

<b>TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 6, 2017</b>
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**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Mayor Voveris called the January 6, 2017, Town Council Workshop Meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

PRESENT: Councilmembers Don Boteler, Sue Callaway, Carol Stevenson, Frank Weisgerber, and Mayor Pat Voveris; Chief Troy Crowson; and Administrative Assistant Pam Smith

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Councilmembers Wayne Schrader and Tim Shaw

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 9, 2016, TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilmember Callaway, seconded by Councilmember Boteler, to accept the December 9, 2016, Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes as amended as follows (where applicable, additions are **highlighted** and deletions **marked through**):

Page 1, last sentence of the first paragraph under the table: Mayor Voveris said the goal is to get the facility fundamentally compliant with the **regulations current standards applicable to police facilities.**

Page 3, first paragraph: ~~In view of the two to one vote for light~~, Ms. Marini encouraged some consideration of an enlightened modification of the proposed plan to not install as bright of lights or in some way shield the lights or consider some other modification such as bright reflectors in the streets. Ms. Marini said extra light has an impact on people's sleep and driving. **Councilmember Callaway said the Town was looking at all of those factors.**

**Vote:** The motion was unanimously carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Jack Whitney (105 Boone Rd.) – Stated that he is fundamentally in favor of doing something with the roads. Mr. Whitney stated that he did not understand exactly what Council was discussing regarding the Kercher Engineering, Inc.'s proposal to prepare the Scope of Work for the FY 2017 Street Paving Project. Mr. Whitney's second point was that the Town has not done the Phase 2 Study "Adaptation Plan" and the number of streets in town that are proposed to be overlaid by Kercher Engineering are going to have to be raised in the future. Mr. Whitney said the Phase 2 Study will give the Council guidelines as to whether or not streets should be raised now and not just paved. Mr. Whitney stated that without the Phase 2 Study there could be financial consequences.

Mayor Voveris said the work Council is discussing today is continued maintenance of South Bethany's streets. Mayor Voveris said the sea level rise issue is going to become a State initiative and DNREC has directed that the coastal towns approach the issue as a collective group and not as individual towns. Mayor Voveris said individual towns can't bear the brunt of the expenses of raising a street which can easily cost \$100,000. It would require a major tax increase to raise streets in South Bethany. Mayor Voveris added that if the surrounding towns don't do anything for sea level rise it does not matter if South Bethany raises its streets. Mayor Voveris believes the Town has been given good direction from DNREC and she thinks this initiative is going to be undertaken collectively with advice from the government. Mayor Voveris said what the Town is doing now is trying to maintain and preserve South Bethany's streets at a modest amount of money.

Mayor Voveris said she has spoken to all of the Mayors who have used Kercher Engineering for micro-surfacing and they have all been very happy with the work, the budget, and that the work has prolonged the life of their streets.

Councilmember Sue Callaway (240 Bayshore Dr.):

- Attended the Sussex County Association of Towns breakfast meeting this morning where there was discussion about the State's 350 million dollar deficit and where that revenue is going to come from – possibly property tax, transfer tax, accommodation tax, and rental tax (which would impact the Town).
- Canal Drive Street Light Initiative – Ten foot light poles will be used which will have a little less glare and a little more of a street lamp kind of look. Because the ten foot light pole is shorter than a standard light pole, each light will cost an extra \$100 and there are nine lights. There is money in the Community Enhancement Committee budget to cover the extra expense because the committee had budgeted \$5,000 for the new welcome signs and only spent about \$3,400 on the signs.

Bonnie Rae (131 Anchorage Dr.) - Mayor Voveris read the following email which was submitted to Council on January 4, 2017:

*As you meet on Friday, January 6th, please share the following information under Public Comment. If that is not possible, please let me know, and I will attend and ask to speak at that time.*

*We continue to have a “Feeding Feral Cats” problem on Anchorage Drive.*

*I have a number of dates, marked on my calendar, documenting cat food being deposited, almost daily, at 121 Anchorage, when the owners are not present. The owners are not in favor of this and have asked the Town and the Police that this be stopped.*

1. *Has the Council considered that this may be “a Littering” problem? One property owner dumping unwanted material on another’s property?*
2. *Can the Ordinance that does not allow the feeding of ducks, as wild animals, not be applied to wild cats?*
3. *If feeding Feral Cats is allowed, why not allow feeding other wild animal, as stray dogs?*
4. *Would “Not Feeding Strays” cover this and future problems?*
5. *This problem will not go away without action from the Council.*

*Thank you very much for your considerations.*

*Bonnie Rae, 131 Anchorage Drive*

Chief Crowson said the Police Department has consulted with animal control and feral cats are protected in the State of Delaware. Chief Crowson said there is nothing to prohibit the person from depositing cat food on public right of ways or public parks. A discussion ensued and Councilmembers expressed their concern regarding the issue and suggestions were given. It was noted that Councilmember Schrader is working on the issue, but it is a complicated issue.

Mayor Voveris will follow up with Councilmember Schrader who will be reporting on the issue at the February Town Council Meeting.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPROVE KERCHER ENGINEERING, INC.'S PROPOSAL TO PREPARE THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE FY 2017 STREET PAVING PROJECT EITHER ON TIME AND MATERIALS OR AT A FIXED COST OF \$3,300**

Council had a copy of the two proposals, (1) Time and Materials and (2) Fixed Cost, submitted by Kercher Engineering. Mayor Voveris reviewed the proposals.

Council discussed the proposals. It was noted that if Task A (Preparation of a Scope of Work) is done on fixed cost, Task B (Preparation of Contract Documents) and Task C (Bidding Administration) can still be done on the Time and Materials Option if Council so chooses.

Mayor Voveris will ask Kercher Engineering if Item A (Preparation of a Scope of Work) has to be repeated every year over the 5 year project or is it a one-time fee (inclusive). (Administrative Assistant's Note: Mayor Voveris determined this will not be a one-time fee. Work by Kercher Engineering will have a cost associated with every step of their proposed plan for pavement work.)

**Motion and Vote:** A motion was made by Councilmember Boteler, seconded by Councilmember Weisgerber, to approve the expense of \$3,300 for Kercher Engineering, Inc. to prepare the Scope of Work for the FY 2017 Street Paving Project. The motion was unanimously carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilmember Callaway, seconded by Councilmember Stevenson, to adjourn the January 6, 2017, Town Council Workshop Meeting at 3:55 p.m. The motion was unanimously carried.