



Town Meeting

Saxis Town Hall

Monday, April 1, 2024 @ 7:00pm— Cloudy and Chilly 58'

Council Members Present: Lee Miles, Bryan Shreaves, Denise Chance, Darrell Marshall, and Wayne McCleary

Council Members Absent: Donna Croushore

Mayor Denise Drewer- Present

Town Clerk Mariann Miller-Present

Town residents present: Ellie Payne, Deborah Hohman, Tammy Miles, Patti McCleary, Melaine Bailey, Brad Taylor, Beverly Hart, Katie Stitley, Bella Morrison, Andy, Holly and Drew Linton, Rich Mullins, Donny Porter and Kasi Chance.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Denise Drewer.

Mariann Miller-clerk opened with the Lord's Prayer.

The March 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed. Wayne motioned to accept the minutes as written, and Darrell seconded the motion. Minutes accepted. Unanimously passed.

General Business

Mayor spoke that she was absent last meeting and said she wanted to review the items that the council discussed in her absence.

The Electrolysis situation- Donny asked if A&N had been contacted and if they came to look at the problem at the Harbor. Mayor stated that yes, they had been contacted and they did come and review the situation. They found a ground wire that was broken, and it has been fixed. Mayor asked if the situation had changed with the waterman that has the chargers on 24-7? Donny said he would have to check but he thinks it is still the same. He stated that he only got 11 months out of a wheel that cost him over \$9,000. If it continues, no boats will be in the harbor because they cannot afford to keep replacing parts. Donny said he will talk to John Shertenlieb and see if Eddie Landon and Phillip Williams still have their batteries charging 24-7 and if so, this must change. Mayor said we could change the Rules and Regulations to no overnight charging or take battery out. Donny and Melaine said you just cannot do that because when I get on the boat, I am not going to be hooking everything up because I am ready to go.

He said, Eddie Landon drives a truck in the summer, but his boat is still in the stall. Phillips boat is still the same. Donny said think about this, put new meters in so they will have to pay for the electricity, and they will not abuse it or put conduit in and do it that way.

Melanie Bailey asked how much money do we have in the Harbor Account? Mayor Drewer stated around \$25,000. Donnie and Brad addressed the hoist area that needs some work done.



Mayor stated that we set our sights on which is more important-Rock issue at the Jetty, or we get pricing on the electric and hoist repair. Donnie wants conduit and that issue is easier to fix.

They discussed where the breaker boxes are at the Harbor and the water pump. Mayor Drewer asked Brad Taylor to get the electric man he knows to call her so they can discuss. Donnie also asked the mayor where they are supposed to park their boats for repair? Mayor stated that there is a sign, and it is on the left side before you get to the bathhouse. He also asked about the fill dirt & gravel. Mayor told him that we do that every year and they will do it this year as well.

Bryan Shreaves asked about **Mosquito control**. Denise Chance stated that Cory would still be coming over to stray when he is available to. He has attended the workshop, and that certification is good for two years. Mayor asked Bryan to talk to Tall Pines about how they manage and who their person is that does it. Mayor stated that the spray is \$387.00 per case for the Bio Mist but the Duet (Mosquitos and Flies) is \$1260.00 per case. Donnie Porter asked if they spray tell them to stay out of his lane where the crab shed is located. Bryan asked when they are going to burn the marsh as that usually cuts down on the mosquitoes. He will contact VDOT to see when that is on their agenda. Katie Stitely suggested getting black boxes to control the mosquitos. Denise Chance said yes, she saw them when she was in Boston and the people say it makes a significant difference.

Food Truck situation- Denise said Parksley got in the situation they were in because they did not have any rules & regulations and I know they are out money hiring a lawyer from across the bay. We also need the rules and regulations for the **short-term rentals**. We have no younger people moving into the town-all volunteers for Fire Department are older. Who is going to replace them when they get older? Who is going to be running the town? Mayor stated that the main problem she sees is the out-of-state owners of the STR who are not here to manage their properties and if there are problems, they are not around to fix them. I personally have not had any issues as I only rent through Air B&B and use a four people maximum. Denise Chance said we have 165 homes on Saxis and eleven of them are Air B&B's and eight more that may become one. We have had random incidents and need regulations on them. A cap on the number the town can have. Brad says it is crazy how many we have in Saxis. Melaine stated that we want to keep the town as it is now, so our kids and grandchildren can continue to live the life like we always did as kids. Where Bryan and Kinsley and all the kids can ride their bikes freely all over the Island and play, without worrying if something is going to happen to them. Melanie read a letter from Julie Shreaves saying we need to keep the town like it is now and let the children run free around the island.

Bryan read some of the things they are thinking about putting in the STR ordinance.

Lee Miles made a motion to have a special meeting Thursday, April 4,2024 @6:00 pm to discuss an ordinance for the STR's in the Town of Saxis. Bryan Shreaves seconded the motion. Unanimously passed.

Bryan said if anyone wants to get their say in on the decision regarding the STR ordinance but cannot attend the meeting, please get with him prior to Thursday.



Open Floor

Melanie asked if the 5% Food & Beverage tax could go up for review again. These businesses can hardly afford to stay open and if we could change to 3% that would help them. Mayor stated the tax is applied to the customer's bill not the restaurants. Bryan stated the same concern.

Has the date been set for the Oyster Roast yet? Find out when Chincoteague's is. Chincoteague's is October 12th. So, we will set our tentative date for the 2024 Oyster Roast as October 19th.

Denise Chance added that we now have all the meeting minutes and agendas on the website.

Closed Floor

Lee motioned to pay the bills.

Darrell 2nd the motion

Unanimously passed.

Wayne motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Denise 2nd the motion.

Unanimously passed.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

**Mariann Miller
Saxis Town Clerk**