



The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409

302-539-3011 ~ 302-539-1305 fax

www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

Special Meeting of the Town Council

October 4, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.

Town Hall

Minutes

Members Present: Bill Rymer, Natalie Magdeburger, Jacque Napolitano (via Zoom), Janice Bortner (via Zoom), Susan Brennan (via Zoom), Kurt Zanelotti (via Zoom)

Others Present: Erin Ellinger, Kerin Magill (via Zoom)

Excused Absence: Richard Benn for medical reasons.

Flag Salute and Call to Order

1. For Discussion and Possible Action

Dredging Project Update and Authorization for Expenditures/Contract Amendments

Council Member Bill Rymer reported the JF Brennan field team arrived on site Monday, September 23 to begin prepping the dewatering location and the pipeline corridor. Unfortunately, towards the end of last week, we had to slow down progress and spend multiple days resolving issues about overall site footprint, dewatering area design, extended hours of operation and additional protections for the Freeman property. These issues do not relate to the JF Brennan dredge team. By Monday afternoon (September 30), we had all but one issue fully resolved. That last issue related to “Hours of Operation” for a dredging project when compared to the 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday residential development restrictions that exist for the ongoing Freeman work. It is common that dredging projects are afforded extended work hours and have been allowed to work 24/7. We needed to provide documentation to Freeman that supports our current 12-hour days, Monday through Saturday, to avoid any potential shutdown issues that could impact all work on that site. Todd Lawson, Chief Administrator of Sussex County, and his team responded extremely quickly and provided all supporting documentation needed within less than 24 hours. Our project is approved for the extended work hours and can expand to 24/7 if necessary.

To resolve the rest of the issues, we have agreed to lower the dewatering bag field by three feet, we now have access to an additional one-half acre for storage and staging and we will build a chain link fence with privacy screening around portions of that equipment staging and storage area. These steps were necessary to provide additional vision improvements to the work area as well as support a more efficient process post-dewatering.

The teams are currently working to complete the entire dewatering location and the pipeline corridor. The dredge barge has been launched and is now stationed near the Freeman property. If all goes well, we

expect to begin dredging the North Channel by October 14. The dredge will be relocated to the South Channel and those efforts should begin around November 1. The current goal is to be done all active dredging operations by November 12. After that, the dewatering process will begin as well as full demobilization. Both of those are projected to be completed by December 1. It is important to remember that the Town will take sediment samples from the geobags as soon as possible and then have to await results which could take up to 14 days after the samples are drawn. We don't expect to know those results until a few weeks into December at the earliest. Once those results are cleared, the material is officially transferred to Freeman and the Town is no longer involved. However, if any remediation efforts are required as a result of those test samples, we will have additional work to perform. The Town did enter into a special pollution insurance policy that will provide funds to offset a large portion of any remediation efforts.

As a result of these site changes and the work-stoppage inefficiencies, we currently anticipate the need for an additional \$125,000 in excess of the original budgeted \$545,000 allocation from the RTT reserves to support this project. When looking at the FY25 Budgeted reserve levels, we don't anticipate any impact due to this additional allocation because this \$125,000 can be funded by the better-than-expected operating results and RTT inflows during the months of June and July. We didn't expect those improved results when the FY25 Budget was approved and those results more than offset the impact of the \$125,000 request. Therefore, we don't forecast any changes to the July 31, 2025 general reserves shown in the FY25 Budget.

Based on this information, Rymer made motion to approve allocating an additional \$125,000 from the RTT reserves to support the dredging project. Magdeburger seconded this motion. After a discussion, this motion was unanimously approved with a vote of 6-0 with Benn being absent due to a pre-approved medical excuse.

Rymer then expressed sincere appreciation for all external groups involved: Freeman, Congressman Gray, Senator Hocker, Sussex County Council and Todd Lawson.

A MOTION to allocate an additional \$125,000 from reserves to support the dredging project.

Moved by: Bill Rymer

Seconded by: Natalie Magdeburger

MOTION passed unanimously.

Jacque Napolitano asked how long the sampling will take? Rymer responded that lab results will be ready within 10-14 days of delivery to the lab.

Janice Bortner asked if Freeman would be spreading the soil? Rymer said the dredge material will be in Geo bags and Freeman will take full responsibility of the soil within the bags.

2. Public Participation

None



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3. Adjournment

A MOTION adjourn the meeting at 8:56 AM

Moved by: Jacque Napolitano

Seconded by: Susan Brennan

MOTION passed unanimously.

DRAFT