

**NOTES OF THE MILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
November 27, 2012 @ 7:00PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Hocker called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Hocker, Deputy Mayor Subity, Council Members Gordon, Kent, and Bennett. Town Solicitor Seth Thompson, Town Manager Debbie Botchie and Town Clerk Matt Amerling.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Swearing in of Dana Ryer to the Board of Adjustment - Postponed.

B. Discuss the “Right of Entry Agreements” proposed by the State of Delaware Department of Transportation - Town Solicitor Seth Thompson explained to Council the meaning of the agreement. He stated this agreement would allow DelDOT to begin construction on the Town’s property while the Town and DelDOT still negotiated the appraisal and formal agreement. Council Member Kent asked Mr. Thompson if the Town should not agree to this agreement, what would be the Town’s recourse? Mr. Thompson replied condemnation.

Town Manager Debbie Botchie stated that she spoke with Ida Parrot, of DelDOT, to inquire as to the intent of the agreement. Ms. Parrot informed Ms. Botchie that since the Town has not signed the “formal agreement” with DelDOT, this Right of Entry agreement would allow DelDOT to proceed with construction while negotiations were still ongoing. Ms. Parrot also stated that this would avoid DelDOT being accused of trespassing on Town property. Ms. Botchie also reminded Council that an agreement signed by the former Mayor Gary Willey states the Town of Millville is in favor of the SR26 Project.

Council Member Bennett asked Mr. Thompson should DelDOT be working on the Town’s property and an error occurred, would the Town be liable for the repair? Mr. Thompson replied no. Ms. Bennett also would like to see language changed in the agreement from “The DEPARTMENT and the OWNER agree to negotiate and will attempt to reach an *amicable settlement*” to “... *amicable purchase price.*” Council agreed. Council also agreed that the timeline for expiration of this agreement should be 120 calendar days from the date all parties execute the document. Mayor Hocker asked if the December Town Meeting would be too soon for an answer from DelDOT regarding this agreement. Mr. Thompson replied that it would not be too soon.

C. Discuss and possible vote on Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) - Town Manager Botchie stated that she met with Diane Dee, of the Ocean View Historical Society, regarding Millville’s participation in the “Museum on Main Street” exhibition entitled “The Way We Work.” The Smithsonian sends their exhibits and display kiosks, and the individual Towns create their own displays. Ms. Botchie would be a part of a large committee, and recruit volunteers for assistance with gathering information for the exhibits. Ms. Botchie highlighted that the exhibit would be shown for 6 weeks and displayed at the Ocean View

Town Hall. Council Member Bennett stated that she was excited about this event but wanted to know if there would be any cost to the Town in this fiscal year. Ms. Botchie replied that there are grant monies available to the participating Towns, however, she has not had the opportunity to attend any meetings and when she does, she will get more information on what the potential costs will be to the Town. Ms. Botchie said she will report costs to the Council.

Deputy Mayor Subity asked if the Town of Ocean View is hosting the exhibit for all Towns. Ms. Botchie stated that Ocean View is hosting only for Fenwick Island, Ocean View, and Millville. Deputy Mayor Subity then asked who was considered the target audience. Ms. Botchie stated that although she has not read the entire brochure, she was guessing school children, senior citizens, and potential future Town residents. Council Member Bennett motioned to allow Ms. Botchie to join with the Towns of Ocean View and Fenwick Island in participating with the "Museum on Main Street," sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute, and was seconded by Deputy Mayor Subity. The motion was carried 5-0.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion and possible vote regarding the strategy Council will undertake regarding timelines and workshops for to educate businesses on the newly amended Sign Ordinance** - Town Manager Debbie Botchie explained that she and Council Member Kent attended a community summit in Dover. Speaker Ed McMahon spoke about signage, which was in an attached article he wrote. Ms. Botchie stated that she wants to see a three-year time limit for businesses to conform, more information from Mr. McMahon, and for business owners to get a visual of the signage planned. Mayor Hocker stated that the Town needs a timeline from DelDOT regarding their road work and which businesses' signs might be affected by their work.

Council Member Bennett stated that there were considerations to this topic such as cost and timing issues, waiving building permit fees, and people not happy. She stated that the Town Council needs to defeat an "us versus them" mentality amongst the public, and that might best be done by using third-party individuals (such as Mr. McMahon) to explain the signage process and its benefits to the public. Council Member Kent agreed with Ms. Bennett about the third-party involvement if they are neutral and has experience. Mr. Kent suggested that the Town inquire about someone from the University of Delaware who can use a computer program to show the public what its signage space looks like now and how it will look after the new signage is placed.

It was the consensus of Council to try and coordinate with DelDOT what businesses along Route 26 would be affected by the SR26 Project. Council also agreed for the Town Manager to contact the University of Delaware/Institute of Public Administration for assistance with utilizing their signage programs. Ms. Botchie stated the next DelDOT Working Group will be meeting on January 24 at 6 p.m. at our Town Hall.

5. PROPERTY OWNERS/AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Linda Kent, of Cypress Point Trail, stated that she liked the Smithsonian Traveling Museum idea and asked if the Town exhibits would be returned. Town Manager Botchie stated that she was not sure but would find out. Ms. Kent also stated a business owner asked her if any holiday decorations would be put up this year. Ms. Botchie replied no because the Town needs to wait for DelDOT to relocate the poles.

- 6. Announcement of next meeting - December 11, 2012, and December workshop to be cancelled --** Mayor Hocker announced the next meeting of the Council will be December 11, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., and that the December Workshop will be cancelled.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Council Member Kent motioned for adjournment at 8:30 p.m. Council Member Gordon seconded his motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Amerling, Town Clerk