

The Parksley Town Council held a Special Meeting on Wednesday June 6, 2007 at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers on Dunne Ave. Mayor Chase had called to meeting to discuss the proposed sewage project and funding for the project.

Present: Mayor Rick Chase; Council: Parks Phillips, Rodney Smoot, Ellen Boyce, James Eichelberger, Carter Parks and Frank Russell; Director of Public Works/Zoning Administrator Fred Matthews, Atty. Lynwood Lewis and Clerk Denise Bernard

Visitors: Former Mayor Thomas Young, Richard Lewis, A.K. Fisher, Artie Miles (and Tim Valentine arrived at 7:45)

Mayor Chase called the meeting to order. Councilwoman Boyce led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Chase thanked the guests for coming to the Special Meeting; respects their opinions. The Council has worked on this project for almost 5 years. The business people have been involved and gave their opinions on this project with the rate increase. No further rate increase is proposed, but talking about an extensive obligation for the town; wanted some outside views on the proposed project. Artie Miles was invited, he knows about the project planning and financing. If there is no County money for the town, the town will have to borrow \$558,554 in addition to the \$214,000 already applied for (total of \$772,554) for 40 years. The grant is \$639,000; based on the original number of residents and businesses that signed up. The monthly rate for businesses will be \$99 and \$66 for residents. Clerk made a copy of the latest planning factors worksheet for the visitors.

T. Young asked about the Operation & Maintenance.

Mayor Chase stated that the town would have to pay the O&M, which has been cut in ½. The schedule is not 100% correct, there are 35 businesses and 11 residents. There is \$60,000 in the planning factors for contingencies.

A. Miles stated that it would be for the unknown.

Atty. Lewis asked what happened with the plan to redo the plans and do a shallow system.

Mayor Chase stated that Ken Nowakowski had raised the elevations and cut off some lines that were dead ends. Dwayne Austin from Marcor had said these changes could save up to \$100,000 savings. The shallow system would cost more in maintenance and would have to be redesigned and re-bid.

R. Lewis asked what would happen if this doesn't go through.

Mayor Chase stated that Hospice would leave (they can't expand) and lose other businesses. There are buildings being renovated and buildings that have been purchased that are on hold until the sewage. Options are to go out and re-bid and look for more money; have been looking for more money for a couple years. It's not the Town's fault that Katrina hit and made prices go up, or that the USA went to war, and no approved government budget.

R. Lewis stated that they had no choice.

Councilman Parks stated that CSB has a 10 year plan, and want to hook up to the system.

Mayor Chase stated that the RE and PP have not been increased since 1988.

R. Lewis stated that the whole town needs to participate.

Councilman Parks stated that he hadn't heard anything bad since the meals tax was added on.

Councilman Smoot stated that he has had 3 residents tell him that they wouldn't mind sharing the burden.

Mayor Chase stated that the Town's portion is about \$14,000, not much of an increase.

A.K. Fisher advised that the increase be a little higher.

R. Lewis stated that if the town only needs a \$25,000 to \$40,000 increase to make this project work, if it was spread out over the whole town, it shouldn't be an issue. It will keep the town alive.

Councilman Parks stated that this is spread out over 40 years.

Councilman Russell stated that the Town is closer than it has been, if this isn't done now, will lose 5 or 6 businesses.

A. Miles stated that the future is mass drain fields. These problems aren't new; they are the same problems that they have had for 30 years, when he worked for the Health Dept. There is some room in the system for some more businesses. This spreadsheet is abbreviated; he hopes there is capital reserve built in it, there will be problems. He agreed with R. Lewis, a tax increase would be easier than any other approach. Five years from now, may need to make it bigger.

Mayor Chase stated that there is room for reduction in the gallons per day, by dropping off a leg, of the drain field system. Don't want to do that it is the buffer for the system. There won't be a tax increase until next year (08-09) there is a water increase this year. May need to go ahead and make this mandatory for the businesses.

R. Lewis stated that he agreed with it being mandatory.

A.K. Fisher stated that it is mandatory in Onancock.

T. Young stated that the Town needs to hold onto the \$750 each person put in, as a reserve.

Mayor Chase stated that the Council's feelings are to go ahead.

Atty. Lewis stated that the reckless thing would be if the Council didn't go ahead with this project.

Mayor Chase talked with D. Austin from Marcor about how they take their payment; they will accept the award with the contingency of getting the funding. They could start in two weeks, with just the word. He is willing to go back to the vendors and ask them to hold the prices.

A. Miles asked about the STAG money; he had tried to get it years ago; there would be more money available if that money was used.

Mayor Chase stated that he will find out if Parksley can get that money at the Supervisors meeting on June 20th.

R. Lewis asked about the Town splitting that money with Onancock; may have a better chance.

Dir. Of Pub.Wks/Zoning Admin. Matthews stated that Onancock has point distribution, so money is available to them.

Mayor Chase stated that he had heard that Onancock has the money in place to correct their problem. The 20th he can make any request to the Board of Supervisors, he will talk to Susan Scott from Onancock. He has the application for the Town to apply for \$558,554; will have to have a public hearing (6-27-07); will lose the low (4.5%) interest rate.

Atty. Lewis talked with Preston Bryant, Secty. Of Natural Resources, and he may have some state money. He is waiting to see what happens with the \$300,000 from the County.

Mayor Chase stated that once this is in motion, can't get more grant money for the project. There will be enough capacity to hook up CSB, but not sure of the cost to hook them up, there has to be a lift station. They could be hooked up after the fact. The Clerk will advertise for the \$558,554 loan from the USDA. Need to make the hookup mandatory for every commercial property on the line. This system is capable of 13,000 gallons per day, but this system can have another leg added on for more.

A. Miles stated that when this is done, there will be more need.

Mayor Chase stated that the Metompkin school property could possibly be converted to drain fields.

A. Miles and A.K. Fisher both felt that they need to go for it; and T. Young said get the numbers right. R. Lewis stated that the big things are done the little ones will fall in place.

Atty. Lewis stated that this can be done, don't have a choice. He is still working on getting the land. Have the right to start construction; the Certificate of Take stands. They have not challenged the Certificate of Take. Need to set the hearing date. There had been some question about it being cemetery; cemeteries can't be condemned. The land is not being used as cemeteries.

Councilwoman Boyce stated that the cemetery group has been trying to get more land, but she won't sell.

Councilman Smoot made the motion to have a Public Hearing for the purpose of discussing the loan application of \$558,554. Motion was 2nd by Councilwoman Boyce. Ayes- Phillips, Smoot, Boyce, Eichelberger, Parks and Russell. No- none. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Chase asked how soon before the town knows if they have the land and how much it is going to cost.

Atty. Lewis stated that they have it now, the USDA only required the Certificate of Take. It was appraised by Kendall, who has done many for condemnation.

Mayor Chase has been talking to Hospice and CSB and will assure them. A show of support will help at the Board of Supervisors meeting.

Councilman Smoot made the motion to adjourn. Motion was 2nd by Councilman Eichelberger. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

