A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sussex County Council was held on Tuesday, May 7, 2013, at 10:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers, Sussex County Administrative Office Building, Georgetown, Delaware, with the following present:

- Michael H. Vincent, President
- Samuel R. Wilson, Jr., Vice President
- George B. Cole, Councilman
- Joan R. Deaver, Councilwoman
- Vance Phillips, Councilman
- Todd F. Lawson, County Administrator
- Gina A. Jennings, Finance Director
- Everett Moore, County Attorney

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Mr. Vincent.

Call to Order

Mr. Vincent called the meeting to order.

M 229 13

A Motion was made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to amend the Agenda by deleting “Executive Session” and “Possible Action on Executive Session Items”; and to approve the Agenda, as amended.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea

Mrs. Deaver shared that the Selbyville Public Library is having a dedication of its Selbyville Oral History Collection, May 19, 2013, honoring the families and descendants of those who participated in recording their personal histories.

Mrs. Deaver shared a book she received called “Homeowners Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards” which is published by the Delaware Sea Grant College Program.

Mr. Cole shared a thank you letter from the Henlopen Senior Center for the funds requested for building repairs.

Mrs. Deaver shared that the Selbyville Public Library is having a dedication of its Selbyville Oral History Collection, May 19, 2013, honoring the families and descendants of those who participated in recording their personal histories.

Correspondence

Mrs. Deaver shared a book she received called “Homeowners Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards” which is published by the Delaware Sea Grant College Program.

Presentation of Memorial Poppies

Cindy Phillips was in attendance on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary Post #28 to present poppies to the Council. Mrs. Phillips shared that since World War I the Memorial Poppy has come to symbolize the lives that have been given in service to this Country. From a poem to a program, the poppy that is handmade by veterans, has become the means by which we remember and honor our veterans. The funds that are donated for
poppies assist the hospitalized and disabled veterans in the local area.

In closing, Mrs. Phillips shared the poem “In Flanders Field”.

Sally Beaumont, member of the Advisory Committee on Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities for Sussex County, presented an update on the “Sussex County Live Conference”.

Ms. Beaumont introduced, Scott Phillips (Mr. Phillips’ District), Fran Smith (Mr. Wilson’s District), Jamie Magee & Penny Orndorff (Mr. Cole’s District) and Larry Savage (Mrs. Deaver’s District) and shared that the Committee has had a renewal of energy not only with the new members but with the interest of over 40 new agencies that have been attending their meetings and want to be involved.

The Committee is in the planning stages of holding their first conference – Sussex County Council Live Conference: Live Healthy...Live Active...Live at Home and would like the help and participation of the Council.

This conference will be held on October 9, 2013, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., at the CHEER Center in Georgetown and the fee to attend the conference is $5.00 per person. Bill Love, Executive Director for the Division on Aging and Persons with Disabilities, will be the keynote speaker sharing about the political act and what affect the new health care delivery will have on individuals as of January 1, 2014.

Scott Phillips shared the results of the survey, “Interest in a Coalition”, conducted by the Advisory Committee on Aging & Adults with Physical Disabilities for Sussex County. The results of this survey can be found in the March 19, 2013 minutes for the Advisory Committee on Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities on the Sussex County website.

Susan Love, Planner IV, Delaware Coastal Programs presented an update from the Sea Level Rise Committee, “Preparing for Tomorrow’s High Tide: Status of Delaware’s Sea Level Rise Adaption Plan”.

The Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee is to assess Delaware’s vulnerability to current and future inundation problems that may be exacerbated by sea level rise and to develop a set of recommendations for state agencies, local governments, businesses and citizens to enable them to adapt programs, policies, business practices and make informed decisions. In the update provided Ms. Love shared the following information.

Impact from sea level rise (SLR)

- Short-term
  - Increased extent of flooding and damage during storms
  - Reduced drainage capacity in tidal areas
Sea Level Rise Presentation (continued)

- Infrastructure damage

- Longer-term
  - Conversion of land to open water
  - Reduced operability septic systems, wells and wastewater infrastructure
  - Saltwater intrusion/Water table

- Economic, Social, Environmental Impacts statewide

Vulnerability Assessment: Results

- Potentially Inundated
  - 8-11% Total Land Area
    - Tax Assessed value $1.5 B
  - Direct effects in all counties and 31 towns

- Of highest concern statewide:
  - Industrial Areas and Port
  - Railroads, roads and evacuation
  - Dams and Dikes
  - Future development areas
  - Tourism/coastal recreation
  - Habitats and protected lands
  - Wells

A Range of Adaptation Responses

- Avoid
- Retreat
- Accommodate
- Protect

A Sea Level Rise Adaption Plan for Delaware

- Will inform, not dictate, local responses
  - Explains types of adaptation responses
  - Guiding Principles
  - Case Studies
  - Resources and Assistance

- Will recommend actions to increase “Adaptive Capacity” in Delaware

Recommended Actions fall under one of these 7 categories

- Improve Coordination and Communication
- Provide Increased Regulatory Flexibility
Sea Level Rise Presentation (continued)

- Provide Consistent Policies for Future Growth
- Increase Public Awareness
- Improve Sea Level Rise Data
- Provide Technical Assistance
- Expand Funding Opportunities

Highlights: Improve Data Sets

- Model stormwater, storm surge and SLR together
- Develop groundwater and saltwater intrusion models
- Install more tide and stream gauges
- Improve monitoring of SLR conditions and improve predictions for timing
- Monitor wetlands

Highlights: Technical Assistance and Coordination Actions

- Incorporate SLR into regional planning efforts
- Improve permitting process between different levels of government
- Technical assistance to agencies, counties and municipal governments
- Best management practices manual

Highlights: Regulatory Flexibility

- Incorporation of SLR into existing regs
  - Septic & Wells
  - Coastal Zone Act
  - Tidal wetlands
- Executive Order for state agencies
- Regulatory incentives
- Expand community septic system to individual homes
- Early permitting for infrastructure

Highlights: Consistent Policies and Outreach Actions

- Incorporate SLR into
  - Strategies for State Policies
  - Comp Plans
  - Long Range Transportation Plans
- Conduct legal reviews
- Develop comprehensive outreach strategy
- Improve ability of home purchasers to investigate potential SLR issues
  - No real estate disclosure
There was discussion among the Council regarding the recommendations that were presented in the Sea Level Rise update and the impact it would have on the citizens of Sussex County.

The Council presented a Proclamation entitled “COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH” to Bernice Edwards who was in attendance representing the First State Community Action Agency.

Mrs. Edwards thanked the Council for their continued support over the years.

Mr. Lawson presented the following information in his Administrator’s Report:

1. **9-1-1 Awareness Day – May 9, 2013**

   On Thursday, May 9, 2013 Sussex County will host its annual 9-1-1 Awareness Day at the Emergency Operations Center located at 21911 Rudder Lane, next to the Georgetown Airport. The event will run from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and is open to the public. Displays and activities will include K9 demos, police cars and other police divisions, Millsboro Fire Company Safety House, Bridgeville Fire Company Safety House, fire trucks, ambulances, paramedics, County and State Command Centers, Smokey the Bear, Fire Marshal’s Office safety display, Delaware State Fire School, DEMA, DNREC, and 9-1-1 education and tours of the operations area. Information regarding the program is attached. The County would also like to thank Domino’s Pizza, McDonalds, and Edy’s Ice Cream for providing lunch, Blue Hen Trash Service, Clean Delaware Portable Toilets, Food Lion of Millsboro, Wal-Mart of Georgetown and BJ’s for their sponsorship.

2. **County Libraries Closing – Thursday May 9, 2013**

   A final reminder, the County Libraries will close on Thursday, May 9, 2013 to allow staff to attend the annual Delaware Library – Maryland Library Association Conference in Ocean City, Maryland.

   The conference provides library staff the opportunity to receive a multistate perspective and an expanded view of collaboration and partnering in addition to subject-specific learning.

   County libraries will reopen at the regular time on Friday, May 10, 2013.

3. **Recognition of Delaware Wastewater Operator of the Year**

   I would like to congratulate Ann Hobbs, Wastewater Operator IV at
the County’s South Coastal Treatment Plant for receiving the Delaware Wastewater Operator of the Year Award.

The award is given annually to an operator in the State who exemplifies the highest skill and excellence in their profession.

Ann is the fifth Sussex County employee to receive the award. Congratulations to Ann, it is an honor to have her recognized as a leader in her field.

[Attachments to the Administrator’s Report are not attachments to the minutes.]

Mrs. Jennings presented Proposed Resolutions authorizing the change of signatures required on all Sussex County Bank Accounts due to the retirement of Susan M. Webb, Finance Director.

A Motion was made by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to Adopt Resolution No. R 005 13 entitled “AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT FROM FUNDS OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ON DEPOSIT WITH THE SUSSEX COUNTY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION Bearing the signatures of any two of Michael H. Vincent, President; Samuel R. Wilson, Vice President; or Gina A. Jennings, Finance Director; and a signature may be a facsimile provided one live signature is on check or withdrawal”.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea

A Motion was made by Mrs. Deaver, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to Adopt Resolution No. R 006 13 entitled “AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT FROM FUNDS OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ON DEPOSIT WITH M & T BANK BEARING THE FACSIMILE SIGNATURES OF ANY TWO OF MICHAEL H. VINCENT, PRESIDENT; SAMUEL R. WILSON, VICE PRESIDENT; OR GINA A. JENNINGS, FINANCE DIRECTOR; AND A SIGNATURE MAY BE A FACSIMILE PROVIDED ONE LIVE SIGNATURE IS ON CHECK OR WITHDRAWAL IS LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO $5,000 AND BEARING THE SIGNATURES OF ANY TWO OF MICHAEL H. VINCENT, PRESIDENT; SAMUEL R. WILSON, VICE PRESIDENT; OR GINA A. JENNINGS, FINANCE DIRECTOR; AND A SIGNATURE MAY BE A FACSIMILE PROVIDED ONE LIVE SIGNATURE IS ON CHECK OR WITHDRAWAL GREATER THAN $5,000”.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.
A Motion was made by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Deaver, to Adopt Resolution No. R 007 13 entitled “AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT FROM FUNDS OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ON DEPOSIT WITH M & T BANK BEARING THE FACSIMILE SIGNATURES OF ANY TWO OF MICHAEL H. VINCENT, PRESIDENT; SAMUEL R. WILSON, VICE PRESIDENT; OR GINA A. JENNINGS, FINANCE DIRECTOR”.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea

A Motion was made by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to Adopt Resolution No. R 008 13 entitled “AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT FROM FUNDS OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ON DEPOSIT WITH M & T BANK BEARING THE SIGNATURES OF ANY TWO OF MICHAEL H. VINCENT, PRESIDENT; SAMUEL R. WILSON, VICE PRESIDENT; OR GINA A. JENNINGS, FINANCE DIRECTOR; AND A SIGNATURE MAY BE A FACSIMILE PROVIDED ONE LIVE SIGNATURE IS ON CHECK OR WITHDRAWAL”.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea

A Motion was made by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Deaver, to Adopt Resolution No. R 009 13 entitled “AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT FROM FUNDS OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ON DEPOSIT WITH THE WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB BEARING THE SIGNATURES OF ANY TWO OF MICHAEL H. VINCENT, PRESIDENT; SAMUEL R. WILSON, VICE PRESIDENT; OR GINA A. JENNINGS, FINANCE DIRECTOR; AND A SIGNATURE MAY BE A FACSIMILE PROVIDED ONE LIVE SIGNATURE IS ON CHECK OR WITHDRAWAL”.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea
Hal Godwin, Deputy County Administrator, presented a Wastewater Agreement for the Council’s consideration.

A Motion was made by Mrs. Deaver, seconded by Mr. Phillips, based upon the recommendation of the Sussex County Engineering Department, for Sussex County Project No. 81-04, Agreement No. 446-3, that the Sussex County Council execute a Construction Administration and Construction Inspection Agreement between Sussex County Council and “Sweetbriar, LLC”, for wastewater facilities to be constructed in “Hopkins – Pettyjohn Subdivision (AKA Red Mill Pond North) – Phase 2”, located in the West Rehoboth Expansion of the Dewey Beach Sanitary Sewer District.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea

Hal Godwin, Deputy County Administrator, presented the following legislative update:

**House Bill No. 27** – “AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 30 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO STATE TAXES”.

Mr. Godwin stated that Representative Short has requested this Bill be moved to the Agenda of the House of Representatives in the next few weeks.

**House Bill No. 44** – “AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 25 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO PROPERTY.”

Mr. Godwin shared that this Bill was initiated based on a Selbyville resident who was informed by his Landlord that he was not allowed to attach a bracket to the front of his home. The Landlord was not denying him the right to display the flag but to install the bracket that held the flag.

This Bill has some support and it is in the Senate but is not on the Senate’s Community County Affairs Committee hearing list at this time.

**Un-numbered House Bill** – This Act is the first leg of a constitutional amendment that will remove the offices of Clerk of the Peace from the State Constitution and remove the requirement to elect the Clerks of the Peace.

Mr. Godwin stated that the Bill has not been introduced and would effectively dissolve the Clerk of the Peace in the three Counties.

Mr. Godwin has been in communication with Representative Hudson, the primary sponsor, and asked her if this Bill had any connection to the Gay Marriage Bill. Representative Hudson assured Mr. Godwin that it does not.
Representative Atkins has stated that he would probably be striking this Bill from the record in the near future and may introduce other legislation once he can more clearly define what issues need to be addressed.

Un-numbered Senate Bill – This Bill allows Delaware residents 65 years of age and older to qualify for the “Senior School Property Tax Credit Program” upon entering into a payment plan for taxes due.

Mr. Godwin stated that this Bill has not been initiated.

Un-numbered Senate Bill – This Bill provides for a property tax exemption for the dwelling of military veterans who are disabled and for their spouses, if the veteran is deceased.

Mr. Godwin stated that this Bill has not been initiated.

House Bill No. 74 – “AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 31 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE”.

Mr. Godwin shared that he has spoken with a number of individuals that work Legislative Hall in a lobby fashion and none of them seem to offer this Bill much chance to move through the system in a positive fashion. This initiative has been introduced before with no success.

House Bill No. 95 – “AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 7 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL LIENS”.

Mr. Godwin shared that this Bill was introduced on April 25, 2013 and would allow the Secretary of DNREC to apply a lien against private property to pay for remediation that the State may have to finance on a property that is polluted. This initiative has come from the 2003 Metachem Task Force that was chaired by the Honorable William T. Quillen who was a former judge in Delaware.

The Metachem site has become a Federal Super Fund Site that is located near the Delaware City Refinery and was used for many years by two different chemical companies. Through bankruptcy the owners of this site were able to avoid responsibility, thus the State and Federal government had to move in to remediate the problems of pollution. This Bill was initiated from these concerns.

Mr. Godwin stated that this Bill would change the following:

- Allows an Environmental Lien to be put in place with just a 21
Legislative Update (continued)

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day notice to the property owner by the Secretary of DNREC instead of having to go through the courts. Usually a lien against a property happens through a judgment and the judgments can only be issued through a court order.

- Would take priority in front of any other liens against the property (banks, etc.).

- Would make it impossible to have these liens discharged through a bankruptcy action (they don’t want a large corporate polluter to be able to pollute a piece of property, file bankruptcy and walk away from the responsibilities).

- It also allows an extension of the lien to other properties owned by the same individuals/entity given they have received approval from the Court of Chancery which would be petitioned by DNREC.

This Bill provides for a number of things that Delaware has not been empowered to do; other states located around Delaware and the Federal government have this authority. The Bill was introduced on April 24, 2013, released from Committee on May 1, 2013 and it is on the House agenda for this date.

Mr. Phillips stated that he has very strong concerns about this Bill and would like to request that the Council as a body request that the General Assembly and the House to defer taking action on House Bill No. 95 until the County legal department has had an opportunity to review and see what effect it may have on not just the County but citizens and stake holders.

A Motion was made by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Vincent, requesting the General Assembly and the House to defer taking action on House Bill No. 95 until the County’s legal department has had an opportunity to review it and see what effect it may have on not just the County but citizens and stake holders as well.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea

Mr. Godwin shared that HB No. 95 is on the Agenda on this date and he would send a request via email asking for the Bill to be tabled at this time. If the Bill cannot be tabled, Mr. Godwin will try to intercept it in the Senate.

Mr. Cole introduced the Proposed Ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 52, § 52-1 OF THE CODE OF SUSSEX COUNTY TO ADOPT THE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS IN THE
INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE 2012 EDITION AND THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE 2012 EDITION, WITH EXCEPTIONS”.

[The Proposed Ordinance will be advertised for Public Hearing]

John Ashman, Director of Utility Planning, presented Change Order No. 1 for the Long Neck EMS Station 106. Mr. Ashman reported that the Change Order is a request to extend the project completion time by 24 calendar days to assist in weather related days lost in January and February as well as $840.00 to upgrade the firewall between the garage and the residence from a 1 hour to a 2 hour fire wall.

A Motion was made by Mrs. Deaver, seconded by Mr. Phillips, based upon the recommendation of the Sussex County Engineering Department, that Change Order No. 1 be approved for Sussex County Project No. 12-19, EMS #106 Long Neck Station, to extend the project completion time by 24 calendar days due to weather related delays, extra work and materials to upgrade the firewall from 1 hour to 2 hour at a cost of $840.00, thereby increasing the contract amount from $478,950.00 to $479,790.00.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea

Mrs. Jennings presented grant requests for the Council’s consideration.

A Motion was made by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to give $1,000.00 from Mr. Phillips’ Councilmanic Grant Account to the Gumboro Community Center for operating expenses.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea

A Motion was made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to give $7,500.00 from Mr. Wilson’s Councilmanic Grant Account to the Historic Georgetown Association for Old Firehouse and Train Station restoration expenses.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea
A Motion was made by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to give $800.00 ($200.00 each from Mr. Cole’s, Mr. Wilson’s, Mr. Phillips’ and Mr. Vincent’s Councilmanic Grant Account) to Delaware Technical & Community College for Kids on Campus scholarship funding.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea

(Mr. Phillips requested that Council discuss options to enhance the Paramedic Program currently held at Delaware Technical and Community College.)

A Motion was made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Cole, to give $1,000.00 from Mr. Vincent’s Councilmanic Grant Account to Nanticoke Young Life for Team Xtreme program expenses.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea

Under Additional Business, Dan Kramer commented on the Sea Level Rise presentation and stated that water tables vary year to year.

Mr. Lawson recommended canceling the May 14, 2013 Council meeting due to the lack of activity to be placed on the Agenda to be brought before Council.

A Motion was made by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to cancel the May 14, 2013 Council meeting for lack of Agenda items to bring before Council.

Motion Adopted: 3 Yeas, 2 Nays.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Nay; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Phillips, Nay; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea

(Mr. Lawson shared that the County is currently in discussions with the leadership at Delaware Technical and Community College to try to expand the Paramedic Program which will ultimately come down to funding. There was a short discussion among Council members.)

A Motion was made by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to adjourn at 11:50 a.m.
M 243 13
(continued)

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea

Respectively submitted,

Kelly A. Collins
Administrative Secretary