

**BETHEL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Hastings at 7:00 P.M. President Hasting led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Council members Anna Lee Robinson, Kevin Phillips, Mary McCoy and Mike Calloway was absent. Also present was Judy Schwartz at GMB Engineering and Town Attorney Julieanne Murray.

Judy Schwartz from GMB Engineering presented an update for bio retention project. The almost final walk through was held on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 and a final punch list of 9 items has been determined. Final inspection by the contractor was started Monday, February 29, 2016 but is not finished. One of the items for the punch list was saw-cutting the curb at the end of Moore Street. Landscaping still needs to be done. A follow up inspection of the landscaping will be done once it turns green. There is a need to install the educational signs.

There was discussion of the bio area by the Bethel Store and what to do where the fence was knocked out. Plan A is a post and cable fence and Plan B is a bumper with a fence. The Council preferred Plan A. Motion made by McCoy, seconded by Calloway to adopt Plan A for the bio area around the Bethel Store. Motion passed unanimously.

GMB is withholding \$16,500 until the punch list is complete.

McCoy said that there is an easement issue that we need legal advice on. Motion made by McCoy to go into Executive Session at 7:15 P.M. (see separate minutes). Motion seconded by Calloway. Motion passed to go into Executive Session to discuss an easement issue.

**Organizational Meeting:**

President: Jeff Hastings (4 votes to 1 vote Mike Calloway)  
President Pro Tempore: Kevin Phillips (4 votes to 1 vote Mike Calloway)  
Treasurer: Mike Calloway (3 votes to 2 votes) (under duress)  
Secretary: Mary McCoy (5 votes to 0 votes)  
Town Attorney: Julianne Murray (5 votes to 0 votes)

Mike Calloway declined the Treasurer's position but will do the job until a suitable candidate for the position can be found. The attorney suggested that we have to have a Treasurer in place and it cannot be a vacant office. There is an understanding that this position might have to compensate. The physical deposits must be done by the Treasurer.

Secretary's Report: Minutes for the February 2016 were not available and will be available at the next meeting.

The Town Calendar was presented. There were no additions.

Town Clerk Report: Report presented. Reviewed FOIA, fielded Tax calls and needs assistance with how to handle. Park benches and kiosks. Worked with State Archives on February 17, 2016. Presented ideas for signs and for park benches.

Town Wide Yard Sale. Motion made by McCoy to have the Town Yard Sale on April 9, 2016 with a rain date of April 16. Seconded by Robinson. Motion passed unanimously.

Nanticoke Creek Watchers have asked for permission to use the town dock for their monitoring purposes. Motion made by McCoy, seconded by Robinson to have the Nanticoke Creek Watchers use the Town Dock for water quality monitoring. Motion passed unanimously.

Website: Google Analytics. Our website is using Google Analytics to track our website traffic.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Reports were presented. The bills to be paid are attached.

Financial Review: McCoy and Calloway met with Salisbury University of Feb. 18, 2016. The students will be attending the April 5, 2016 meeting.

Mileage Ordinance: Ordinance read. Vote will be next month.

Building Permits: A permit was issued to Blue Hen Construction for lot #11 on School Road. \$289 for the building permit and impact fees were \$2,128. Landscaping will be done in the spring.

Community House update: McCoy will do a year to date account of the expenditures.

Charter Changes: Changing the dates for the election from February to May is being considered. The town attorney went over charter changes with the previous town attorney. Bethel does not fall under Home Rule. To qualify for Home Rule, you have to be a municipality of more than 1,000 residents. Title 42 dictates how changes to the charter are made. We have to put out proposed charter changes with a discussion about it but she is not sure of the timing of when we need to get to the General Assembly. Proposed changes should be at the April meeting with approval at May meeting.

Streetlights and Road Repair: Jeff Hastings has secured \$175,000 for repaving the town streets. Questions were raised about the work/staging area for the project. We need to get additional bids for the paving. Funding is from the Community Transportation Fund from Rep. Tim Dukes and Sen. Bryant Richardson.

Streetlight outages have been sent to Delmarva Power.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Mary McCoy, Secretary