



Town of Cheswold
Minutes of the Monthly Town Council Meeting
Monday – January 7, 2013
7:30 p.m.
Cheswold Fire Hall

The following persons were in attendance:

Mayor Donald Tinari
Secretary/Treasurer & Councilperson Theon Callender
Councilperson Mildred Johnson
Councilperson Bob Sine

Absent:

Councilperson Sonia Gassaway*

**-Subsequent to the meeting, Ms. Gassaway left her resignation on the desk of Mayor Tinari.*

Police Department:

Corporal Louis Simms

Planning Commission: 0

of Cheswold Residents Present = 8

of Visitors = 0

Notice:

Notice of this meeting has been made in accordance with the Delaware Open Meetings Act, by properly posting on December 27, 2012, copies of the agenda on the Official Bulletin Board outside the Cheswold Town Hall, in the local Post Office, at the Fox Pointe Management Office and on the Official Web Site for the Town of Cheswold, at www.cheswoldde.com; and was filed with the Clerk of the Town of Cheswold. In addition, copies of the agenda were available for pick-up in the Town Hall.

MEETING:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Donald Tinari at 7:39 pm and was immediately followed with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

ROLL CALL:

At the request of the Mayor, Secretary/Treasurer Callender called the roll of the Council members and attendance was confirmed as noted above. A quorum of members was presented to the Mayor and the meeting continued.

Agenda Review:

Mayor Tinari requested the Council review the accuracy of the agenda and for a motion to accept as presented or to make change and amendment requests.

**Monthly Town Council Meeting
Monday, January 7, 2013**

Agenda Review "con't":

Secretary/Treasurer Callender noted that a correction needed to be made to the date for the Town Council Workshop meeting, from January 7 to January 22, 2013. Vice-Mayor Sine made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected and with a second from Councilperson Johnson, the votes on accepting the agenda as presented were as follows:

Councilperson Callender - Yes
Councilperson Johnson – Yes
Councilperson Sine - Yes

The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Appointment of Councilperson:

As a result of the unanimous vote taken during the December 18, 2012 Town Council Workshop meeting to appointment Ms. Sherry Lambertson to take the vacant seat on the Council until the next scheduled election, Mayor Donald Tinari swore Ms. Lambertson in to her position.

Prior to taking her seat, she was then given the opportunity to express her feelings and she stated that she wished to support the Council and the community and that she is an 18 year employee of the State of Delaware, currently working for the State Fire Marshall. She currently lives on Main Street, is the mother of 3 children and her youngest daughter Brittany was in attendance at the meeting.

WELCOME and CONGRATULATIONS MS. LAMBERTSON

Review of Previous Month's Minutes:

At the request of the Mayor, the Council reviewed the following minutes of the previous month:
December 3, 2012 – Monthly Town Council Meeting
December 18, 2012 – Monthly Town Council Workshop Meeting

A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Vice-Mayor Sine. Councilperson Johnson made a second to the motion and the votes were as follows:

Councilperson Callender - Yes
Councilperson Lambertson – Yes
Councilperson Johnson – Yes
Vice Mayor Sine - Yes

The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Monday, January 7, 2013

TREASURER'S REPORT:

a. The Treasury Report for the **Month of DECEMBER, 2012** was as follows:

<u>TOWN of CHESWOLD:</u>	
CASH RECEIPTS:	\$ 25,520.12
CASH DISBURSEMENTS:	\$ 35,693.07
NEGATIVE MONTHLY CASH FLOW:	\$ 10,172.95

<u>ADMINISTRATION:</u>	
Cash Receipts:	\$ 21,919.98
Cash Disbursements:	\$ 33,100.22
Negative Monthly Cash Flow:	\$ 11,180.24

<u>POLICE DEPARTMENT:</u>	
Cash Receipts:	\$ 3,600.14
Cash Disbursements:	\$ 2,085.33
Positive Monthly Cash Flow:	\$ 1,514.81

<u>PUBLIC WORKS:</u>	
Cash Receipts:	\$ 0.00
Cash Disbursements:	\$ 507.52
Negative Monthly Cash Flow:	(\$ 507.52)

ACCOUNT BALANCES as of: DECEMBER 31, 2012

GENERAL FUND:	\$ 101,629.45
MUNICIPAL STREET AID	\$ 26,547.61
SALLIE FUND:	\$ 2,750.41
EIDE FUND:	\$ 3,694.92
CAPITAL SCHOOL DISTRICT:	\$ 15,276.45
FIRE DEPARTMENT:	\$ 3,311.06
FULTON ST. 09-P-PROG-36	\$ 1,720.85
APPLICANT'S (LAND USE):	\$ 1,522.96
IMPACT (CAPITAL) ACCOUNT:	\$ 3,711.68
POLICE DEPARTMENT:	\$ 22,203.65
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:	\$ 3,597.69
LITIGATION:	\$ 20,573.24

A motion to accept the Treasury Report as presented was made by Vice-Mayor Sine. Councilperson Johnson made a second to the motion and the votes were as follows:

Councilperson Callender - Yes
Councilperson Lambertson - Yes

Councilperson Johnson - Yes
Vice Mayor Sine - Yes

The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Monday, January 7, 2013

TREASURER'S REPORT "continued:

b. Requisitions – Nothing to Report

c Proposed Purchases – Nothing to Report

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Treasurer Callender provided the following update for tax collections as of December 31, 2012:

TAX REPORT: FISCAL YEAR 2012 - 2013

Total Amount Billed: \$ **131,186.40**

Payments as of:

07/30/2012:	\$39,777.89
08/27/2012:	\$65,726.74
09/30/2012:	\$ 5,909.65
10/31/2012:	\$ 1,438.08
11/30/2012:	\$ 1,949.54
12/31/2012:	\$ 1,149.49*
01/31/2013:	
02/29/2013:	
03/31/2013	
04/30/2013	
05//31/2013	
06/30/2013	

Total Payments Received as of **12/312012:** **\$115,951.39***

Payments Due: **\$ 15,235.01***

*Secretary/Treasurer Callender informed the Council and Mayor that the amounts shown have been adjusted to reflect reconciliation between the CapSoft Tax Program and the verified bank deposit slips. A deposit slip for September was originally missed in the previous reports.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Sine to accept the December Tax Report, as presented, and a second was rendered by Councilperson Johnson. The votes on the motion were as follows:

Councilperson Callender - Yes

Councilperson Johnson – Yes

Councilperson Lambertson – Yes

Vice Mayor Sine - Yes

The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Police Department Report:

- **DECEMBER MONTHLY REPORT** – Corporal Louis Simms, provided the monthly Police Department report as follows:

Monthly Town Council Meeting

Police Department Report "cont'd":

Hourly Activity Recap

Compensation Time	3
Holiday	10
Training	0
Assist Other Agencies	3
Meetings	0
Accident Investigation	0
Special Duty	20
Court	3
Paper Review	0
Community Service	0
Criminal Investigation	66
Administrative Duty	13
Evidence	0
Patrol	76
Grants	0
Miscellaneous	1

TOTAL HOURS on DUTY: 195

ENFORCEMENT:

Traffic Tickets	82
Traffic Warnings	0
Criminal Arrests	6

CALLS RECEIVED: 61

CRIMINAL ARREST BREAKDOWN:

Drugs	2
Assault	0
Theft	1
Burglary	0
Criminal Mischief	0
Rape	0
Fugitive Arrest	3
Other	0
No Contact Order	0

SERIOUS & FREQUENTLY REPORTED CRIMES:

Suspicious Persons	0
Fugitive Arrests	0
Burglary	4
Property Checks	7
Traffic Violations	8
Public Assists	5
Alarms	0
Criminal Mischief	0
Assist Other Agency	0
Other Crimes*	21
Domestics	6
Trepass	2
Thefts	5
Assaults	0
Accidents	2
Drugs	0
Overdose	0
Shots Fired	1

(* Other Crimes = public assistance; suspicious vehicles; suspicious persons, etc.)

Monday, January 7, 2013

Police Department Report "cont'd":

Resident Loretta Clark interjected and commended Corporal Simms for his splendid service to the Town. She noted that he did not spend his time at the Fire House sitting, as so many others officers have done in the past, but that he can constantly be seen stopping and pursuing vehicles. She ended her commendation and appreciation by suggesting that the Council and Mayor allow him a take home vehicle. She indicated that this would prevent anyone from knowing when he was on duty and thus provide more security to the community.

The Mayor responded that he appreciated her comments, but they should be held until the proper time on the agenda and that he would address her remarks at that time.

Cheswold Fire Department Report – Fireman Neese:

As Fireman Neese was not present – there was nothing to report.

Public Works Report – Mayor Donald Tinari:

a. Town Maintenance

(1) Voshell Property on Fulton St. - The Mayor provided a general statement on the condition of Town maintenance. He explained that progress has been made on the clean-up of School Lane and that it is not near as bad as it was. In addition, the Voshell property on Fulton Street is also being addressed. The tree has been cut and although Mr. Voshell has run into some problems clearing out dirt from a previous road project, he is working on it, so he'll be given some more time to complete the clean-up.

PENDING

b. Water System for Old Town – The Mayor defined the boundaries of the project as the lands bounded by Fox Pointe on the west side; Main Street on the north side; Commerce Street on the east side and the Town line on the south side. He also reported that the area is served wells and he has discovered that they are the source of e-coli conditions and they do not have to be inspected for condition reports. The need for a water system was also highlighted by the total loss of a historic home on the north side of Main Street and the successful response by the Fire Department required the deployment of 850' of hose to be connected to the private water system of the Fox Pointe development.

The Mayor has met with the State Fire Marshall and the Cheswold Fire Chief and is scheduling another meeting with them and representatives from the State, Tidewater, KCI Engineering, a grant writing firm and State Representative Trey Paradee. The Mayor will present a proposed survey for residents and homeowners for review and comment by the attendees of the meeting.

PENDING

Planning Commission Report – Chairperson Dennis Coker:

- Mr. Coker was required to attend another meeting, but reported earlier in the day that there was nothing significant to report to the Council at this meeting. The Mayor reminded attendees that the next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., in the 2nd floor Board Room of the Cheswold Fire Department.

Monthly Town Council Meeting

Monday, January 7, 2013

Old Business:

a. Cheswold Newsletter – Secretary/Treasurer Theon Callender

Mrs. Callender reported that the newsletter for the 1st quarter of 2013 had been written, copies made and that her husband distributed copies to the Parkers Run development and Town business locations. She also reported that she and her husband had distributed copies to Main Street, Leyland Village, West Street, New Street, School Lane, Fulton Street and Commerce Street residents. The locations that have not received a newsletter are Stonington, Fox Pointe and Strimel’s Court.

Councilperson Lambertson volunteered to deliver to the remaining locations.

COMPLETE

b. Banquet Dinner Status – Councilperson Sonia Gassaway

Councilperson Gassaway was absent from the meeting and thus not available to provide a report. However, Mayor Tinari provided information that the Committee has decided to move the dinner date to April 20, 2013, and it will be held in the Cheswold Fire Hall. A letter has been sent to Chief Jeff Brown requesting permission to use the Fire Hall free of charge for this charity event and the Chief has indicated that he is receptive to the request. The Committee currently consists of:

Sonia Gassaway – Chair
Mayor Don Tinari
Councilperson Mildred Johnson
Mrs. Lorraine Sine
Mrs. Marie Elinsky
Mr. John Elinsky

PENDING

c. Police Chief Interview Questions – Secretary/Treasurer Theon Callender

Mrs. Callender explained that she distributed copies of the suggested questions for review by the Council and Mayor. She requested them to let her know if they were all acceptable or if some needed to be changed, removed, amended or added, by close of business, Tuesday, January 15, 2013.

COMPLETE

New Business :

a. Town Council Workshop Agenda – Mayor & Council

Secretary/Treasurer Callender requested the Mayor and Council to have agenda items for the January 22, 2013 Workshop meeting, by close of business on Monday, January 14, 2013.

COMPLETE

Community/Comments & Concerns:

- Mayor Tinari acknowledged the remarks made earlier by resident Loretta Clark. He explained that he and the Council recently reviewed an article concerning the approach being taken by other Police Departments across the country to cease allow Police personnel from having take home cars. He informed everyone that our silver police vehicle has extensive mileage from being taken home.

Monthly Town Council Meeting

Monday, January 7, 2013

Community/Comments & Concerns “con’t”:

Mrs. Clark countered by saying that those officers lived an excessive distance from the Departments for which they worked and Corporal Simms only lives in Dover.

The Mayor responded that the Council has discussed this issue previously and does not consider it a totally closed item and it will be discussed again in the future whenever the Council deems the timing as necessary.

- Resident Justin Curley asked why Corporal Simms hasn’t been given the opportunity to be Chief of Police as a result of his apparent loyalty to the Town.

The Mayor explained that the Corporal does not have the experience, skills and background necessary for the position, at this time.

Resident Clark asked if the Corporal has been sent for any training and the Mayor responded yes, but experience and maturity for developing, training and mentoring other employees are also necessary and that maybe in time the Corporal will acquire the necessary skills.

Council Member Comments:

- Councilperson Sam Callender – “Thank you all for coming and I wish you all a Happy New Year”
- Councilperson Mildred Johnson – Nothing to Report
- Councilperson Sherry Lambertson – Nothing to Report
- Vice-Mayor Bob Sine – Nothing to Report

Mayor’s Comments:

The Mayor hoped that the economy improves and rebounds for the benefit of the Town and wished everyone a healthy and Happy New Year.

Executive Session:

At 8:15 p.m., Mrs. Callender made a motion to move Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue followed by immediate adjournment. Vice-Mayor Sine made a second to the motion and the votes were as follows:

Councilperson Callender - Yes

Councilperson Johnson – Yes

Councilperson Lambertson – Yes

Vice Mayor Sine - Yes

The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Return from Executive Session:

The Council returned from Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.

Adjournment:

At that time a motion was made by Councilperson Callender to adjourn the meeting and Vice Mayor Sine made a second to the motion. The votes on the motion were as follows:

The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

And the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.