

Town Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 12, 2012 – 7:00 pm

Attending Commissioners:

Keith Hughes, President	Y	
Elaine Chester, Secretary	Y	
Kathy MacDonough	Y	
Ross Logan	Y	
Glen Suter	N	No call, no show
Curt Nass, Treasurer	Y	

Other Attendees:

Brian Donovan, Valerie White, Carol Dougherty, Councilman John Cartier, Representative Debra Heffernan, Dave Brenner, Rich Mulhern, Scott Mackenzie

1. Call to Order – (Keith Hughes)

Keith called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

2. Special Guests / Public Comments (limit of 2 – 3 minutes per person)

Valerie White brought the Commission a letter from the Art Festival Committee with details on dates (May 19 with a rain date of May 20), info on advertising. It will be the same as last year – closing street, rerouting DelDot bus, 55 vendor spots to rent at \$75 each, runs from 10 – 6. She stated the Bellefonte Art Shop has art classes, and they want to have art classes this summer for children. Wanted to know if they could rent out part of the day care for them. Commission told her that we now have two day cares interested in renting the space by this summer. Bob is doing a photo banner this year for the lamp posts. We gave Valerie last year’s banners.

Kathy made a motion to approve \$350 donation to the Art Festival to sponsor a port-a-potty for which we would in turn receive a vendor space, name on t-shirt as a sponsor and advertising in the booklet - second by Ross. Motion carried unanimously.

Rep. Debra Heffernan – Our Representative brought a supply of important phone number cards for distribution. Holland Mulch has been open to the public for almost a year. Rep. Heffernan recently introduced legislation for free on line courses for active duty and National Guard members (that are not already receiving funding under the G.I. Bill). She has also introduced legislation for higher sentencing than burglary in the 1st degree for those found guilty of a home invasion. The definition of a home invasion is knowing someone is home or finds out someone is there and they stay and terrorize them. The bill introduced by Rep. Lawson is not as comprehensive. Debra has not only bi-partisan support but that of the Attorney General’s office, also.

John Cartier – Mentioned numerous things this evening:

Do not throw drugs down drain. It winds up in our water sources.

Attended a meeting in March of NACO (3,000 counties) in D.C. He took a completely rail route to the meeting. The new Claymont commuter rail project would include platforms, pedestrian platforms, etc. He has lobbied DelDot and Septa about it. Newport is attempting to get a commuter rail stop.

New Castle County is 1 of the 2% of counties with a AAA bond rating. John is the co-chair of the finance committee. County Police lost binding arbitration which means County Administration prevailed. County Police have to give back 2.5% towards health care costs.

John announced the return of the ice cream festival at Rockwood in July. There would be a small admission fee to raise money for Friends of Rockwood.

Fox Point baseball league is moving towards a long term lease. They would maintain the facilities. (Side point – Town of Bellefonte is sponsoring a team again this year)

Carnival at St. Helena's – working with organizers and police so no problems at night. They will charge a small admission fee. It is April 29th – May 5th.

There is a high pressure gas main under Gov. Printz in area where sewer mains are being replaced. The County and contractor are at odds over backfill and support of the main causing delay.

There is going to be a ground breaking ceremony on March 28 from 10:30-11:30 for the Claymont Library on Darley Road and Philadelphia Pike. This will be a state of the art facility to be complete June 2013. There has been \$750,000 community fundraising and \$400,000 in grants. Delaware Brick doing a buy a brick program for \$150 each.

Kathy asked for the status of grandfathering of deed recording. John will check on this where people bought a house at Sheriff Sale and never recorded the deed.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting – reading and consideration for approval

Kathy made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the February 13, 2012 meeting and approve them as reviewed via e-mail. Seconded by Elaine. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Building Inspector Report – (No one in attendance)

No report received

5. Board of Adjustment Report - (Brian Donovan)

703 Highland – Since the variance was granted to divide the lot, it is a buildable lot.

Elaine read Scott's e-mail regarding builder Glenn Prechtl's question into the record:

Glenn,

Thanks for your email. The March 12th meeting is a Town Meeting of the Commissioners and is open to the public, so you are welcome to attend. The next meeting of the Planning Commission is on Thursday, March 22, at 7 pm, which is also open to the public.

The letter you seek is beyond the authority of either the Town Commission or the Planning Commission; according to our Land Use Code, the only person who can grant this approval is the Building Inspector, or by appeal, the Board of Adjustment. Since you have a letter of determination from our Board of Adjustment, this letter would state any conditions or restrictions to the subdivision. If none are stated, this means that the lot now meets the space requirements as buildable; however, the construction plan must still meet all the requirements of Land Use Code (setback, etc.) for a permit to be granted, which is the function of the Building Inspector, Kyle Bandler.

I hope this helps you, but if you would like to discuss this face to face, please attend either meeting stated above. I have copied Brian Donovan, chair of the Board of Adjustment, on this email, since he usually attends our Town Meetings.

Scott MacKenzie
Chair, Planning Commission

6. Treasurer/Tax Collector's Report – (Curt Nass)

Curt presented the Treasurer's Report (Attachment A)

There was discussion about moving \$7,955 expense from the Property Transfer account into the Stimulus account. Curt will make that change along with listing the address of the February Property Transfer. *Motion to accept with modification made by Ross, second by Kathy. Motion carried unanimously.*

7. Plumbing Inspector Report - (Steve Russo)

Steve presented the following information:

1203 Wynnebrook Ave – HVAC replacement - \$50 so we will owe Steve \$25.

8. Planning Commission Report – (Scott Mackenzie and Dave Brenner)

Scott Mackenzie – Did final review and realized there was one more page to be reviewed and compare it to other towns in area.

9. Reading and Approval of Bills – (Elaine Chester)

Elaine read the bills (Attachment B). *Motion to approve bills for payment by Kathy, second by Ross.*

Motion carried unanimously. Motion to amend the Electric bill for the school utilities to \$197.23 made by Elaine, second by Kathy.

10. Old Business

- **Newsletter Ideas** – May 5th is 14th Annual Town of Bellefonte Mt. Pleasant Reunion and Car Show in the parking lot of Russo Plumbing, May 19th is the Art Festival.
- **Meeting Room Expenses** – So far the expenses total \$501.75
- **Church Delinquent Taxes** – Owe around \$12,000. Sheriff Sale scheduled for April 10. Hearing on March 14. **Action Item:** Kathy will go to hearing.

11. Public Comments/Questions (2-3 minutes per person in turn; each person may speak up to 3 times on the same topic) None

12. New Business

- **Bellefonte Avenue Paving** - Kathy talked to Robert Reed at DelDot about Bellefonte Avenue paving and wanted to review how they determine what streets get done. **Action Item:** Kathy and Ross will talk to them.
- **Review News Letter information** - Mention 3/9/15 as 100 year anniversary of Town of Bellefonte. It was mentioned that we should put a suggestion box at our table for ideas for the 100 year celebration.
- **Mulching & Weeding at Town Complex** – **Motion to approve up to \$2,000 of mulching by 3/31 with Natures Call to take advantage of 10% discount made by Elaine, second by Ross. Motion carried unanimously.**
- **Day Care Rental** – There was much discussion around day care use/lease. We should ask for a letter of intent and a \$500 refundable deposit. We would give them a bill for electric usage because it is broken down into a separate meter. A reduced rate could be arranged for tenant. We should set up a meeting for both potential tenants to discuss their plans and requirements by the State.
- **Next Meeting Date** – Monday, April 9, 2012.

13. Public Comments/Questions (2-3 minutes per person in turn; each person may speak up to 3 times on the same topic) None

14. Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. made by Elaine, seconded by Kathy. Motion carried unanimously.

Compiled by: Elaine Chester, Secretary

Town of Bellefonte Monthly Treasurers Report February 2012 Report

	Town Account	MSAF Account	Property Transfer Account	Town Accounts Sub-Total	Stimulus Account	Stimulus Rebate Account	Total
Balance 02/01/12	\$55,003.50	\$8,129.41	\$45,945.81	\$109,078.72	\$19,443.67	\$35,894.31	\$164,416.70
Receipts							
State Reimbursement				0.00	425.00		425.00
Property Transfer Tax			2,700.00	2,700.00	425.00		3,125.00
Cable Franchise Fees	14,749.55			14,749.55			14,749.55
Town Tax	380.02			380.02			380.02
Building Inspection Fee	576.00			576.00			576.00
Interest	<u>4.55</u>	<u>0.64</u>	<u>3.41</u>	<u>8.60</u>	<u>1.47</u>	<u>0.88</u>	<u>10.95</u>
Total Receipts	15,710.12	0.64	2,703.41	18,414.17	851.47	0.88	19,266.52
Disbursements							
Program Rebates	0.00			0.00		34,229.77	34,229.77
Maintenance	0.00		14,097.50	14,097.50	1,000.00		15,097.50
Trash Collection	11,364.98			11,364.98			11,364.98
Town Utilities	1,835.78			1,835.78			1,835.78
Grant Administration	0.00			0.00	687.50		687.50
Donation	375.00			375.00			375.00
Supplies/Other	285.28			285.28			285.28
Building Inspection Fees	250.00			250.00			250.00
Secretary Fee	62.90			62.90			62.90
U.S. Treasury	<u>26.60</u>			<u>26.60</u>			<u>26.60</u>
Total Disbursements	14,200.54	0.00	14,097.50	28,298.04	1,687.50	34,229.77	64,215.31
Ending Balance 02/29/12	<u>\$56,513.08</u>	<u>\$8,130.05</u>	<u>\$34,551.72</u>	<u>\$99,194.85</u>	<u>\$18,607.64</u>	<u>\$1,665.42</u>	<u>\$119,467.91</u>
							<u>\$119,467.91</u>

Curt A. Nass
Treasurer/Tax Collector

Feb.
Properties: 1110
Wynnbrook

Town of Bellefonte
Monthly Bills Presented for Payment
March 12, 2012

Town Account	Amount Due	Vendor	Description
	11,364.98	IDS	Trash collection
	350.00	Bellefonte Arts Festival	Donation
	349.09	Delmarva Power	School utilities
	197.23	Delmarva Power	Town hall utilities
	250.00	Scott MacKenzie	Mtg Rm. Table & Chairs
	241.84	Elaine Chester	Misc. TH Exp 176.19 Mtg Rm Exp 65.65
	142.00	Russo Bros.	Heater repair
	112.16	Verizon	Phone
	62.90	Elaine Chester	Secretary
	<u>\$ 13,070.20</u>		
MSAF Account			
	1,297.53	Delmarva Power	St. & Traffic Lights
	<u>\$ 1,297.53</u>		
ARRA Account			
	7,955.00	Town of Bellefonte	Reimburse Property Transfer account
	387.50	Dave Brenner	
	<u>\$ 387.50</u>		