

**TOWN OF BETTERTON**  
**Mayor & Council Workshop**  
May 28, 2019 @ 7:00 P.M.  
Berterton, MD 21610

The Berterton Council Workshop was called to order by Mayor Sutton at 7:02 p.m

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mayor Sutton, , Councilman Gilcrest, Councilman Marcy, Councilman Pyfer, Town Attorney Yeager, Town Manager Elizabeth Greenwell, and Town Clerk/Treasurer Dlugoborski  
**Absent:** Councilman Fracassi.

**RESIDENTS:** Candi Sorge, Dick Story, and Ginny Story.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Emergency Ordinance 2019-03 Budget for FY 2020**

Mayor Sutton opened the Public Hearing to hear Emergency Ordinance 2019-03 Budget for FY 2020. Mayor Sutton read into record the public hearing announcement. Town Manager Greenwell gave an overview of the budget. Items discussed were increasing the water/sewer rates and special assessment fees. The loan payment for the wastewater treatment plant will begin in April 2020 with quarterly payments to USDA. Bocce court was requested to be purchased. *Councilman Marcy motioned to close the public hearing; Councilman Gilcrest seconded; all in favor. Motion carried. Public Hearing closed at 7:11 p.m.*

**MAYOR & COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

Mayor Sutton opened the council workshop meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Emergency Ordinance 2019-03 Budget for FY 2020 - Mayor Sutton reported that the town will not be making any adjustments to the town real estate tax rate or the income tax rate. The county however has discussed increasing the rates and therefore the town will receive a portion of the increase.

Mayor Sutton read into record the Emergency Ordinance 2019-03 Budget for FY 2020. Notice was published in the Kent County News for the public hearing on May 23, 2019. *Councilman Gilcrest made a motion to adopt Emergency Ordinance 2019-03 Budget for FY 2020; Councilman Pyfer seconded; 4 in favor; Councilman Fracassi absent. Motion carried.*

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2018 is available. Copies are available at town hall and on the website.

Vote on contract for Idlewhile Pump Station Contractor – Two bids were received; one from JJLD and Brambles Construction, Inc. Mr. Silcox recommended to go with the low bid of \$88,000. Mayor Sutton stated that Councilman Pyfer will be abstaining from the vote DUE to the fact he is employed by Brambles Construction, Inc. as a truck driver. *Motion made by Councilman Marcy to accept the low bid from Brambles Construction, Inc.; seconded by Councilman Gilcrest; Councilman Pyfer abstaining; three in favor; motion carried.*

Town Manager Report- 3/27/19-5/28/19  
Worked an average of 25.25 hours per week.

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Town Manager Report cont'd.

Current Grants – Wheeler Avenue – Contract for USDA is signed and being reviewed by USDA. Construction RFP is being prepped.

Bayside Shoreline Erosion Mitigation – 60% drawings completed. Third progress meeting held. Springs coming out of bank were tested 3 x for Chlorine, pH, for dye. We have reached out to several agencies to look for additional funding.

Idlewhile Pump Station – Construction Management RFP issued, bids accepted, Jay Silcox won the award. Construction RFP was issued, bids received and will be voted on tonight.

Watershed Assistance Grant Program – Funding is still pending.

Rigbie Steps – Engineering design completed for the bench. Working with the county to complete the Critical Area Requirements. Program Open Space did not fund the Rigbie Steps Restoration. We are currently updating the budget and applying for funds through Community Legacy.

Waterwater Treatment Plant – Continue to stay in contact with Jason regarding punch list and wish list with remaining funds.

Arbor Play Area - \$199,500 was awarded to build a new tree house themed playground at the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Park. Other happenings

Quarterly Reports/Invoicing – Completed Quarterly reports for each of the open grants. Invoicing for reimbursement submitted for FEMA, Wheeler Ave, and Idlewhile Ave.

Water Tower – Waiting on the corral to be fixed. Working on alternate water source.

Permits – Several permits processed for trees and renovation projects.

Critical Area Regulations- New maps for Critical Area Received. Will be working with the CAC to update our code. **Mayor Sutton stated that the council will need to hold a public hearing on the CAC changes and adopt.**

Sustainable Communities/Grant Committee – Tabulated and Presented survey results. Continue to attend meetings. Working on updating the goals for the Sustainable Communities Renewal.

Planning and Zoning – Attend meetings monthly. Work on updating the Comp Plan.

Website/Facebook – Continue to update monthly. Calendar Plug-In no longer working. Will need to update with a new type of calendar and add events again. Positive feedback from posting each event on Facebook.

Census data - Competed for March and April

County – Met with the county about the beach overcrowding. Met with the County Commissioners about tax expenses in Betterton and bath house replacement.

Budget – Worked with Sheila and Ed Jones over the past month on the general fund and W/S budget and W/S rates.

Training – Attended an MRDC training on the Water System and attended a grant training about upcoming grants from DHCH.

### OPEN FORUM:

Candi Sorge mentioned that the Betterton Heritage Museum will be open on weekends for the summer.

Contact State Highway about the calming strip on Main St. and Sixth Avenue as you enter town.

Discussion about the beach and the waterways. Ginny Story asked who patrols the waterways?? Jet skiers in the swim area. Mayor Sutton commented that DNR should be contacted.

Candi Sorge commented on an issue with her drinking water that she brought to Jeff Miller's (operator of water treatment plant) attention. Mr. Miller was very good about looking into this issue. Mr. Miller is an asset to the town.

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Dick Story stated that Chief Menchy, BVFC, would like the residents of Bayside Blvd. to visibly number their properties on the alley side of the homes. Homes have the numbers on the bay front side and with Bayside Blvd. temporarily closed, the alley side should be marked.

Mr. Story announced that there will be Cow Plop Bingo at Betterton Day again this year at the Sixth Avenue park.

Wayne Gilchrest works with an organization, STAR, Students Talking About Race. They would like to be put on the agenda to give a presentation to the council. They will contact us when they can attend.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/NOTICES:**

LandJam – Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> – Leigh Farm – 127 Howell Point Road.

Summer Kick-Off Party at the beach hosted by the BFVC on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

No workshop meeting on June 25. Attending the MML Summer Conference.

Council held a closed session on May 14, 2019 decided on employee wages.

A motion was made by Councilman Marcy to adjourn the May 28, 2019 workshop meeting; seconded by Councilman Gilchrest; all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dlugoborski, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Approved:

June 11, 2019