

SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL-GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE-FEBRUARY 6, 1996

Call to
Order

The regular meeting of the Sussex County Council was held Tuesday, February 6, 1996, at 10:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers, Courthouse, Georgetown, Delaware, with the following members present:

Dale R. Dukes	President
George J. Collins	Vice President
Ralph E. Benson	Member
George B. Cole	Member
William D. Stevenson, Sr.	Member

The meeting was opened by repeating the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

M 049 96
Amend
Agenda

A Motion was made by Mr. Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Collins, to amend the Agenda to include "Payment in Lieu of Taxes".

Motion Adopted: 4 Yea; 1 Absent.

Vote by Roll Call: Mr. Cole, Absent; Mr. Stevenson, Yea;
Mr. Benson, Yea; Mr. Collins, Yea;
Mr. Dukes, Yea

M 050 96
Approve
Agenda

A Motion was made by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Benson, to approve the Agenda as amended.

Motion Adopted: 4 Yea; 1 Absent.

Vote by Roll Call: Mr. Cole, Absent; Mr. Stevenson, Yea;
Mr. Benson, Yea; Mr. Collins, Yea;
Mr. Dukes, Yea

Posting
of Agenda

Mr. Stickels, County Administrator, advised Council that the Agenda for this week's meeting was posted on Monday, February 5, 1996 and, as such, was within the guidelines of the Sunshine Law. Due to the recent snowstorm, the Courthouse was closed on Friday, February 2, 1996, which prohibited the Agenda from being advertised in the newspaper. Newspaper advertising of the Agenda is not a requirement of State law.

Corre-
spondence

Mr. Bayard, County Attorney, read the following correspondence:

THE FRIENDS OF THE SOUTH COASTAL LIBRARY, BETHANY BEACH,
DELAWARE
RE: Winter 1995 Newsletter, "Connection".

Corre-
spondence
(Con't.)

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
RE: Notice to solicit comments and recommendations from the public concerning the issuance of a Department of the Army permit for the following:

Applicant: Camanne Limited Partnership & Richard Sharp
Waterway: Atlantic Ocean
Activity: The applicant proposes to construct a 33-lot residential housing development.

ROBERT W. LECKIE, HEAD BASKETBALL COACH OF BISHOP LOUGHLIN MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK
RE: Letter to Mr. Stickels and Mr. Calio thanking them for their contributions to the "Slam Dunk to the Beach Holiday Basketball Tournament".

Minutes
of
1/30/96
Meeting

Mr. Stickels, County Administrator, recommended that approval of the minutes for the January 30, 1996 Council meeting be postponed until next week. A delay in the distribution of the minutes occurred as a result of the recent snowstorm which necessitated the closing of the Courthouse on Friday, February 2, 1996.

Member
Present

At this time, Councilman Cole entered the Council meeting.

Payment
in Lieu
of Taxes/
Town of
Georgetown

Mr. Stickels, County Administrator, introduced the Honorable David Bloodsworth, Mayor of the Town of Georgetown. Council presented Mayor Bloodsworth with a contribution of \$2,000 in lieu of the County paying taxes to the town for properties the County has purchased located within the town limits of Georgetown. Council will decide on a year-to-year basis as to the continuance of this contribution.

911 Call
Procedures

In attendance to discuss "911 Call Procedures" were Betty Collins, Acting Director of Emergency Preparedness; Joseph Thomas, Acting Deputy Chief Dispatcher; Debbie Jones, Emergency Communications Specialist I; and Scott Workman, Emergency Communications Supervisor. Mr. Stickels stated that during the recent snowstorm, February 1 thru February 5, the 911 Center received 197 calls, 33 of which were for heart attacks. Mr. Thomas explained that since March 1995, a procedure known as "Emergency Medical Dispatching" has been instituted at the 911 Center, whereby dispatchers now give prearrival medical instructions in addition to obtaining standard identification information. Mrs. Jones displayed an Advanced Medical Priority Dispatch System card set which is used by County dispatchers. To

911 Call
Procedures
(Con't.)

better understand the time and complexity involved in some 911 calls, Mr. Thomas played a tape recording of an actual call received for a patient in cardiac arrest. Mr. Thomas stated that it was optimal to have 3 dispatchers on duty on each shift, but, this was not always possible due to vacations, illnesses, etc. With the increased time needed for 911 calls requiring medical instruction, it is sometimes difficult for 2 dispatchers to handle the volume of calls. Mr. Thomas stated that, on average, 750 ambulance calls are received each month, increasing to approximately 1,000 per month for the period June thru August. 22,240 incidents were reported to the 911 Center in 1995 for fire, ambulance, County paramedics, and the State police helicopter. Of these 22,240 calls, 9,855 were for an ambulance. Mr. Stickels advised Council that as of February 16, 1996, Mrs. Jones would be assuming the position of Quality Assurance Technician. One full-time Emergency Communications Specialist would be hired to fill the vacancy left by Mrs. Jones when she assumes her new position. Mr. Stickels stated that unless there were objections from Council, it was his recommendation to also hire two part-time dispatchers to enable three dispatchers to be on duty on each shift.

Board
Vacancy

Mr. Stickels, County Administrator, reported to Council that a vacancy exists on the Board of Assessment Review.

M 051 96
Appoint-
ment/
Board of
Assessment
Review

A Motion was made by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Collins, to appoint Lucien Ferguson to the Board of Assessment Review for a term of five years.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yea.

Vote by Roll Call: Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Stevenson, Yea;
Mr. Benson, Yea; Mr. Collins, Yea;
Mr. Dukes, Yea

Ordinance
Relating
to C-2
Zoning

Copies of the Proposed Ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 115 OF THE CODE OF SUSSEX COUNTY, TO AMEND THE PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE C-1 GENERAL COMMERCIAL ZONING DISTRICT AND THE B-1 NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS ZONING DISTRICT, TO ADD A NEW PROVISION CREATING A C-2 SPECIAL COMMERCIAL ZONING DISTRICT, AND TO BRING CHAPTER 115 IN CONFORMITY WITH THESE AMENDMENTS" were distributed to Council. In attendance to review the Proposed Ordinance with Council were Thomas J. Schafer, P.E., Whitman, Requardt and Associates; and Peter Jones, Assistant County Attorney. Mr. Jones and Mr. Stickels recommended that Council review the

(Con't.)

Proposed Ordinance for introduction at next week's Council meeting.

Land Use Workshops

To solicit public comments in the County's update of the Comprehensive Land Plan for Sussex County, Mr. Stickels advised Council that the following workshops have been scheduled:

February 21, 1996 - Del Tech (Jason Theater)

March 7, 1996 - Rehoboth Beach Convention Center

March 20, 1996 - Seaford Municipal Banquet Hall

March 27, 1996 - Del Tech (Higher Learning Center)

(Note: All workshops will be from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.)

County Administrator's Report

Mr. Stickels, County Administrator, discussed the following information in his County Administrator's Report:

1. Snowstorm of February 1, 1996

The Sussex County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated and staffed to manage and coordinate storm responses. On Thursday, February 1, 1996, the County Administrator and the Emergency Operations Center participated in a Statewide weather alert conference call at 11:00 p.m. Snow started falling in Sussex County on Thursday evening. By daybreak, approximately five inches of snow had fallen. The Center activated our call-taker phones starting at 8:00 a.m. on February 2, 1996. Additional staff from the County was brought in, as well as representatives from the Department of Transportation (DelDOT), Delaware State Police, and the Delaware Emergency Management Agency to assist residents and answer questions concerning storm-related problems.

Most of the calls were for road conditions, which were forwarded to DelDOT. Calls pertaining to dialysis patients, which were minimal, were handled with the help of the Department of Transportation, Delaware State Police, DAST, and local fire companies through coordination from the Center.

The Emergency Operations Center was able to pass weather and State agency bulletins on to the towns in Sussex County, as well as the fire service. Conference calls were established on Friday and Saturday to ensure the most recent, accurate information was being distributed. The EOC was in contact with the Delaware National Guard, American Red Cross, Health and Social Services, and the Civil Air Patrol.

County
Adminis-
trator's
Report
(Con't.)

On Friday, February 2, 1996, Governor Thomas R. Carper declared a Limited State of Emergency in Sussex County. The Limited State of Emergency would have allowed us to utilize the National Guard if it was needed.

On Saturday, February 3, 1996, Governor Carper visited the Emergency Operations Center, met with County employees, State Police, and DelDOT representatives, as well as the media. During his visit, he also participated in a conference call with all the fire chiefs in Sussex County at 10:00 a.m. The Limited State of Emergency was lifted on Saturday, February 3, 1996, at 6:00 p.m.

Snow amounts in Sussex County during the three-day snowfall ranged from 16 inches in the coastal areas to as much as 30 inches in western areas. Georgetown received approximately 14 inches from the first snowfall that started on Thursday, February 1, an additional ten inches on Friday, February 2, and, finally, approximately five inches from the snow that started late Saturday and ended at daybreak Sunday, February 4.

On Monday, February 5, temperatures were reported at 0° at 8:00 a.m. at the Georgetown Industrial Park and Airport. Unofficial temperatures registered as low as 5° below in the County. On Tuesday, February 6, temperatures were reported at minus 3° at 7:15 a.m. at the Georgetown Industrial Park and Airport.

Mr. Stickels extended thanks to the State agencies that participated with emergency operations during the storm. A particular thanks goes to the Sussex County volunteer fire service for their assistance. Many volunteer firemen participated in a pooling of four-by-four vehicles to offer their services to either transport essential personnel or to assist individuals in receiving food and fuel. By using the Volunteer Firemen's Association, the State of Delaware saved funding by not having to activate the National Guard. Finally, Mr. Stickels thanked the County employees who, once again, put in long hours this weekend.

2. Consumer Protection Unit of the Attorney General's Office

The Consumer Protection Unit of the Attorney General's Office has reviewed whether the Sussex County Council may charge tenants of mobile home parks capitalization costs and the hookup costs associated with the recent

County
Adminis-
trator's
Report
(Con't.)

West Rehoboth Expansion of the Dewey Beach Sanitary Sewer District.

On Wednesday, January 31, 1996, Mr. Stickels met with representatives from Aspen Meadows, McNicol Place, and Camelot Mobile Home Park. In addition to the tenants, Mr. Stickels also met with the mobile home park owners, Ell-Cap Corporation. The tenants' associations and the landowner questioned the County's legality in these charges.

It is the opinion of the Deputy Attorney General, representing the Consumer Protection Unit in the Attorney General's Office, that State law governing counties and sewer districts allows that annual assessments, including front foot assessments, shall be collected by the county government for sewer and water projects, as are other county taxes. Properties against which such assessments are levied shall be liable for the payment of the assessments in the same manner as they are liable for other county taxes. The opinion states, "Thus, as a property owner subject to other county taxes, the manufactured housing tenant is liable for the front footage assessments now being levied by Sussex County on your property." Mr. Stickels included with his Administrator's report a copy of the Deputy Attorney General's opinion.

Public
Hearing/
Housing
Preserva-
tion
Grant
Preappli-
cation

A Public Hearing was held to give all citizens an opportunity to participate in the development of a preapplication to the United States Department of Agriculture, Farmers Home Administration, for a grant under Section 533 of the Housing Act of 1949, 42 U.S.C. 1490(M), as amended, and known as the Housing Preservation Grant Program (HPG). The primary objective of the (HPG) Program is the development of viable rural communities, including decent housing and a suitable living environment, principally for persons of low and very low income. It is also a primary objective to alleviate or remove health or safety hazards of homes to meet applicable development standards or make needed repairs to improve the general living conditions of the resident(s), including improved accessibility by handicapped persons. The application will be filed for \$75,000. The Statement of Activity was introduced; it is proposed that the (HPG) funds be utilized to improve the substandard conditions of approximately 11 needy households; 9 very low income and two low income. The program funds will be used to underwrite the costs of materials and labor from licensed contractors. Mr. LeCates, Director of Community Development and Housing, distributed

HPG
(Con't.)

copies of the "Sussex County Community Development and Housing (HPG) - (CDBG) Program Eligibility Criteria", including income guidelines. The Public Hearing was closed.

M 052 96
Adopt Reso-
lution No.
R 008 96/
HPG Pre-
application

A Motion was made by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Collins, to Adopt Resolution No. R 008 96 entitled "ENDORING PROJECT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION, FOR FUNDING AND AUTHORIZING ROBERT L. STICKELS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, TO SUBMIT PREAPPLICATION".

Motion Adopted: 5 Yea.

Vote by Roll Call: Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Stevenson, Yea;
Mr. Benson, Yea; Mr. Collins, Yea;
Mr. Dukes, Yea

Road Naming
Project
Update

Dennis Norwood, Project Coordinator for the County's Rural Road Naming and Readdressing Project, was in attendance to update Council on the Project. Mr. Norwood advised Council that the Delaware Department of Transportation will be incorporating the new road names approved by Council on October 24, 1995 into their State road maps. Mr. Norwood has been contacted by National E911 Consulting Services, Inc., the Consultant assisting the County in selecting a 911 mapping and addressing contractor, as to the costs to be incurred for the new aerial photography required in Sussex County. Advertisement for this portion of the project will take place in the next couple of weeks due to the aerial photography having to be completed no later than early April. On February 7, 1996, Mr. Norwood will be meeting with Richard Rutter, Delaware's 911 Administrator, and with the postmasters of Sussex County to discuss the status of the road renaming project and any concerns or questions they may have.

M 053 96
Council-
manic
Grant/
Cape
Henlopen
Band

A Motion was made by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Benson, to give \$800 (\$400 from Mr. Cole's Councilmanic Account and \$400 from Mr. Benson's Councilmanic Account) to the Cape Henlopen Band for their participation in the Orlando Music Festival in Orlando, Florida, on March 28 thru March 31, 1996.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yea.

Vote by Roll Call: Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Stevenson, Yea;
Mr. Benson, Yea; Mr. Collins, Yea;
Mr. Dukes, Yea

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M 054 96
Council-
manic
Grant/
Rehoboth
Art
League

A Motion was made by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Benson, to give \$500 from Mr. Cole's Councilmanic Account to the Rehoboth Art League, Inc. for the League's 23rd Members' Fine Craft Exhibit to be held from June 7 thru July 10, 1996.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yea.

Vote by Roll Call: Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Stevenson, Yea;
Mr. Benson, Yea; Mr. Collins, Yea;
Mr. Dukes, Yea

Two
County
Employees
Featured

Mr. Collins informed Council of two recent articles that featured two County employees, Rexford Powell, District Manager at SCRWF; and Frank Calio, Director of Economic Development and Industrial Park Operations. Mr. Powell was featured in an article contained in the Delmarva Farmer entitled, "Alfalfa receives wastewater treatment plant effluent". Delaware Business Review, in the January 29-February 4, 1996 edition, highlighted Mr. Calio in an article entitled "Small firms drive growth in Sussex".

M 055 96
Adjourn

At 11:58 a.m, a Motion was made by Mr. Benson, seconded by Mr. Stevenson, to adjourn. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Cordrey

Nancy J. Cordrey
Assistant Clerk of the County Council