Choice *

Residential

Arlene & Dill Wilgus
4169 Ridge Road

Most Themed *

Residential

Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Johnson
3510 Ridge Road

Judges Choice *

Commercial

Quilts by the Sea
Kathleen P. Woodhurst
4264 Main Street

Most Traditional *

Residential

Susan Birch
4051 Ridge Road

Honorable Mention θ

Residential

Chuck & Tama Ward
5375 Main Street

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Betts
6317 Church St

Ms. Stephanie Bailey
6126 Fir Landing Road

Andrea and Kevin Stanley
5321 Meadow Drive

Honorable Mention θ

Commercial

Wine, Cheese, & More
Kathy Mikel
4103 Main Street

Each category winner will receive a \$100 savings bond and a donated \$100 Gift Certificate to Bill’s Seafood Restaurant. Each Honorable Mention will receive a donated \$50 Gift Certificate to Bill’s Seafood Restaurant.

Mayor Tarr also added that there were new judges this year that enjoyed doing it. He also thanked Bill’s Seafood Restaurant for their donations of gift certificates.

6. Motion to Approve the Trolley Operating Funds, Grant Application Resolution

Town Manager Ritter explained that the resolution is presented to Council each year. He reported that the amount this year is \$80,150 with the town’s match of \$24,250. He added that this is more of a housecleaning resolution that’s done each year.

There was discussion.

Councilman Howard motioned, seconded by Councilman Taylor to approve the resolution dated January 6, 2014 for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2015 (FY15) authorizing Robert G. Ritter to apply for a grant to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation for \$80,150.00 to defray operating cost for the “the Pony Express”. The Town of Chincoteague will be responsible for matching funds of \$24,250.00. Unanimously approved.



**Resolution Authorizing the Application for
State Aid to Public Transportation for
Fiscal Year 2015 beginning 07/01/2014**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor & Council of The Town of Chincoteague, Inc. that the Town Manager of The Town of Chincoteague, Inc. is authorized, for and on behalf of The Town of Chincoteague, Inc., hereafter referred to as the, **PUBLIC BODY**, to execute and file an application to the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, Commonwealth of Virginia, hereafter referred to as the, **DEPARTMENT**, for a grant of financial assistance in the of amount of \$80,150.00 to defray the costs borne by the **PUBLIC BODY** for public transportation purposes and to accept from the **DEPARTMENT** grants in such amounts as may be awarded, and to authorize The Town Manager to furnish to the **DEPARTMENT** such documents and other information as may be required for processing the grant request.

The Mayor and Town Council of The Town of Chincoteague, Inc. certifies that the funds shall be used in accordance with the requirements of Section 58.1-638.A.4 of the Code of Virginia, that the **PUBLIC BODY** will provide funds in the amount of \$24,250.00, which will be used to match the state funds in the ratio as required in such Act, that the records of receipts of expenditures of funds granted the **PUBLIC BODY** may be subject to audit by the **DEPARTMENT** and by the State Auditor of Public Accounts, and that funds granted to the **PUBLIC BODY** for defraying the expenses of the **PUBLIC BODY** shall be used only for such purposes as authorized in the Code of Virginia. The undersigned duly qualified Town Manager of the **PUBLIC BODY** certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution, adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Town Council of The Town of Chincoteague Inc., on the 6th day of January, 2014.

Robert G. Ritter, Jr., Town Manager
Town of Chincoteague, Inc.

7. Mayor & Council announcements of Comments

Councilman Taylor expressed his appreciation for all that the Police Department does for the community including the many volunteer hours.

Councilman Jester stated that the Town has had another good tourism year. He stated that the Town gets free advertising through the Chamber and in travel magazines. He also added that the website: chincoteague.com has a camera on the dock that shows sunsets. He feels that the Town could give Teddy Daisey, the webmaster of the site, some recognition for giving free advertising for the pictures and videos.

Councilman Howard added that the people of Chincoteague respond to the visitors with sincerity and hospitality. He stated that it makes a positive impression. He feels it's important to keep the community healthy and to promote the economy.

Adjourn

Councilman Taylor motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Leonard to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

John H. Tarr, Mayor

Robert G. Ritter, Jr., Town Manager