



TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
St. Charles Parish Hall
April 24, 2014
6:00 PM

At approximately 6:15 p.m. Mayor Dora Sullivan, having established a quorum, called to order the Regular Meeting of the Town Council. In addition to Mayor Sullivan, present were Vice Mayor Bannon, Councilmen Bennett, Sullivan and Wendell, and Councilwoman Natali. Councilman Godwin was not in attendance. Also in attendance were Town Manager Heather Arcos, Assistant Town Manager Bob Panek, Treasurer Debbie Pocock, Town Planner Rob Testerman, Public Works/Public Utilities Director Dave Fauber, Community Events/Recreation Coordinator Jen Lewis, Chief Jim Pruitt, and Town Clerk Libby Hume. The majority of the Department Heads were in attendance as well as approximately 40 members of the public.

Vice Mayor Bannon gave the invocation which was followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS / PRESENTATIONS

Jay Ford, Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper

Mr. Ford thanked everyone for having him and explained that recently, there was a transition in Shorekeeper and many had met his predecessor Dave Burden. Mr. Ford wanted to explain how the Shorekeeper was expanding in a new direction in terms of Legislative presence in Richmond, Washington D.C. and locally and also in educational programs. The mission statement of the Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper was to preserve, protect and enhance the waters of Virginia's Eastern Shore which could be interpreted in many different ways. The Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper provided educational programs through partnerships with University of Virginia (UVA) and Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), worked with schools and was involved in legislation. Mr. Ford wanted to take advantage of more national and regional assets not only for the Shorekeeper organization, but for towns and counties that needed assistance. The Shorekeeper organization had many resources that were available for Towns to utilize.

Councilman Wendell asked Mr. Ford to give his opinion of why the Town of Cape Charles and Town Council should be concerned about whether or not Northampton County retained the Chesapeake Bay Act on the seaside. Mr. Ford stated that it was a major concern and felt that Northampton County needed a new zoning code. Wholesale removal of water protections on the seaside was concerning to the Shorekeeper organization for a number of reasons including environmental and economic development impacts. The Shellfish Growers Association and clam producers were in clear opposition to the removal because this was a \$55M per year industry with about 650 jobs, primarily in Northampton County.

Mr. Ford stated that there was a Town Edge issue. Everyone was trying to figure out how to bring people to the Shore, how to make a picturesque scene people wanted to visit year after year and how to build a stable tourism section that was economically reliable from year to year. The ability to negotiate was not something that should not be relinquished.

Mayor Sullivan welcomed Mr. Ford and thanked him for being there.

Donna Kohler, Miriam Elton, Sandy McFall – LOVEworks Installation Presentation

Ms. Kohler addressed Council regarding their support of obtaining a permanent location for the LOVEworks installation. (Please see attached.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Sandy Mayer & Sharyl Cline – Eastern Shore Spay Organization

Ms. Mayer began by stating that Eastern Shore Spay Organization (ESSO) replaced the Spay the Shore Organization. Ms. Mayer was the Secretary/Treasurer, Ms. Sharyl Cline was the Vice President and Operations Manager and Mr. Pete Baumann was President and the organization was in partnership with Dr. Leslie Nelson of Lighthouse Mobile Veterinary. ESSO was incorporated November 2013 and had applied for a 501(c)(3).

The mission of ESSO was to prevent cruelty to animals and to help reduce the overpopulation of animals on the Eastern Shore by offering and subsidizing inexpensive spay and neuter services locally. Currently, ESSO was able to spay/neuter 20-30 animals with every visit, but there was a long waiting list every month. PETA did not have the resources to supply the needs of the Shore.

Ms. Mayer stated that ESSO had a once in a lifetime opportunity to purchase a spay/neuter van that had been in use by the Virginia Beach SPCA for several years. The organization hoped to pay for the vehicle through grants and donations once they received their 501(c)(3) designation. ESSO had been working with the owner of the property where Eastern Shore Custom Carts was located as a possible permanent location to park the van and they could make arrangements to eventually travel to other localities if financially feasible.

Mayor Sullivan asked how many animals had been spayed/neutered since ESSO had started. Ms. Cline stated that they had only been able to have the SNIP van on the Shore twice, so they had spayed/neutered a total of 60 dogs and cats and Ms. Mayer had spayed/neutered 16 on her own in 2 years. ESSO could not supply the need and hoped to offer services 4 times a month if they could obtain the vehicle which would accommodate 25 animals per day for a total of 100 animals per month.

Patricia Buckley, 4 Perny Court

Ms. Buckley addressed Council regarding its finances. (Please see attached.)

There were no other public comments to be heard nor any additional written comments submitted prior to the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA – APPROVAL OF AGENDA FORMAT:

Mayor Sullivan made the following changes: i) moving New Business Item 8A – Appointment of Treasurer before the Department Reports; ii) moving New Business Item 8D – National Safe Boating Week Proclamation to the beginning of New Business; and iii) adding New Business Item 8F – Possible May Regular Meeting Date Change.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Bannon, seconded by Councilman Bennett, to approve the agenda format as amended. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

CONSENT AGENDA – APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Town Council reviewed the minutes of the March 20, 2014 Regular Meeting, the March 20, 2014 Executive Session, the March 27, 2014 Budget Work Session, and the March 27, 2014 Special Meeting.

Motion made by Councilwoman Natali, seconded by Vice Mayor Bannon, to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2014 Regular Meeting, the March 20, 2014 Executive Session, the March 27, 2014 Budget Work Session, and the March 27, 2014 Special Meeting as presented. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. *Appointment of Town Treasurer:*

Mayor Sullivan introduced Ms. Deborah Pocock who started as the Town Treasurer on April 7, 2014 but had not yet been officially appointed to the position.

Motion made by Councilman Bennett, seconded by Councilwoman Natali, to appoint Ms. Deborah Pocock as the Town Treasurer. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

C. *Treasurer's Report:*

Treasurer Deborah Pocock reviewed the Treasurer's report dated March 31, 2014 which showed \$584,139 in the Shore Bank checking account, \$96,585 in the Shore Bank checking account for reserved facility fees, \$68,521 in the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) account for the Library and \$440,685 in the Local Government Investment & Restricted Funds with the Total Cash on Hand at \$1,189,970. The decrease in the Shore Bank checking account reflected a debt service payment in the amount of \$128,790. The total cash held in reserve was \$356,143. Deborah Pocock went on to review the Tax Collection Comparison for Fiscal Years (FY) 2013 and 2014, the Revenues vs. Expenditures, the Capital Improvement Projects, the 2013 real estate tax collections, and the 2013 personal property tax, machinery and tools tax and 2014 license tax collections.

Councilman Wendell requested that the total debt amount be included in future reports to Council.

Motion made by Councilman Wendell, seconded by Councilman Bennett, to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

B. *Planning Commission and Boards:*

Town Planner Rob Testerman reported the following: i) He attended the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee meeting on April 16th at the VDOT Residency Office. VDOT's long range plan for roads was reviewed; and ii) The Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission was working on the beginning phase of the feasibility study for the bike trail. Phase 3 would involve the trail into Cape Charles.

C. *Other Departmental Reports:*

Code Official Jeb Brady informed Council that i) over \$26K in new permit fees had been received so far in April; ii) He had performed over 50 new construction inspections to date in April; and The Cape Charles Coffee House now had a fully-compliant kitchen.

Harbor Master Smitty Dize reported the following: i) The 7th Annual Blessing of the Fleet was scheduled for tomorrow evening beginning at 5:30 PM. Representative Scott Rigell would be the Master of Ceremonies and Senator Lynwood Lewis and Delegate Robert Bloxom would also be in attendance. Two Naval Academy vessels would be here and open to the public on Friday and Saturday. The Schooner Virginia would also be in Town; and ii) The first significant amount of crabs were brought into the Harbor today. Crabbing season was off to a rough start due to the cold temperatures.

Public Works/Public Utilities Director Dave Fauber reported the following: i) The Fishing Pier repairs were underway. The old section had been removed and the new footings were being poured; ii) The new sidewalk along Randolph Avenue was almost finished. The ADA access on the west corner still needed to be completed; iii) The renovations to the former library building

were moving along. The plumbing had been roughed in and the electrician should be there tomorrow; and iv) The grading around the Central Park restrooms had been completed.

Mayor Sullivan asked whether Council could have a site tour of the former library building before the May meeting. Dave Fauber would arrange for a tour of the facility.

Councilman Wendell expressed his concern for the safety of residents in wheelchairs when travelling to Rayfields suggesting that a pedestrian crossing was needed at the intersection of Randolph Avenue and Fig Street. Councilman Wendell added that the Town should submit another request to VDOT asking that the stop sign be reinstalled at the intersection. Councilman Wendell also commented on the grading of the Central Park restroom stating that without a railing, wheelchairs would fall off the sidewalk and asked whether the walkway was in compliance with ADA requirements. Dave Fauber stated that the facility was in compliance and Jeb Brady added that the walk surface was similar to the walkway at the Gazebo and guard rails were not required. Councilman Wendell asked that the issue be revisited.

OLD BUSINESS

A. *PSA/Regional Wastewater Update*

Assistant Town Manager Bob Panek informed Council that Hurt & Proffitt had completed the survey phase and a significant portion of the preliminary engineering and had confirmed that the previous project estimate of about \$1.8M was still reasonable. The Northampton County Board of Supervisors (BOS) reaffirmed their support of the PSA and the Southern Node commercial project. The BOS asked the PSA to evaluate other options such as expansion of the Bayview treatment plant. The BOS also approved the creation of a subcommittee of two members each from the BOS, the PSA and Cape Charles Town Council to negotiate the provision of treatment services by Cape Charles. The BOS appointed Supervisors Granville Hogg and Rick Hubbard as their representatives. This issue would be on the May Council Regular Meeting agenda to appoint the Town's representatives.

Councilman Wendell commented that in the Nassawadox area, there were 200+ jobs, cancer center and others currently dependent on the hospital's system. In the Southern Node, there were only about 10 respondents to the survey and 6-7 favorable responses with no promise of added jobs or industry. Councilman Wendell questioned why the County and PSA were not concentrating on the Northern Node where there was a bigger need and more potential for loss vs. the Cape Charles area. Bob Panek responded that the PSA had spoken with representatives from Riverside and were told that the wastewater system in Nassawadox would not be closed.

Councilman Wendell continued with questions regarding the hospital's plans but Bob Panek stated that he could not comment on the hospital's decisions.

B. *Town Code Modification – Transient Occupancy Tax*

Heather Arcos stated that a public hearing regarding the proposed modifications to the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) was held earlier this evening. In addition to updates from the Code of Virginia and administrative changes, the following modifications were proposed: i) Increase of the TOT rate from 3% to 3.7%; ii) The language designating 1% of the TOT collected was replaced with language stating that the revenue collected from the TOT would be allocated for tourism-related initiatives; and iii) The effective date of the changes would be July 1, 2014.

Motion made Councilman Bennett, seconded by Vice Mayor Bannon, to adopt Ordinance 20140424 Revising Chapter 66-Taxation, Article IV-Transient Occupancy Tax, Sections 66-55 through 66-76.

There was some discussion regarding the effective date of the changes after hearing comments from owners of rental properties and a vacation rental property management company.

Councilman Bennett amended his motion, which was seconded by Councilman Wendell, for Ordinance 20140424 to become effective January 1, 2015. The motion was approved by majority vote. Roll call vote: Bannon, no; Bennett, yes; Natali, yes; Sullivan, yes; Wendell, no.

Mayor Sullivan asked Council if they would be willing to move New Business Item 8D – National Safe Boating Week Proclamation up in the agenda since representatives from Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 12-02 and Chief Stone from Station Cape Charles were in attendance. The Council agreed.

NEW BUSINESS:

D. *National Safe Boating Week Proclamation*

FSO-PA/PV Rick Tomlin of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 12-02 addressed Council citing statistics regarding the number of boating-related accidents and fatalities each year and stressing the importance of wearing life jackets while on the water.

Mayor Sullivan urged all boaters to “Boat Smart. Boat Safe. Wear it.” and to practice safe boating habits.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Bannon, seconded by Councilman Bennett, and unanimously approved to approve Proclamation 20140424A Proclaiming May 17 through May 23, 2014 as National Safe Boating Week. Roll call vote: Bannon, yes; Bennett, yes; Natali, yes; Sullivan, yes; Wendell, yes.

OLD BUSINESS

C. *Name for Former Library Building*

Heather Arcos stated that Council reviewed this issue briefly at the March 20th meeting and tabled further discussion for the April 24th meeting. The complete list of suggested names was emailed to Council for their review. The use of the building would be for Council meetings and work sessions, all board and commission meetings, recreational programs, community events, civic engagement activities and many outreach programs.

Council discussed the suggested names.

Motion made by Councilman Wendell, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, to name the building the Cape Charles Meeting Hall. The motion was defeated with Vice Mayor Bannon, Councilman Bennett and Councilwoman Natali voting against the motion.

Motion made by Councilman Bennett, seconded by Councilwoman Natali, to name the building the Cape Charles Civic Center. The motion was approved by majority vote, with Councilmen Sullivan and Wendell opposed.

NEW BUSINESS:

B. *Grounds Maintenance Service Contract Extension*

Dave Fauber stated that the original contract with Eastern Shore Landscape Management, Inc. (ESLM) was signed on March 2011 and allowed for 3 one-year extensions. The provided services would be the same as last year. Several small changes were made to the pricing and the overall contract amount was reduced. The total amount requested in the budget was \$50K and included several non-routine items that needed to be done throughout the year.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Bannon, seconded by Councilwoman Natali, to approve the one-year extension of the Grounds Maintenance Services contract with Eastern Shore Landscape Management, Inc. as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. *National Police Week Proclamation*

Officer Chelsea Pfeiffer presented information regarding National Police Week which was observed each year during the week of May 15th. The week of May 11 – 17, 2014 was this year's observance of National Police Week. (Please see attached.)

Motion made by Councilwoman Natali, seconded by Vice Mayor Bannon, to approve Proclamation 20140424 In Honor of Peace Officers' Memorial Day and National Police Week. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Roll call vote: Bannon, yes; Bennett, yes; Natali, yes; Sullivan, yes; Wendell, yes.

E. *Historic Town Entrance Overlay Update*

Rob Testerman stated that in late 2013, the Cape Charles Planning Commission met with the Northampton County Planning Commission and discussed a draft town entrance overlay corridor which was initially presented to the County in 2010. After that meeting, the Cape Charles Planning Commission and staff began revising the draft language. Prior to resubmission to the County, staff forwarded the document to Town Council for comments and the draft was submitted to the County in late January 2014. Staff had been in contact with County staff, but to date, no feedback had been received. The Planning Commission's intent was to have the draft language included in the County's Zoning Ordinance but the County was working to finish their current draft before reviewing the Town's submission. Rob Testerman went on to state that he reviewed the resolution adopted by the Town of Exmore, which seemed combative, and recommended that Cape Charles try working with the County regarding the Planning Commission's recommendations. Rob Testerman added that he had spoken to Mr. Charles McSwain who informed him that the County was interested in reviewing the Town's recommendations and providing feedback. Heather Arcos stated that she would be meeting with County Administrator Katie Nunez and this issue would be included in their discussion.

There was much discussion regarding the County's proposed zoning ordinance and Councilman Wendell suggested a work session to review the issues in more detail.

Motion made by Councilman Wendell, seconded by Vice Mayor Bannon, to schedule a work session to further discuss the County's proposed changes to its zoning ordinance. The motion was unanimously approved.

F. *May Town Council Meeting Date Change*

Mayor Sullivan stated that the Cape Charles Yacht Center had scheduled their launch ceremony for May 15, which was the same date as the May Town Council meeting. The attendance at the event was by invitation only and the Council members were invited. Governor McAuliffe and other state and local dignitaries would be there. Mayor Sullivan asked Council their preference regarding the May Council meeting.

Councilman Wendell stated that there was a lot of ceremony involved and South Port had made a large investment in the Town which would support growth and economic development with 90+ new jobs. Councilman Wendell continued to state that he hoped the May Council meeting would be rescheduled so the Council members could attend along with the Northampton County Board of Supervisors and other state officials.

Councilman Bennett agreed and added that this was something Council needed to do. South Port Investors had made a significant investment in the Town and Council needed to show support for their initiative.

Councilman Sullivan stated that he did not disagree with the importance of the event but did not think it was proper to reschedule the Council meeting for a party.

Vice Mayor Bannon stated that the South Port project was one of the biggest things to happen in Cape Charles in a long time and added that although he agreed with Councilman Sullivan, he would side with the majority regarding the meeting.

Councilwoman Natali suggested that the Council meeting's time could be moved back to 7:00 PM.

Motion made by Councilman Bennett, seconded by Councilman Wendell, to move the May Town Council Regular Meeting back one week to May 22, 2014. The motion was approved by majority vote with Councilman Sullivan opposed.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Sullivan commented that she had been reading the Cape Charles Wave and Councilman Wendell's editorial regarding parking as well as the comments. Mayor Sullivan added that she was bothered the most by the fact that the citizens of the Town did not care enough to come and ask whether the information printed in the Wave was the truth. Mayor Sullivan relayed an example of a disagreement she had with a citizen several years ago and they met to discuss the issues and worked things out. Mayor Sullivan continued to state that she spoke with Mr. Patrick Hand and he told her that he did not have a plan six months ago so therefore could not have spoken to Council about it. Mr. Hand also stated that he never met with her (the Mayor) and three Council members to discuss the issue. Mayor Sullivan stated that she had the minutes from the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) meeting and it was not mentioned in the minutes so she called Mr. Hand and asked him about this allegation. Mayor Sullivan added that she was tired of people's characters being attacked in the Wave. If she had not read the Wave, she would not have known of the attacks. Mayor Sullivan concluded by stating that she would much rather be confronted in person when things could be discussed face to face.

Councilman Wendell stated that Mayor Sullivan would have heard Mr. Hand's comments if she would have attended the BZA meeting and he was astounded to hear Mr. Hand's comments. Councilman Wendell suggested that Mayor Sullivan listen to the recordings of the meetings if she was not going to attend. His concern was the loss of the parking lots, the lack of planning, and Mr. Hand's comments that he had been working with the Mayor and three Council people and other members of the community for six or seven months. Councilman Wendell continued to state that those three Council people did a disservice by not bringing the information forward and asked who the three Council people were. Mayor Sullivan reiterated that she called Mr. Hand who told her that there weren't any meetings. Vice Mayor Bannon stated that he had not spoken to Mr. Hand separately at any time but had heard on the streets that he was going to sell Hotel Blue and buy the Belo property. Vice Mayor Bannon added that the first meeting with Mr. Hand was a closed session from which he had to leave early. Vice Mayor Bannon continued to state that the only time he had spoken to Mr. Hand was after the meeting about two weeks ago and he was not one of the three. Councilman Wendell stated that with the number of tourism-related initiatives, the Town was in a rough spot with the loss of the parking spaces. There was much discussion back and forth regarding the alleged meetings with the Mayor and three Council people, the loss of parking, discussions regarding the negotiations in closed session, the cost burden to the taxpayers if the Town purchased the parking spaces and parking options.

Councilman Wendell continued by stating that he thought the LOVEworks Dance/Walk Fundraiser was a great thing and hoped the event raised the needed amount of money. In the event that it didn't, Councilman Wendell stated that he hoped there was room in the Town's budget to provide some available funds to help the group accomplish their goals to bring the sign to Town.

Councilwoman Natali, Vice Mayor Bannon, and Councilmen Sullivan and Bennett stated that they did not have any further comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- April 25, 2014 – Eastern Shore Heritage Trail, Cape Charles Museum and Others in the Eastern Shore Museum Network
- April 25, 2014 – Blessing of the Fleet, 5:30 PM, Town Harbor
- April 26, 2014 – Cape Charles Museum’s Low-Country Shrimp Boil
- April 27, 2014 – 4th Annual Blessing of the Worms, New Roots Youth Garden
- April 29, 2014 – Candidates’ Forum sponsored by Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore, 7:00 PM, Palace Theatre
- May 1, 2014 – Town Council Budget Work Session, 6:00 PM, Town Hall
- May 4, 2014 – Candidates’ Forum sponsored by Cape Charles Rotary, 3:00 PM, Palace Theatre
- May 6, 2014 – Election Day
- May 22, 2014 – Town Council Regular Meeting, 6:00 PM, St. Charles Parish Hall

Motion made by Vice Mayor Bannon, seconded by Councilman Bennett, to adjourn the Town Council Regular Meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Mayor Sullivan

Town Clerk

Presentations and Public Comments Provided in Writing **April 24, 2014**

Donna Olney Kohler, Miriam Elton, Sandy McFall – LOVEworks Installation Presentation
Cape Charles LOVE

Background:

The Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) manages an initiative called LOVEworks which are giant “LOVE” artworks installations throughout the Commonwealth. The goal is to “prove that love is at the heart of every Virginia vacation” and people are encouraged to take pictures and share out through social media.

There are currently 34 installations throughout Virginia, with only one on the Eastern Shore at Kiptopeke State Park, sponsored by VTC. Groups, businesses and communities can design and build their own LOVEworks following VTC guidelines. Installations should be family friendly, reflect the community or area where displayed, be accessible (open to the public without charge), and approved by VTC.

VTC provides promotional support for LOVE through their website, blog posts, and social media. Examples of LOVE installations are available at <http://www.virginia.org/LOVE/>

LOVE in Cape Charles:

The Cape Charles Business Association (CCBA) sponsored a traveling LOVEworks installation in October 2013. These traveling installations are made available by application to VTC with a \$500 fee. The installation was housed at The Point for about 2 weeks and was popular with visitors and locals, with many taking pictures and sharing through social media. With the positive response, CCBA and the Town began discussions on building a permanent installation.

Process & Design:

CCBA and Town representatives have been working on a design to reflect our community and history (see attached sketch), and CCBA is working with VTC for design approval.

- L – sea glass and seashells to represent our bayside community
- O – tractor tire to represent agriculture
- V – kayak to represent outdoor adventure activities
- E – crab pots to represent aquaculture

Each letter will be approximately 6 feet tall by 4 feet wide (per VTC guidelines), and approximately 2 feet deep. Each letter will be on its own 6 foot by 4 foot base. Each base will be designed so it can be picked up by a pallet mover and moved if needed.

Much thought has been given to materials, safety and durability. Bases will be made from fir wood, fiberglass and gel coated. The L will be made of fiberglass with seashells and sea glass pressed in and then coated. The O will have a platform across the lower part of the center circle in the tire so people can sit for pictures. The V (kayak) did not raise any design concerns. The E will be fiberglass with crab pot “fronts” pressed in close enough to prevent anyone from getting fingers stuck inside.

Location:

The proposed location for LOVE is The Point, the same location where the temporary sign was placed last year. This will be the only LOVEworks with the Chesapeake Bay in the background. Depending on time of year and angle, the sunset falls directly in the center of the O – perfect for pictures.

Costs:

Both the tractor tire and kayak have been donated. We have projected costs of \$3,500 to build 4 bases, L, E, platform for O, and to assemble V. Sea glass and shells for L will be donated, as well as the crab pots for E.

CCBA is organizing 2 fundraisers to help off-set construction costs. Friday, May 2 & Saturday, May 3 are a weekend of LOVE in Cape Charles. On Friday, May 2, restaurants are being asked to offer a specialty LOVE themed cocktail or dessert with part of the proceeds going to this project. They can do this through the weekend if they like.

On Saturday, May 3, the LOVE Train! Will parade down Mason Avenue from Nectarine Street to The Point. Participants are asked to give a donation to dance down the Avenue to fun, upbeat LOVE songs played by DJ Shane.

It was suggested to ask the Town for \$3,500 as the Town is in the budget planning process. However, CCBA expects to raise funds for this project and is committed to bringing LOVE to Cape Charles.

Liability:

Being located at The Point, any situations arising would fall under the Town’s liability. CCBA will provide additional coverage at their expense.

Future Plans:

We have specifically designed the letters to be on portable bases so that LOVE can be moved around the Town of Cape Charles for events by request. Requests may be submitted in writing to the Recreation Department and the letters would be moved and transported by Public Works. The idea is to move LOVE for “large” events such as Crabby Blues, Tall Ships, or Clam Slam, but we do not anticipate more than 12 requests per year. If a wedding couple wanted to have it at Aqua for their wedding, that would also be considered.

We do not have an idea on what the actual costs to move would be, but it was agreed by CCBA and Town representatives that any “fee” charged would need to cover costs, plus additional so we could begin a fund to pay for maintenance and repairs.

Installation:

The plan is to have LOVE completed and ready for introduction at the Cape Charles Fourth of July parade. The letters will be paraded on a flat bed and then placed in a vendor space on Bay Avenue for the remainder of the holiday weekend. It may be moved to the Town Harbor for an evening concert over that weekend (undecided at this time).

The letters will be placed at The Point on Monday, July 7. We are planning a ribbon cutting for Wednesday, July 9.

Participants:

For this project, CCBA is represented by:

- Miriam Elton, brown dog ice cream, Miriam@browndogicecream.com
- Donna Olney Kohler, Fig Street Inn, donna@figstreetinn.com
- Sandy McFall, gallery 209, gallery209@gmail.com

Please feel free to contact any of us with questions about this project.

CCBA has worked with Jennifer Lewis and Pete Leontieff, both with Town of Cape Charles.



Patricia Buckley, 4 Perny Court

Cape Charles – A Financial Success Story

Despite frequent alarms from a small but vocal group of town citizens in the last year or so, a systematic review of financial performance over the last decade shows that Cape Charles is financially healthy. Visitors today see an up and coming coastal town blessed with historic charm and abundant natural features that attract nature lovers and sports enthusiasts. While the changes in the physical attributes over the last decade are easy to see, less visible is the remarkable fiscal turn-around.

In 2004 when I first assumed the position of Treasurer, the town was practically on life support financially. Few funds were available for hiring competent staff or performing basic maintenance. Systems were antiquated and equipment was barely functional. Our infrastructure was crumbling from years of neglect.

Recently, I revisited the town's financial health, doing a comparative analysis of the annual financial audit reports that are conveniently on the town's web page and 2013 financial statements. As anyone who cares to check the record will see the improvement in the fiscal health of Cape Charles is truly remarkable. From 2004 to 2013, I found the following:

- The town's total general government average revenues from 2005 to 2013 are up a stunning 150% over 2004.
- Real estate tax rates adjusted for assessments have increased only 15% through 2014 while consumer prices have increased 26%.
- A home assessed in 2004 at \$150,000 with a tax bill of \$705 is now assessed at \$296,000 with a tax bill of \$817.
- 50% of the real estate tax revenue now comes from the value of physical improvements to properties not present in 2004 such as new structures or renovations like the Wilson building.
- Tourist-related tax revenues (transient occupancy, meals, and admissions) have increased 516%.
- Total town net worth has increased from \$6.8 million in 2004 to \$25.6 million in 2012. This is net value after subtracting all liabilities, included debt. Debt had increased from \$1.8 million in 2004 to \$9.1 million in 2012.

What this means is that we borrowed \$7.3 million but got \$26.1 million in assets, increasing our net worth by \$18.8 million!

Cape Charles growth has restored the town to financial health. Current government policies creating a business friendly and tourist attractive environment have been successful. The town is more appealing, with more jobs and resources, while taxes have risen less than inflation and real estate market values. We have developed our natural assets, thus creating an inviting venue. At the same time, our homes and other property have significantly increased in value.

That same growth has increased the number of users on our utility systems by at least 406 mitigating the challenge of bringing waste water treatment to the standards required by the Chesapeake Bay Act. While no one has been happy with the increased fees for sewer services, few are aware of what the increase could have been. State and federal aid have paid for about 73% of that plant. The loan that was still required to pay for the facility is at zero % interest rate. Had the town not grown in the last 10 years, the monthly service fees to each household for water, sewer, and trash would have been about \$150 per month even after the state and federal aid. Given that water and wastewater services must be self-supporting according to debt covenants, the only way we will see lower bills is with additional growth. It is fiscally prudent for our officials to continue to provide a supportive environment for growth and development.

It is incumbent upon all of the citizens of Cape Charles to support and encourage those forward thinking officials who recognize and promote growth and development and who are committed to investing in our future.

Patricia A. Buckley
Treasurer, Town of Cape Charles, 2004-2007

Officer Chelsea Pfeiffer, National Police Week Observance

National Police Week is a time in which our country and local communities recognize and honor the service and sacrifice of the men and women in law enforcement who have been killed in the line of duty while protecting and safeguarding our communities.

There are approximately 900,000 law enforcement officers serving our communities across the United States. Throughout each year, nearly 60,000 assaults against law enforcement officers are reported which result in approximately 16,000 injuries.

Since the first law enforcement death was recorded in 1791, almost 20,000 officers in the United States have been killed in the line of duty. Although law enforcement has proved to be a dangerous profession, the brave men and women of law enforcement continue to walk out of their homes every day and night, not knowing if they will return home to see their families again. This act alone takes a brave and heroic person.

In 2013, 105 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty, and as of April 18, 2014, 31 law enforcement officers have been killed.

The sacrifice of all officers killed in the line of duty will be honored during National Police Week at the Candlelight Vigil in Washington, D.C. on May 13, 2014.

The Cape Charles Police Department is asking the community to leave a porch light on during National Police Week to show your support for the brave men and women of law enforcement. National Police Week will be taking place from May 11, 2014 to May 17, 2014. Thank you for your continued support and appreciation.

Cape Charles Police Department