

Town of Bellefonte, Delaware
Town Meeting Minutes, October 14, 2024

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

Call to Order/Welcome - Called to order at 7:02 pm by Brandon.

Minutes to the Previous Meeting - Andrew made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes and to approve them as distributed, seconded by Logan, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Special Guests/Public Comments (limited to 3 mins. Each):

NCC Councilman John Cartier will send police and code violation reports tomorrow. John reported that reassessment letters have been mailed by Tyler Technologies. Anticipating corrections. New tax rates will apply for 2025. Reassessment is planned to be revenue neutral – while some taxes for individual homeowners may go up, the total amount collected will not change. John is up for re-election. He said he is known for attending almost every monthly town meeting and asks for everyone's vote in the coming election.

Committee Reports:

Board of Adjustments – No activity to report.

Planning Commission/Zoning Review Board: No report. Several commissioners noted that they are aware that a meeting was held on October 7. Dave Brenner reported that we have received several requests recently about whether a marijuana dispensary was allowed in our business zones. He wondered whether the Planning Commission would want to look at this again. The Town Commission had consensus that the issue was discussed by the Planning Commission and they were satisfied with that decision.

Treasurer's Report and Tax Collector's Report – Report on Delinquent Taxes – Curt Nass presented the month Statement of Accounts (attached). Andrew made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Dave , and approved by all. Curt raised the issue of changing banks. Curt will gather information about fees etc. at Delaware-based banks including credit unions, for the next meeting.

Old Business/President's Report:

- Town Hall Complex improvements – Lift still not working. Scott will email Elevator Ready and get a status report.
- Annex Roof. The Commissioners reviewed bids and selected R n R Roofing as the roofing contractor. Scott made a motion to approve up to \$90,000 for roof replacement, Brandon seconded, and all approved. Scott made a motion to approve up to \$5,000 for PV solar racks to be installed as part of the new roofing, seconded by Dave, and all approved. Scott motioned to approve up to \$4,500 to remove and reinstall Mitsubishi splits. Seconded by Andrew, all in favor. Scott noted that he hoped that some of these costs would be paid for by the energy grant, but we haven't received notice of award yet. He also said that he hopes that the splits would not have to be removed and that the roofers would work around them, but wanted to get approval for the expenditure just in case.
- Sidewalks and Lampposts – No word yet from DelDOT about the sidewalks on Bellefonte Avenue.
- Shops of Bellefonte Report – Status Report. Sue Ellen Creech attended and reported that the Boo-tique and Monster Market was very successful for the merchants. She requested that Holiday decorations be installed prior to Thanksgiving. Scott assured her that they would be.
- Scott made a motion to approve up to \$500 for sponsorship of Shops of Bellefonte December Events promotion, seconded by Dave. Andrew asked if there was 4%00 in the budget. Scott said that their way community activity funds of \$500 available. Following discussion, the vote was unanimous to sponsor December events.
- Bellefonte Day – Post mortem – The Commissioners reported that the event was a great success, but noted that a start time of 12:30 might be better. Chief Gordy Edwards and President Jack Clendaniel from BHFC appreciated the coordinated event and hope that the Town will do more events together ensuring the success of the events – the Commissioners whole heartedly agreed.

- Edgemoor Port – No report. Scott said he was aware that there was a Diamond State Port Corporation Board Meeting but that no plan had been put forward by the developer yet.
- Energy and Community Development Grant – Still no word on award.

Correspondence:

- Via USMail – Thank you note for donation to Food Bank of DE
- Via email – Two inquiries this past week regarding zoning prohibition of marijuana dispensary.

New Business:

- Trash Contract – Commissioners reviewed a contract extension of the same terms with Casella Waste, our current contractor for trash, recycling and yardwaste. Scott made a motion, Andrew seconded and all approved. Brandon signed the contract.
- BHFC Quarter Auction – Brandon made a motion to approve a \$250 donation of five \$50 gift cards to BHFC Auxiliary Quarter Auction, Logan seconded, and all approved.
- Holiday Gathering – Discussion of plans. Brandon made a motion to approve \$3,000 for the Holiday Gathering on Friday, December 6, 5 pm, Logan seconded, and all were in favor.
- Snow Plowing Contract – Consideration of approving the contract for snow plowing with Jos. Finocchiaro and Brothers for up to \$30,000. Scott made a motion to approve, seconded by Andrew, and approved by all. Brandon signed the contracts.

Payment of the Bills: Scott read the following bills for payment

Payee	Description	Amount
Delmarva Power	Streetlights	\$1,528.01
Delmarva Power	Town Hall	\$153.47
Delmarva Power	Town Hall Annex gas	\$62.30
Casella	Monthly trash/recycling – August	\$12,006.42
Parkowski, Guerke, et al	August legal services, Inv 62	\$368.00
Pennyhill Landscaping	August contract payment	\$885.49
Veolia	Water service – September bill overdue	Up to \$40.00
Comcast	Phone & Internet – Oct	No bill-Up to \$270.00
News Journal	Public Notice – Due 10/20	\$64.50
US Treasury	Quarterly payment (Will and Ross)	\$107.10
Will Merlo	Planting 1000 tulip bulbs	\$500.00
Will Merlo	Picnic – Purchase and planting of 15 mums	\$500.00
Scott MacKenzie Reimb	Facebook promotion – Apple	\$28.57
Scott MacKenzie Reimb.	September meeting food	\$55.00
Scott MacKenzie Reimb	Picnic - BJs	\$628.47
Scott MacKenzie Reimb.	Picnic – Big Lots	\$25.05
Scott MacKenzie Reimb.	+ Picnic – Dollar Tree (\$17.50 + 7.50)	\$25.00
Curt Nass Reimb.	Picnic – Bellevue Diner, Pecos, + postage	\$329.60
Dave Brenner Reimb	Picmic – ACME	\$22.94
Gretchen Reeder	Picnic – Music Diamond Swing	(PAID) \$325.00
Jamie Parker	Picnic – Music	(PAID) \$325.00

Andrew motioned to pay bills as red, seconded by Andrew, approved by all.

Announcements/Adjournment – Planning Commission meeting will be held on 11/4, 7 pm, and the ZRB will meet on any Monday at 7 pm for which they have an application. The next Town Meeting, will be held on November 11, 7 pm. The Holiday Gathering is scheduled for Friday, December 6 at 5 pm.

Meeting adjourned without objection at 8:29 pm

Submitted by: _____ Approved: _____ 11-11-24 _____

Scott MacKenzie

10-14-24

Town of Bellefonte Monthly Treasurers Report September 2024

	Town Account (774)	MSAF Account (782)	Property Transfer Account (445)	TD Bank CD	Total of Town Accounts	Sept 2023
Balance 09/01/2024	<u>\$202,262.49</u>	<u>\$1,893.04</u>	<u>\$27,108.83</u>	<u>\$84,679.82</u> <small>4.33%</small>	<u>\$315,944.18</u>	<u>\$372,655.90</u>
Receipts						
Property Transfer Tax			\$14,848.50		\$14,848.50	
Town Taxes	\$90,713.36				\$90,713.36	
MSAF Grant	\$9,699.19				\$9,699.19	
Bootique Insurance Reimbursement	\$400.00				\$400.00	
Total Receipts	<u>\$100,812.55</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$14,848.50</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$115,661.05</u>	<u>\$88,505.47</u>
Disbursements						
GFL - Trash Collection			\$11,991.42		\$11,991.42	
Delmarva - Town Street Lights	\$1,160.77 Online				\$1,160.77	
Delmarva - TH Gas & Electric	\$153.47 Online				\$153.47	
Delmarva - Annex Gas	\$62.30 Online				\$62.30	
Comcast Cable	\$260.52 Online				\$260.52	
Reimburse - S.MacKenzie - TH Equipment/Food	\$281.97				\$281.97	
Reimburse - R.Logan - Website	\$21.99				\$21.99	
Stipend - R.Logan	\$369.40				\$369.40	
Parkowski, Guerke - Legal	\$461.60				\$461.60	
Landscaping	\$885.50				\$885.50	
Community Activities (bands)	\$950.00				\$950.00	
Will Merlo - Maintenance	\$592.35				\$592.35	
Bank Fee	\$65.04				\$65.04	
Total Disbursements	<u>\$5,264.91</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$11,991.42</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$17,256.33</u>	<u>\$28,876.74</u>
Ending Balance 09/30/2024	<u>\$297,810.13</u>	<u>\$1,893.04</u>	<u>\$29,965.91</u>	<u>\$84,679.82</u>	<u>\$414,348.90</u>	<u>\$432,284.63</u>

September Properties: 1000 Elizabeth
1201 Talley
32 Riverside Dr

Curt A. Nass, Treasurer/Tax Collector