



**Special Board Meeting Minutes  
January 31, 2023  
6:30 PM**

President Paul Bradley called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

**Board Members in Attendance:** Paul Bradley, Margie Cyr, Kerry Hall, Jerry Kafka, Holly Fluty Dempsey, Ron Thomas, Don Deraska, Nora Alter, Bob Wood, Hope Wagner (CAS)

**Community Members:** Nancy Glasgow, Peggy & Chuck Taylor, Joe Woolman, Marty Shecter, Dave Wiecking, Jeff Sella, Ilene Cohen, Carrie Maslen, Mark Reilly

Paul moved and Don seconded that recording of any type of the meeting except for the Board initiated Zoom recording is not allowed. All were in favor.

**Unfinished Business:**

Budget Committee Presentation: Jerry gave an overview of the updated proposed budget since the last Board meeting. The members of the Budget Committee have considered the feedback received from the last meeting and reviewed the comments submitted from the committee chairs and Board members.

The revised proposed budget has been reduced by \$50,000. The Reserve investments have been increased. Inflation, transition from an all-volunteer work force to a contractor work force, drainage, and remedial/evolving matters continue to drive the budget.

Paul thanked Jerry, Steve, and Marty for their efforts in this effort. The duty as a Board is to do what is best for the community as a whole. Nora thanked the committee and is pleased with the budget. Margie asked whether the line item for Legal will be sufficient and whether the line item for road maintenance will include the resealing of the Ocean side and Bridge Roads. She is uncertain about the necessity for the night security.

Kerry may be able to reduce the cost of night security by using Community Patrol staff for this. Nora hopes there will be rigorous review of potential candidates. Jerry thinks night security is a growing problem especially on Dune Road. Holly says the Pine Side is problematic as well with porches and parties late into the evenings.

Don asked is the ditch work is effective. Can the work that has been done be evaluated? He asked what the \$10,000 for Beach Maintenance funds. Can this be reduced?

Ron talked to the drainage issue. The Bridge Road project was a test project. The Board supported funding for the second street. There is evidence that the work is helping. There is

significantly less flooding on yards and the ditches are taking the water away. Data shows that a significant flooding event(s) is coming. The project is working to be proactive and investing in the future of the community. Margie reviewed the work that is being done with DeIDOT and DNREC. DNREC is recommending that the ditch projects continue on all the Pine Side roads. DeIDOT is engaged and is working to clear the Kent ditches and ensure their pipes are clear and working. Ron is developing a FAQ document for ditches and drainage. The budgeted \$120,000 is for a third road project and maintenance of other roads. Paul and Margie have a monthly phone call with DNREC. Bethany Beach announced in December that regular maintenance of ditches is critical.

Holly shared that two ditch projects completed at this time is enough and the third should be deferred for a year. There is a need to separate the maintenance costs from the project cost to do another street.

Jerry there is no line-item veto option in the budget. The issue of drainage has been here for decades. It has always been too expensive and has been kicked down the road. He is convinced this will make drainage better and it is in the best interest for everyone.

Bob asked about any surplus. Is there an option to use surplus funds for this? Jerry says that tax law requires the surplus to be put into reserves or return it. Ron says the drainage project is not a total fix. It addresses the issues and supports the movement of water out of the community, evaporation, and seepage into the ground.

Paul spoke to the Budget process. There will be a town hall meeting and a vote on the assessment will be held in May at the community meeting.

Jerry responded to Don's question about Beach Maintenance. The funding for this line item has been reduced. Don asked what the \$10,000 remaining in the line item funds.

Holly and Margie asked to verify that the proposed assessment is now \$3,500 and includes operating and reserves.

Bob would like to have a discussion about reserves in a separate meeting. Kerry believes that Guard Shack and a Polaris are capital expenses.

Paul moved and Ron seconded to approve the January 29, 2023 draft budget with an assessment of \$3,500. Voting in favor are Paul, Nora, Jerry, Margie, Ron. Opposed are Kerry, Don, Bob, Holly. Motion passes.

Joe Woolman thanks every Board member for the time and effort that most people do not appreciate. He thanked Margie for her explanation of the status of DNREC and DeIDOT.

Paul moves and Don seconds to adjourn. All in favor.