



# SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

## MINUTES

**SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL - GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE, AUGUST 14, 2012**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sussex County Council was held on Tuesday, August 14, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers, Sussex County Administrative Office Building, Georgetown, Delaware, with the following present:

<b>Michael H. Vincent</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Samuel R. Wilson, Jr.</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>George B. Cole</b>	<b>Councilman</b>
<b>Joan R. Deaver</b>	<b>Councilwoman</b>
<b>Vance Phillips</b>	<b>Councilman</b>
<b>Todd F. Lawson</b>	<b>County Administrator</b>
<b>Susan M. Webb</b>	<b>Finance Director</b>
<b>Everett Moore</b>	<b>County Attorney</b>

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

**Call to  
Order**

Mr. Vincent called the meeting to order.

**M 428 12  
Amend  
and  
Approve  
Agenda**

A Motion was made by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to amend the Agenda by deleting "Executive Session - Job Applicants' Qualifications, Personnel, Pending/Potential Litigation, and Land Acquisition" 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**

**Minutes**

The minutes of August 7, 2012 were approved by consent.

**Corre-  
spondence**

Mr. Moore read the following correspondence:

**VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION OF REHOBOTH BEACH,  
DELAWARE.**

**RE: Letter in appreciation of donation.**

**ETHEL TRIPP, DAGSBORO, DELAWARE.**

**RE: Letter in appreciation of the repairs made to her home.**

**First State Community Action**      **The County Council presented a check in the amount of \$25,000 to First State Community Action Agency. Mr. Lawson advised that the \$25,000 in funding represents the second in four contributions the County will make to First State Community Action Agency for its new building. Bernice Edwards, Executive Director, thanked the Council for its continued support. First State Community Action Agency, which was founded in 1966, works with individuals to improve their lives, focusing on overcoming the challenges of homelessness, substandard housing conditions, unemployment and hunger.**

**First State Community Action Agency (continued)**

**Delaware Bike Summit**      **Jim Westhoff, spokesperson for the Delaware Bike Summit and Community Relations Officer for DelDOT, announced that the Summit will be held on September 7, 2012 at Dover Downs Hotel & Casino. The goal of the annual summits (this will be the fourth year) is to make Delaware more bicycle friendly. He noted that the events have been a success; Delaware's bicycle ranking has been raised from 14th to 9th; Delaware is now in the top ten most bike friendly states in the country.**

**Mrs. Deaver commented on the lack of shoulders on Beaver Dam Road.**

**Mr. Cole suggested that some roads should be designated as too dangerous for bike traffic and that perhaps there should be signs putting people on notice that a road is dangerous.**

**Nanticoke Dredge Project**      **Mr. Lawson updated the Council on the Nanticoke Dredge Project. In February 2012, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced its approval for \$1.8 million in funding for the dredging of the Nanticoke River. The maintenance dredging will be performed on a stretch of the Nanticoke River extending from the Maryland-Delaware line eastward to the drawbridge at Seaford – Blades and will restore the main channel depth of 12 feet, ensuring safe passage for barges that now have to limit their loads to traverse the waterway. Mr. Lawson noted that, while this is an Army Corps project, the County was responsible for acquiring a suitable site for the dredge materials. In May 2010, the County purchased a 41 acre site near Woodland, west of Seaford.**

**The Army Corps held a Public Workshop in Seaford on July 17, 2012 to give the public an opportunity to review the specifics of the project and ask questions of the Army Corps officials. In an effort to assist the public's understanding of the project and to give citizens a single source of information, the County has created a special website containing all the documentation (that the County has) to date involving the dredging project. The website will continue to be updated as the County receives additional information from the stakeholders, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Any citizen who wishes to ask a question about the project or join the County's mailing list can do so by accessing the website; citizens can access the site via the County's website or by logging onto [www.sussexcountyde.gov/projects](http://www.sussexcountyde.gov/projects).**

**Adminis-**

trator's Report	<b>Mr. Lawson read the following information in his County Administrator's Report:</b>
Adminis- trator's (continued)	<p>1.     <u><b>Airport Runway Groundbreaking</b></u></p> <p>Sussex County will host a groundbreaking ceremony for the runway extension project at the Sussex County Airport at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 17. The groundbreaking marks the beginning of a \$4.4 million construction project that will add 500 feet to the airport's main 5,000-foot-long runway. The event will be held at the end of Runway 4-22 at the airport just east of Georgetown. Several officials from the County, State, and Federal levels of government, as well as local business representatives, will be on hand as we break ground on this important project to improve safety and boost our local economy. Construction is expected to begin later this month and continue throughout 2013. The media are invited to attend.</p>
Certificate of Achieve- ment for Excellence in Financial Reporting	<p>Mrs. Webb announced that for the tenth consecutive year, Sussex County has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR) from the Government Finance Officers Association. This CAFR award recognizes the extra effort and quality of the annual financial report for the year ended June 30, 2011. Applying for this award requires additional work to be done to provide statistical information about Sussex County that is not normally required in annual reports. Mrs. Webb stated that this award is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.</p> <p>Mrs. Webb thanked Gina Jennings, Kathy Roth, Keith Moore, Louise Thompson, Jeffrey James, and everyone in the Accounting and Finance departments who helped prepare this report.</p>
Housing Rehab Program	<p>Brad Whaley, Brandy Bennett, and Mike Jones of the Community Development and Housing Department presented a Department update. Mr. Whaley reported that they are in the process of completing the Fiscal Year 2011 Housing Rehabilitation Program and he highlighted how the funding has been used. In 2011, the County received a total of \$1,113,000 in funding: \$833,000 in CDBG funding, \$200,000 in HOME funding, \$60,000 in County Council grants, and \$20,000 in HPG funding. Areas targeted in FY 2011 were: Town of Delmar, Town of Ellendale, Town of Laurel, Town of Seaford, Town of Milford, Rural Ellendale, Lincoln/GreenTop, Rural Dagsboro/Millsboro, and scattered sites. With these rehab funds, the Department was able to assist 143 Sussex County households (270 residents). Examples of work include: windows, doors, handicap ramps, insulation, siding, roof, and wells. Mr. Whaley reported that approximately 70 percent of the work is performed by people in the moderate income range.</p> <p>Mr. Whaley reported on the status of funding for Fiscal Year 2012:</p>

**Housing  
Rehab  
Program  
(continued)**

**\$997,790 in CDBG and HOME funding and \$70,000 in grant funding from the County Council (a 60% increase over Fiscal Year 2011). The Department is still waiting to hear from the USDA regarding HPG funding (usually \$20,000). Areas to be targeted in Fiscal Year 2012 are: Town of Bridgeville, Town of Milton, Town of Selbyville, Town of Georgetown, Cool Spring, Mount Joy, Coverdale Crossroads and scattered sites.**

**In response to questions, Mr. Whaley responded that a total of approximately 1,000 people are on the waiting list for assistance; over 800 people are on the Countywide waiting list and an approximate total of 200 people are on the lists for various communities.**

**Bernice Edwards, Executive Director of First State Community Action Agency, stated that First State has a weatherization program and that they partner with the County to work on housing rehab projects.**

**Grant  
Requests**

**Mrs. Webb presented grant requests for the Council's consideration.**

**M 429 12  
Council-  
manic  
Grant**

**A Motion was made by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Cole, to give \$500.00 (\$100.00 from each Councilmanic Grant account) to Olde Tymers Softball League for operating costs.**

**Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.**

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

**M 430 12  
Council-  
manic  
Grant**

**A Motion was made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to give \$500.00 (\$250.00 each from Mr. Wilson's and Mr. Vincent's Councilmanic Grant Accounts) to the Sussex Tri-Community Coalition for Youth for the Bridgeville Community Block Party.**

**Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.**

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

**M 431 12  
Council-  
manic  
Grant**

**A Motion was made by Mrs. Deaver, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to give \$500.00 from Mrs. Deaver's Councilmanic Grant Account to the Town of Ellendale for the *Back to School Bash* event.**

**Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.**

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

**M 432 12 Grant**      **A Motion was made by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to give \$500.00 (\$100.00 from each Councilmanic Grant Account) to the Delaware Lady Blue Hens Softball Team for travel tournament expenses.**

**M 432 12 Grant**      **Motion Adopted:      5 Yeas.**

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

**M 433 12 Councilmanic Grant**      **A Motion was made by Mrs. Deaver, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to give \$2,000.00 (\$1,000.00 each from Mrs. Deaver's and Mr. Wilson's Community Grant Accounts) to the Ellendale Volunteer Fire Company for construction of a new substation.**

**Motion Adopted:      5 Yeas.**

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

**Additional Business/Campaign Activities in County Building**      **Under Additional Business, Mrs. Deaver stated that she was informed that a candidate for County Council was campaigning in the County Administration Building and she questioned if this action is permitted.**

**Mr. Moore responded that it has been tradition that candidates have come into the Administration Building to meet employees/people. He stated that prohibiting this activity would be difficult to monitor; additionally, prohibiting it would be a free speech issue. Mr. Moore noted that if this is something the Council wishes to discuss further, it should be placed on a future agenda.**

**M 434 12 Adjourn**      **A Motion was made by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to adjourn at 10:49 a.m.**

**Motion Adopted:      5 Yeas.**

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

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Robin A. Griffith  
Clerk of the Council**