

# TOWN OF RISING SUN

## BOARD OF TOWN COMMISSIONERS

**MAYOR**  
Judith M. Cox

**COMMISSIONERS**  
Mary M. Bedsworth  
Clinton E. Bowers  
Deborah Craig  
Thomas Mumey

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**  
Jeffery A. Williams

**CLERK-TREASURER**  
Sandra D. Didra

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January 24, 2006

Present: Judy Cox, Clint Bowers, Mary Bedsworth, Debbie Craig, Tom Mumey

Town Planner: Alex Smith

Guests: See Attached List

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners of Rising Sun was held on January 24, 2006 at the Town Hall with all members in attendance.. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by Mayor Cox followed by the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence. Mayor Cox introduced the newly hired Town Planner, Alex Smith to those in attendance.

The minutes of the December 13, 2005 and January 10, 2006 meetings were presented. Mrs. Craig requested that the minutes of the January 10, 2006 meeting be changed to reflect that Mr. Craig was opposed to the annexation because of the pending Comprehensive Plan and the moratorium. She also requested that both sets of minutes and the agenda be changed where they refer to the "History Group", she requested that it read "the Rising Sun Historical Preservation Commission. A motion was made by Mr. Bowers to approve both sets of minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mumey and carried.

Mayor Cox passed out a paper concerning the placement of "Citizen's Input" on the agenda. She asked everyone in attendance to read the information on the sheet. A copy of that sheet is attached and made a part of these minutes. Mayor Cox then asked for a show of hands as to who wanted the "Citizen's Input" at the beginning of the meeting. No persons raised their hand. Mayor Cox then asked for a show of hands as to who wanted the "Citizen's Input" at the end of the meeting. 15 persons raised their hands. Mr. Bowers stated that if this is what everyone wants, then we can move it to the end of the meeting. But it will not be moved back and forth and there will be no public discussion during the business session of the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Bowers to place the Citizen's Input at the end of the agenda. It was seconded by Mrs. Craig and carried.

Jeannine Edwards and Augie Pierson questioned why there was not discussion on the issue. Ms. Edwards asked why there was not an option for before the Commissioner's vote. She was advised that there would be no public discussion during the business session as that was for elected officials.

Mr. Slaybaugh advised that the paper that had been passed out prior to the meeting left no room for discussion. The public voted on putting the Citizen's Input at the end of the meeting and that people need to contact their elected officials prior to the meeting with any questions or objections.

Mr. Earl Miller of the Cecil County Board of Education was in attendance. The Town had been contacted by the Business Information Group (BIG Wireless), with regard to placing 2 antennas on the Town's new water tower and putting a small building to house radio equipment inside the fence at the Tower. Mr. Miller explained the project saying that it was a 3 year project of making wireless connectivity available to the Cecil County Public Library system, the Cecil County Public Schools and Cecil Community College. The project has received State funding and will operate on the SAILOR network, which is statewide. The antennas on Rising Sun's water tower will serve the Rising Sun Library, Rising Sun and Calvert Elementary Schools and Rising Sun Middle School. It is also available to the Town should they desire to hook to it. It is not available to the public.

Mr. Miller is to have a representative from BIG Wireless to contact Ron Thomas concerning technical needs. A motion was made by Mrs. Bedsworth to allow the antennas to be placed on the water tower provided there are no technical problems. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Craig and carried. The County will not be charged a rental fee for the antennas being on the tower.

### REPORTS:

Mayor - Mayor Cox reported that the Town had received 30 resumes for the Town Administrator's position. Only 7 have met the criteria and those will be sent application packets. Once those packets are received, interviews will be scheduled. The secretary advised that the applicants have been requested to have the completed application returned by February 15. Those not

returned by that date, will be thought no longer to be interested in the position. Copies of the qualified applicants will be forwarded to those who wish to be part of the interview process. A list of questions will be formulated to be used during the interviews. Mr. Bowers reviewed the procedure used when interviewing for the Planner.

Streets & Sidewalks - Mr. Mumey advised that there was going to be a walk through on Thursday to go over the punch list with the State and Daisy on the Streetscape work.

He reported that while Louise Court was under contract to be worked on, Mason Runn, his second choice of streets to be repaired, had some real problems. There is some undermining and washing away around some of the storm sewers. He is afraid that the street could collapse in some areas and will be contacting the Town Engineer on these issues.

He advised that he had consulted the Chief of Police concerning the parking issues on Louise Court. The Chief is looking into what we can pursue.

The secretary advised that she had contacted Meadows Construction concerning the potholes at the entrance to R. Brooks Mechanical. Meadows is suppose to fix the problem.

Public Safety - Mrs. Bedsworth advised that the police department was upholding the parking rules and issuing parking tickets. They have made a few drug arrests. No problems with the police department or public safety.

Mr. Bowers advised that there was one vehicle that had not been moved at the Pogue garage for the demolition. If it is still there tomorrow, it will be towed at the owner's expenses as a notice had been placed on the windshield advising of the demolition. The Chief is to keep trying to locate the owner.

Mrs. Bedsworth advised that she is still working on the retirement plan, but has had little time to do so. Mr. Bowers suggested she get the information to Sandi to get the data together for the Town employees. There is a need to move forward with the plan.

Parks & Recreation - Mrs. Craig advised that she had been in contact with the AmeriCorp representatives. The volunteers who were coming in early February will be coming in April to work on the creek bed. Clint advised that we could do nothing with the Keppel's Mill Pond until we hear more from the State. The cost to the Town for the AmeriCorp volunteers will be their meals.

Water & Sewer - Mr. Bowers advised that the Town would remain under the building moratorium for water until the Legion wells were on line and we have found a new water source. He advised that the leak has been found and fixed and the tank is up to 36 feet which is normal. The water from the leak had been finding its way into the sewer lines. Since fixing it we have reduced our inflow by about 30,000 gpd.

With the sliplining of the south interceptor, we have reduced the infiltration by about 30,000 gpd. However, that same water has now found its way to the manholes and we are now getting about 30,000 gpd in inflow. Mr. Bowers plans to use the remaining \$21,000 remaining from the sliplining project to rehab some of the manholes along the south interceptor.

Mr. Bowers addressed the Board and advised that the Town has been in violation of our discharge permit for the last 5 weeks in a row. This has resulted in the Town receiving a draft consent order from MDE. The consent order advises that the Town is subject to major fines if the violations continue without a definite plan for correction.

A motion was made by Mr. Bowers that based on the consent order and the current status of the head works at the lagoon, the Town impose a building moratorium for all new buildings until further notice. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mumey and carried. The secretary asked for clarification of those that were exempt from the moratorium. She was advised only those who had paid hookup fees and were in the building stage would be allowed to continue.

Mrs. Craig inquired who is signing off on building permits. She was advised that Alex Smith was. Mr. Bowers advised that by putting the building of the new headworks on the fast tract, we could reduce our BOD average. The weekly reports will soon be required to be performed daily.

The cost for the new headworks would be \$1,265,000 plus and additional \$80,000 for engineering fees. Mr. Bowers advised that we have enough to pay \$500,000 and finance the remaining through MDE with an interest rate of 1.5 %. Mrs. Craig advised that she was not ready to make a commitment to spend that kind of money and go in debt. She felt she needed more information and did not feel she could make a responsible vote on the issue.. Mr. Bowers advised that he has to call MDE tomorrow with a firm commitment from the Town. He made a motion to spend the \$1,265,000, plus the \$80,000 on the headworks at the lagoon. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mumey and passed by a vote of 3 yeas and 1 nay with Mrs. Craig casting the nay vote. Clint advised that the headworks would be the first phase in the lagoon upgrade.

Diane Ehrhart reported on the RSHPC. She advised that they had 2 new sponsors and were planning a 50,60,& 70 dance in May. They are also planning on being in the Sunfest Parade and having a booth at Sunfest and will sell tshirts. Debbie Craig is doing a painting on a piece of wood from the old depot that they will chance off at the fireman's carnival. They met with Norman Holmes who gave them some artifacts and talk about Phleet Cooper who was once a town police officer and Cooper Street is named after him and Buckley Avenue is named after his wife. They have located some showcases through Carolyn Spenser at the Bainbridge Museum and 3 from Jane Wassmer and 1 from Ed Ellison. They also have 2 yard sticks one from Ritchie Motors and 1 from Mace Supply.

Mr. Bower advised that a gentleman expressed displeasure at the old Pogue garage being torn down. He got a piece of the wood.

Jerry Newman will be doing a slide presentation on 2/8 about the Centennial Celebration.

CITIZEN INPUT –

Augie Pierson advised that the 5-6 days after a storm, there is still water running down his driveway and street. He asked about the Keppel's Dam property. Mr. Bowers advised that a dam safety company must look at it for MDE. The town doesn't want to purchase the property unless we can do with it what we want and we want to take the stream around the pond. Currently there is a tree growing in the middle of the dam. It is a complicated process, they may make us build a new dam with a spillway.

Mr. Pierson also asked if more than \$21,000 could be found to rehab the manholes along the south interceptor. He questioned grant monies. He also advised that the intersection of Rt. 1 and Red Pump Road is slated to get a traffic signals. One of the 3 houses on the left hand side has what appear to be lane markings.

Mr. Pierson expressed concern about the last P & Z meeting. The Board appeared upset because the new plat for Martin's was not the one that they had approved. He advised that the Board of Appeals had allowed public input and there was a compromise made. Whereas he felt that P & Z only listened to the developer. He would like to see better develop plans than are in Rising Hills, Maple Heights and even Summer Hill. If the prevailing attitude is for the developer than all the work on the Comp Plan was wasted.

Mayor Cox advised that the Town Board would be attending the regular P & Z meeting on 2/20/06 and she hopes to have it moved to Foard's.

Mr. Wyant of Louise Court presented a plat plan of Louise Court to Mr. Mumey along with a petition signed by some of the residents there with regard to the parking situation.

Jeannine Edwards applauded Debbie Craig for trying to be responsible and not vote on the sewer issue. She asked why the houses were build if there was a sewer problem. She felt it was an irresponsible decision.

Mr. Barr advised that the deeds for the homes in Valley View Village were different. The deed of the former owner of Mr. Wyant's house had many restrictions whereas his has none. He also addressed the Citizen's Input topic saying that the citizens are in a catch 22 by not being allowed to discuss anything before the voting. He pointed out that not everyone has a computer to check the agenda.

Mayor Cox advised that elected officials have to make decisions on day to day issues. Reports are done at every meeting. On some issues it is not always possible to give advanced notice.

Mr. Slaybaugh questioned when the concerns of the citizens on Main Street would be addressed with regard to damage during Streetscape. Mr. Bowers will try to find out. For damage on the inside of the houses, there is paperwork that must be done. Clint will get with Bob Tucker of SHA. Mr. Majewski asked if his house had been videoed before he moved in. Jim Gibney advised that they had done the restaurant.

It was asked when the new street lights would be on. Mr. Bowers advised that the paperwork is with Delmarva Power and then SHA will get in touch with the Town.

Mr. Cathers questioned the tests on the Legion wells by SRBC. The 24 hour tests have been done. Other wells in the area are being monitored including Mr. Ehrhart's.

With no additional business coming before the Board, a motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Mumey, seconded by Mrs. Craig and carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM

Respectfully submitted

Sandra D. Didra  
Secretary