



MINUTES OF THE MILLVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

March 26, 2024

Regular Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order:**

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

Present: Mayor Ronald Belinko, Deputy Mayor Sharon Brienza, Treasurer Joseph Parent, Secretary Debbie Sosnoski, Council Member Robert Wisgirda, Town Manager Eileen Scerra, Town Clerk Wendy Mardini and Town Solicitor Seth Thompson, Esq.

2. **Citizens' Privilege:** None.

3. **Old Business**

A. Discuss, consider and possible vote on possible acquisition of the State-owned stormwater pond located across from the Millville Town Hall – Facilities and Building Supervisor Eric Evans.

Mr. Evans explained that he received quotes for liability insurance, Envirotech, electric hookup and fountain for the pond. He anticipates approximately 1 ½ hours a week for maintenance around the pond. Mr. Evans advised that the first-year total cost would be approximately \$11,500 - \$12,000 and then approximately \$4,000 - \$4,500 per year. He commented that DelDOT did not take care of the pond and Town Hall received many calls complaining about the condition on the pond. If the Town owned it, it would be kept in much better condition and can eventually be the “Gateway of Millville.”

Mr. Wisgirda advised that he has a lot of issues with the acquisition. He said he spoke to engineers that the basin is basically a filter for hazardous materials coming from the roads. Mr. Evans advised that it is a stormwater pond and DNREC would not design a filter for hazardous materials.

Mr. Wisgirda commented that about four years ago the state spent about four to six months at that pond with steam shovels and bulldozers which he assumed had to cost millions. Mr. Evans gave a brief history of investigation regarding the stormwater pond and the involvement of DNREC and DelDOT. Mr. Wisgirda was concerned about the use of glyphosate by Envirotech in pond maintenance. Mr. Parent gave some information regarding glyphosate and its use, maintaining its safety when used correctly. Mr. Parent supports the takeover of the pond by the

Town, making it a great opening for driving into Millville. Mr. Parent was concerned about the FY 25 budget, wondering if the Town could build maintenance of the pond into the budget without raising taxes.

Ms. Sosnoski asked how much the cost would be to clean out the forebays and Mr. Evans advised that they get cleaned out when they become 40% full. He also said that prior to taking it over, he would try to get the State to clean them out so they would be good for approximately 10 to 20 years.

Mayor Belinko commented that he would like to see this property as the Gateway to Millville, giving the Town its own identity. In addition, Mr. Evans added that it would give the Town more open space, possibly replacing the windmill that was originally there at one time.

Ms. Brienza made a motion authorizing Mr. Evans to see if the state is willing to discuss the Town of Millville acquiring the State-owned stormwater pond located across from the Millville Town Hall. Ms. Sosnoski seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-1.

Roll Call:

Debbie Sosnoski	Yes
Joe Parent	Yes
Ron Belinko	Yes
Sharon Brienza	Yes
Robert Wisgirda	No

B. Discuss, consider and possible vote on possible acquisition of Dukes Drive in Millville, owned by the State.

Synopsis: At their meeting held on January 23, 2024, the Town Council voted 4-1 to have Eric Evans complete his due diligence on the costs associated with both A & B.

Mr. Evans summarized costs in taking over and maintaining Dukes Drive, explaining what DelDOT could possibly do if they kept possession of Dukes Drive. He mentioned that whatever is done on Dukes Drive the Town will either enhance the road for DelDOT with the Town's money or the Town can enhance the road with the Town's money. If we enhance the road for DelDOT they dictate how they want it to look, or we can enhance the road the way we want to make it look. He concluded by saying that the advantages of taking control of Dukes Drive is that the Town can choose when to improve it, how it is to be improved, the direction the road is going to take, and you get to keep the lands that the Town has already purchased without DelDOT getting a permanent easement.

Discussions were held concerning the Parkside development and any issues that may affect them which was determined there would be none. Ms. Brienza supported the taking over of Dukes Drive. She mentioned that we would not need DelDOT's approval if the Town wants to put in any improvements to the park, for instance, a splash pad, bocci ball courts, etc. and thanked Mr. Evans for his input and reaching out to DelDOT.

Ms. Brienza made a motion to have Mr. Evans start to investigate the acquisition of Dukes Drive. Mr. Wisgirda seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Roll Call:

Debbie Sosnoski	Yes
Joe Parent	Yes
Ron Belinko	Yes
Sharon Brienza	Yes
Robert Wisgirda	Yes

4. **New Business**

A. Discuss, consider and possible vote on the FY25 Organizational Chart. – Mayor Ron Belinko

Ms. Brienza had one minor change; she wanted the word “empty” changed to “vacant” under the heading “Board of Elections.”

Mr. Wisgirda voiced concern wherein he thought it would be important for a member of the Board to participate in the interview process of employees, so they have a better idea of who the Town is hiring. Mr. Thompson informed the Council that this concern would not be reflected on the Organizational Chart and that the interview process is discussed in the employee handbook. The Chart only shows the various positions within the Town and how they relate to each other.

Ms. Brienza made a motion to approve the FY25 Organizational Chart. Ms. Sosnoski seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Discuss, consider and possible vote on a request from Treasurer Joseph Parent, to have the staff work with Andrew Lyons, Jr, Town Engineer to review the “Tree Planting Guidelines” from the City of Lewes – Treasurer Joseph Parent ***Synopsis: The staff needs to review to see how these guidelines could impact the Town’s current code and approved subdivisions.***

Mr. Parent discussed adding to the Town Code the value of trees in communities, however, not street trees which eventually cause damage to sidewalks and curbs. He included where and what type of trees to plant in the developments. He would like to

see the Town incorporate realistic guidelines for new and existing communities, giving advice along the way, including the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Wisgirda and Mayor Belinko both agreed and suggested that Mr. Parent meet with Mr. Lyons of GMB to make a recommendation for an ordinance, having Mr. Evans look at it, then sitting with Council and Planning and Zoning for opinions.

Mr. Wisgirda made a motion to approve of Joseph Parent, members of the Town Council and members of the Planning and Zoning Commission, working with Andrew Lyons, Jr, Town Engineer to review and develop new tree planting guidelines. Ms. Sosnoski seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Roll Call:

Debbie Sosnoski	Yes
Joe Parent	Yes
Ron Belinko	Yes
Sharon Brienza	Yes
Robert Wisgirda	Yes

5. **Announcement of next meeting** – April 9, 2023

7. **Adjournment**

Ms. Brienza made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Ms. Sosnoski seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Mardini
Town Clerk