

SBPOA Combined Report
Town Council Meeting August 11, 2017
and

Town Council Workshop Meeting August 24, 2017

Report notes: To reduce the amount of emails to the members we will try and combine meetings that take place in one month into one email.

1. Discussion on the decision to move the Town Council meetings from Friday evening to Friday afternoon

Several residents expressed concern that moving the Council meetings to Friday evenings didn't allow for more participation by property owners.

Status

This decision was taken by Council recently due to the lack of participation by owners and the desire by Council members make better use of their personal time.

Background

The Town Council meetings were historically held late at 7 PM on Friday evenings but were poorly attended in most cases.

Questions to Consider

- Should the time be changed back to Friday evening to have more people join the meeting.
- Should a budget line item be introduced for next fiscal year to have real time electronic participation and recorded online sessions for all owners to view, making the time the meeting is held less material to ownership involvement.

2. Outsourcing Police Dept. Operations

A significant number of residents were opposed to outsourcing the current responsibilities of the Police Dept.

At the workshop meeting, a property owner reported that signs were being placed without homeowner approval. She personally removed two unapproved signs from her sister's property and noted on two vacant parcels signs were also present.

Another resident suggested that the Police Officers be provided a cost of living adjustment at the same scale Social Security raises benefits. Mayor Voveris stated that over the last 15 months there have been three payroll raises given to Police Officers and two raises given to the admin staff. The dates and amounts are as follows: May 2016 Town and Police received 2.5%; May 2017 Town and Police received 2.5%; in Sept of 2016 Chief Crowson requested an increase to the lowest ranks to be competitive in our area. This was a increase to the total step chart and an increase for all officers. The most substantial increase was at the lowest rank which received a 14% increase.

Status

Mayor Voveris answered all concerns by denying any action being taken or pending to be taken by the Council to move in that direction. Also noted is the objective nature with which the TC is proceeding with the litigation issue.

Background

Signs have been posted by residents opposing Outsourcing Police Dept. operations. With the on-going litigation, the Council has a responsibility not to discuss the nature of the suit. Mayor Voveris did send out an email document stating the Outsourcing rumor was totally without merit and substance, or even in discussion.

Questions to Consider

- Who is propagating the misinformation, as it has been characterized by the Council? Will the individual or group identify themselves and make public where the information concerning Outsourcing has arisen?
- Any discussion surrounding Public Safety always is an emotional issue. Should our owners be patient and let the members of the Council work through this issue as government officials that have been elected by us to a solution that can be embraced by the majority?
- Should resident's take down signs highlighting a position that has been addressed and denied by the Mayor so that negotiations can take place in an objective forum?

3. Canal Water Quality Project Proposal To DNREC

The Canal Water Quality Committee is going to submit a Project Proposal for grant money for Floating Wetlands being installed at our canal ends. It is titled "Turning Dead End Canals into Storm Water BMP's by Using Floating Wetlands" The actual implementation of the FW's would be in April 2018. The life expectancy of each set-up is approximately five years.

Status

TC approved the motion to reassign budget allocations to create a 25% match (\$6250.00) required to receive the grant.

Background

Please read the full descriptions provided by CWQC as to the purpose and implementation. Currently 30 property owners have signed up to be considered to attend to floating wetlands. George Junkin has done research and found a supplier that can provide floating wetlands capable of supporting 80 plants at a cost of \$145.00 each. Current sources have supplied the town with similar product that costs more than 5x the cost and will only support 30 plants. TC members questioned who would maintain the Floating Wetlands once they were installed. Would there be a need for a subsequent adjustment to the budget. CWQC explained the FW's required very little maintenance and the CIB has offered to help in that respect. But as it was noted eventually the FW's will reach maturity and outlive their usefulness. What would be the cost to dispose and re-install.

Questions to Consider

- Should the effectiveness of the FW's be measured by a certified lab. How will it be paid for?
- Should the property owners who volunteer to put the FW's at their docks be expected to maintain them or is that a responsibility of the town.
- Should SBPOA get directly involved in the process, to help with the assembly and initial installations, future education and maintenance and how would we be effective in doing so?