

**Town of Bellefonte, Delaware**  
**Town Meeting Minutes**  
August 14, 2017

**Attending:** David Brenner, Brandon Dougherty, Scott MacKenzie, Andrew Ritchie and Treasurer Curt Nass.

**Called to Order** - Dave Brenner called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm. He welcomed those attending and introduced special guests, State Rep. Debra Heffernan and NCC Councilman John Cartier.

**Special Guests:** State Rep. Deborah Heffernan, recounted the difficult passing of the State's budget back in July, noting that although they were able to reduce some spending, they had not been able to fix the structural revenue problems with the tax code because they could not get enough support for a higher tax bracket. Instead, the legislature raised taxes on cigarettes, alcohol and e-cigarettes. They also passed an additional one percent on the Tax on Real Property Transfer (transfer tax), raising the transfer tax to four percent.

Discussed issue of street repaving. Deb said that Sen. Harris McDowell, III is onboard with proving a portion of his Community Transportation allocation and trying to possibly do patching for Beeson. Dave asked Debra to explain the increase in the tax and how the municipal portion was preserved. She explained that property transfers after August 1 began collecting 4 percent, with the old rate of 1.5% remaining with the county/town, and the balance of 2.5% going to the State.

NCC Councilman John Cartier presented the code enforcement report, along with the crime/police report. He said that the NCC vacant properties ordinance applies in Bellefonte. He has 145 vacant properties in his district. John reported that the County is being aggressive enforcing fines, back taxes, and sheriff's sales. Foreclosures, unfortunately, continue to be high, along with the bank-owned vacant properties that are the result.

John reported that, although the budget was approved in June, legislative action for NCC bonding authority (issuing bonds) is being held up by the president and several members of council. Until resolved, the County cannot begin any of the approved infrastructure programs. He reported that with the Redevelopment coastal zone amendment, the development of the former steel mill in Claymont will be proceeding. He also reported on some redevelopment efforts in Edgmoor Gardens, which includes a park.

**Public Comments:**

- Rich Mulhern reported on some tagging (spray paint vandalism) on the street surface at intersection of Fairview and Maple and also Marion at Brandywine Blvd. Deb Heffernan said she would have Hadey Salem contact DelDOT.

**Minutes** – Andrew made a motion to waive reading of the minutes and to approve them as distributed, seconded by Scott and the motion passed unanimously.

**Board of Adjustment** – no activity.

**Planning Commission:** The planning commission is reviewing the comprehensive plan to make sure that the it is correct, and we can finish the application for the PLUS review. We are hoping to take it to the PLUS review for September. There were no zoning applications this month.

Next planning commission meeting is Monday, September 11, 7 pm, and every Monday for which there is a Zoning Review Application received.

**Treasurer and Tax Collectors Report:** Curt presented the monthly report of Town finances (attached). Brandon made a motion to accept, seconded by Andrew, and approved unanimously.

Curt also noted that he had received the (Municipal Street Aid Fund) MSAF check from the State, which would be reflected on next month's report.

**President's Report:**

- Dave reported on an email exchange with resident on Prospect Avenue regarding the road condition of Beeson Rd. This communication is ongoing and will be reported.
- Annex entrance construction to begin soon.
- Dave reported that the fencing around annex roof sold for \$200 and gave the cash to Curt for deposit.
- Town Picnic is September 16, 12 - 3 pm. Stray Sounds is playing and Scott, Brandon and Andrew will take care of refreshments. Bandon said he was requesting ice cream sponsorship from the Lion's Club.
- August Concert - The Jazz concert is being held on August 25 at 7 pm. Scott has been boosting the event on Facebook and we are hoping for a big turnout.

Scott made a motion to adjourn for five minutes, all voted in favor. Dave called the meeting back to order at 8:25 pm.

**Public Comments:**

- Holly June Stiefel of 405 Maple Avenue had a question about putting sides on her front porch. She was directed to call NCC Land Use and explain her plans, but it did not sound like a permit would be required.

**New Business:**

- FOIA and agendas - About communication and agendas - Scott asked commissioners to provide more feedback for the agenda, because if an item isn't on the agenda, it can be discussed, but not acted on.
- Extending Summer Concert series

**Bills:** Scott presented the following bills for payment:

Payee	Description	Amount
Ellen Lebowitz	August concert	\$400.00
Penny Hill Landscaping	August contact payment	\$675.68
Waste Industries	Monthly trash/recycling	\$13,218.00
Barbacane Thornton	Outstanding balance + late fee?	\$522.50
Comcast	Phone & internet service	\$158.62
Suez	Monthly water + overdue amt.	\$30.51
Delmarva Power	Streetlights	\$1,549.52
Delmarva Power	Town hall	\$227.87
Will Merlo	Monthly stipend	\$50.00
Pat Anker	Bathtub flowers	\$75.00
Baker Ingram Associates	Engineering for Annex	\$1,340.00

Andrew made a motion to approve the bills as read, seconded by Brandon and approved by all.

**Announcements:**

Planning Commission meeting and Town Meeting to be held on Monday, September 11, 2017, at 7 pm.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Brandon, seconded by Andrew, and the meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Town of Bellefonte  
Monthly Treasurers Report  
July 2017 Report

	Town Account	MSAF Account	Property Transfer Account	Town Accounts	July 2016	
1	Balance 07/01/17	\$23,536.08	\$322.68	\$168,071.45	<b>\$191,930.21</b>	\$168,917
Receipts						
2	Property Transfer Tax		\$12,232.50	<b>12,232.50</b>		
3	Town Taxes	2,433.53		<b>2,433.53</b>		
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4	Total Receipts	2,433.53	0.00	12,232.50	<b>14,666.03</b>	7,023
Disbursements						
5	Trash Collection		13,253.00	<b>13,253.00</b>		
6	Town Utilities	173.16	1,752.25	<b>1,925.41</b>		
7	NC County Permit		1,662.00	<b>1,662.00</b>		
8	Insurance/Bond		1,200.00	<b>1,200.00</b>		
9	Memberships	800.00		<b>800.00</b>		
10	Attorneys Fees	708.08		<b>708.08</b>		
11	Landscaping	675.68		<b>675.68</b>		
12	Community Activies	400.00		<b>400.00</b>		
13	Public Notices	59.01		<b>59.01</b>		
14	Maintenance	50.00		<b>50.00</b>		
15	Bank Fee	7.31		<b>7.31</b>		
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16	Total Disbursements	2,873.24	0.00	17,867.25	<b>20,740.49</b>	16,905
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17	Ending Balance 07/31/17 \\	\$23,096.37	\$322.68	\$162,436.70	<b>\$185,855.75</b>	\$159,035
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	July Properties:	1001 Rodman	504 Marion
Curt A. Nass Treasurer/Tax Collector		1214 Talley	1010 Talley