



The Town of Fenwick Island

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Friday, June 26, 2026

MEETING HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE

MINUTES

In Attendance

Town Council Members:

Mayor Magdeburger, Councilmember Brennan, Councilmember Zanelotti, Councilmember Wilder, Councilmember Wilson, Council Treasurer Rymer

Members Excused Absent:

Councilmember Jacque Napolitano

Staff in Attendance:

Town Clerk Ellinger, Building Official Locke, Police Chief Morrissey, Administrative Assistant Grab, Beach Patrol Captain Rykaczewski

Others in Attendance:

Along with the Town Council and Staff, there were an additional 10 on Zoom and 5 in-person participants.

Motion: To proceed as discussed in Executive Session.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Bill Rymer

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

Call to order and flag salute at 1:00 PM.

1. President's Report - Mayor Magdeburger

Mayor Magdeburger provided an update regarding the litigation filed by the ACLU involving the Town's municipal voting provisions. She reported that the Town had been successful in Superior Court and that the case had been dismissed; however, an appeal had been filed and was pending before the Delaware Supreme Court. She stated that the Town would continue to defend the appeal.

The Mayor explained that much of the public discussion regarding the case has focused on artificial entities being permitted to vote in municipal elections. She stated that artificial entities have been allowed to vote in the Town for more than 18 years and emphasized that, in Fenwick Island, many artificial entities are marital trusts or property ownership entities used for liability, tax, estate planning, or other personal reasons, rather than operating businesses. She noted that her review of the voter

registration list identified approximately 10 actual business corporations located in the commercial zone registered to vote out of more than 900 voters.

The Mayor reported that she had been contacted by several media outlets regarding the issue and expressed concern that there has been misinformation suggesting the Town has been “taken over by corporations.” She stated that, in her view, that characterization is not accurate and does not reflect the Town’s residential character or the current Council’s priorities.

The Mayor also discussed proposed State-level constitutional amendment efforts that would prohibit artificial entities from voting in Delaware elections, including municipal elections. She stated that she attempted to testify at a Senate hearing and was given only two minutes to comment and then cut off from completing her statement. She explained that she tried to emphasize the Town’s position that property owners who pay Town taxes and are subject to Town ordinances should have a voice in who represents them on Council and that many of the “artificial entities” are marital trusts. She further noted that artificial entities cannot serve on Council and that Councilmembers must be natural persons meeting Town Charter requirements. The Mayor stated that Senator Hocker and Representative Gray have been supportive of the Town’s position.

Mayor Magdeburger stated that the Town’s Charter amendment allowing artificial entity voting was previously ratified by the Delaware General Assembly and that the Town would continue defending the validity of its Charter provisions and the voting rights of its property owners.

The Mayor then recognized Harold and Barbara Beam, long-time Fenwick Island residents, on the occasion of their 75th wedding anniversary. She described the family’s long history in Fenwick Island, including connections to early Town leadership and development. The Mayor stated that a proclamation would be presented to them at their anniversary party.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Motion: To approve the minutes of May 22, 2026, Regular Town Council Meeting.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Bill Rymer

Result: Council identified modifications and a revised motion was made.

Discussion:

A correction was noted on the section regarding the lifeguard service agreement. The minutes referenced Sussex County in certain places; Council clarified that the agreement should consistently refer to the State of Delaware.

Motion: To approve the minutes of May 22, 2026, Regular Town Council Meeting with modifications.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger
Seconded by: Bill Rymer
Result: Motion passed unanimously.

b. Motion: To approve the minutes of May 22, 2026, Executive Session.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger
Seconded by: Bill Rymer
Result: Motion passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report – Bill Rymer

As of May 31, the town's overall cash balance was \$3.86 million, which was a decrease of \$114,000 from April 31. This decrease was anticipated since we started to have a full lifeguard patrol. Through May 31, overall revenues and expenses are in-line with expectations with the exception of higher than anticipated legal expenses due to the recent ACLU litigation.

RTT revenues for May were \$35,000 and now the YTD RTT revenues total \$359,000 which exceeds the annual budget by \$9,000. We are anticipating a few more house sales in June and July, which means RTT will likely exceed \$400,000 for the full year. The town remains on target with its forecast cashflow.

Motion: To accept the May 2026 Treasurer's Report.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger
Seconded by: Colleen Wilson
Result: Motion passed unanimously.

4. Business & Residential Public Participation

The Mayor opened the floor for business and residential public participation on items listed on the agenda for discussion and possible action. No public comments were offered at that time.

5. For Discussion and Possible Action:

a. Voter Roll Strike List

Council reviewed the voter roll strike list included in the meeting packet. The Mayor stated that Council is required to review and approve voter roll strikes annually. She identified the names included on the list, including William and Judith Collishaw, Richard Robinson, Virginia Boettcher, Ronald Kent, Norma Yori, and June Power. It was stated that all listed individuals, except Mr. Kent, were deceased, and that Mr. Kent had sold the applicable property.

Mayor Magdeburger asked whether any additional individuals needed to be added to the list. No additional names were identified.

Motion: To approve the 2026 Voter Roll Strike List.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Bill Rymer

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

b. Managed IT Services Agreement Renewal

Council reviewed the Managed IT Services Agreement renewal with Wagamon Technology. The Mayor stated that Wagamon Technology provides the Town's IT support services and noted that the renewal did not include a rate increase. Staff members who regularly work with the provider stated that they were pleased with the service and that the provider has been responsive. It was also noted that the provider had improved its customer service approach and was better about taking calls when support was needed.

Motion: To renew the Managed IT Services Agreement with Wagamon Technology as presented in the meeting packet.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Colleen Wilson

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

c. State Lifeguard Contract Renewal

Council reviewed the State Lifeguard Contract Renewal. The Mayor noted that Council had previously discussed or voted on the matter, but the final agreement was included in the packet for review and approval "for belts and suspenders." The agreement provides for lifeguard services from Atlantic Street south to the Delaware line, an area that is an unincorporated portion of beach. The Mayor explained that the State previously provided guards in that area but later withdrew those guards, leaving the area unguarded. The Town agreed years ago to provide or contract for lifeguard services in that area because an unguarded area between guarded beaches created public safety concerns for our bayside residents and confusion for visitors.

Council discussed that the arrangement provides a significant safety benefit to residents and visitors. The agreement allows the Town to provide coverage through its beach patrol, while the State reimburses or participates in the cost under the agreement.

Motion: The Mayor will be authorized to sign on behalf of the Town and accept the contract as written.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Bill Rymer

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

d. DarkSky Committee – Lighting Ordinance Handout

Council reviewed the proposed DarkSky Committee handout intended to help residents, property owners, and applicants understand outdoor lighting concepts and what may or may not be DarkSky compliant. The Mayor stated that the handout could be used by the Building Official during permitting or when residents have questions about lighting. It was clarified that the handout is educational and does not itself create new mandatory requirements at this time, while the Committee continues working on revisions to the lighting ordinance.

Council discussed whether the ordinance excerpts included in the handout accurately summarized existing Town requirements. It was noted that the excerpts appeared consistent with the Town's ordinance. Council expressed support for the handout as an educational tool and emphasized the importance of public education before moving toward ordinance changes. Council also commended the Committee for approaching the issue through education and outreach rather than simply imposing requirements.

Motion: To authorize use of the DarkSky handout by the Building Official and to allow the handout to be posted on the Town website under the DarkSky section.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Bill Rymer

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

e. **Special Event Permit Request – Little League World Series**

Council reviewed a Special Event Permit request associated with the Little League Softball World Series. Master Corporal Chris Story presented information regarding the event and explained that the girls' softball teams have participated in a beach bonfire experience in Fenwick Island in prior years. He stated that the event had been extremely well received and that teams continued to talk about the Fenwick Island bonfire experience.

Discussion included the number of expected participants, with approximately 10 to 13 teams and coaches anticipated. It was clarified that the beach portion of the event is for the players and event participants, while parents generally remain off the beach or nearby. Master Corporal Story reported that last year's event included several small bonfire pits, s'mores, hot dogs, pizza donated by local businesses, towels with the Little League World Series and anniversary emblem, and significant police and volunteer participation. He also discussed related community hospitality efforts, including officers assisting with breakfast and donuts for the players.

Council members expressed strong support for the event, noting that it reflects well on the Town and provides a memorable experience for young athletes, especially female athletes. The Mayor noted that Master

Corporal Story and volunteers monitor the beach and event closely and that the Town is in good hands.

Motion: To approve the Special Event Permit request.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Bill Rymer

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

f. **Beam 75th Wedding Anniversary Proclamation**

Council considered a proclamation recognizing Harold and Barbara Beam on their 75th wedding anniversary. The Mayor stated that the anniversary date was June 21, 2026, with a celebration planned for July 2. Council discussed preparing an official proclamation for presentation at the celebration and recognizing the couple's long-standing connection to Fenwick Island.

Motion: To proclaim June 21, 2026, as a day of celebration in recognition of the Beams' 75th wedding anniversary and to prepare the proclamation for presentation.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Kurt Zanelotti

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

g. **Whereas the information presented in the public forum held on May 29, 2026, and to the Infrastructure Committee moves that two(2) focus areas shall be designed by the Town's contractor, Straughan Environmental, Inc. and those areas are West Dagsboro and West South Carolina and BRIC grant funding discussion.**

Council held an extensive discussion regarding resiliency and infrastructure planning following the May 29, 2026 public forum and Infrastructure Committee review. The Mayor introduced the discussion by recognizing the significant work of the Infrastructure Committee, including the leadership of Councilmember Susan Brennan following the passing of Richard Benn, and the technical assistance and volunteer work of Town residents and professionals involved in the committee. Council noted that the Town has relied on engineers, professors, committee members, and residents with technical expertise to move the resiliency effort forward.

Councilmember Brennan reported that the Infrastructure Committee held the first of two public forums on May 29 and subsequently met to consider the projects that should be brought to Council. The Committee recommended two initial focus areas: West Dagsboro Street and West South Carolina Avenue. The areas were chosen because they are among the most impactful locations for flooding and drainage issues and because they are appropriate candidates for the type of comprehensive resiliency work being evaluated by the Town's contractor, Straughan Environmental, Inc.

Discussion included a review of the physical locations involved, including street ends, canals, and bayside drainage conditions. Council discussed the Town's historic drainage system, including historic ditches, pipes, valves, and the challenges created over time by development, driveway expansion, pipe failure, limited grade, and bay water levels. The Mayor explained that drainage in Fenwick Island is complicated because outfall systems are only useful when the bay water is lower than the drainage outlet, and the Town must address both tidal flooding and rainwater drainage.

Council discussed the proposed components of the projects, including bulkhead or hard-edge improvements, road raising, drainage improvements, and green infrastructure or bioretention features. It was noted that the proposed road raising would likely involve raising the crown or center portion of the road by approximately four inches in the focus areas. Council discussed that such work is not intended as a final solution forever, but as an incremental resiliency measure designed to improve conditions based on current engineering recommendations and available funding opportunities.

Several Council members asked questions regarding project scope, project cost, sequencing, whether one or both projects should move forward, and whether the work would disturb right-of-way areas in front of homes. It was noted that any actual construction would require substantial public outreach to affected residents and property owners. Council discussed that the earliest construction would likely be late winter or early spring, assuming grant funding and required approvals are obtained, and that the project duration could be approximately 14 months per project.

Council discussed cost estimates and grant funding. Each of the two proposed projects was discussed as being approximately \$1 million or more, with West South Carolina estimated around \$1.114 million and West Dagsboro slightly less. Council discussed that road raising is one of the largest cost components. The Town previously applied for BRIC funding for engineering work, but that funding opportunity was interrupted when the program went away. The Town then elected to self-fund engineering work so the resiliency process would not lose momentum. Council discussed that BRIC appeared to be reconstituted and that the Town had been working with the University of Delaware and DEMA, including Phil Kane, to prepare applications.

A significant portion of discussion focused on whether the Town should apply for one project or both projects, whether to include the approximately \$325,000 already spent on engineering as part of the local match, and how to maximize potential reimbursement. Council discussed a 75/25 funding structure under which the federal share would be 75% and the Town share 25%. If the Town's prior engineering costs could be included, those costs could count toward the Town's required

match and potentially reduce the need for additional cash outlay for the first project. Council discussed whether the engineering costs should be included in one larger grant application, split between two applications, or pursued separately.

Council members expressed differing initial preferences about whether to start with one project or pursue both. After discussion, Council generally agreed that the two focus areas are both high-impact areas and that pursuing both projects would be more aggressive but would take advantage of a rare funding opportunity. Council also discussed the potential use of a line of credit or construction-type financing if timing of reimbursement required cash flow support. It was noted that the Town could decide later how best to structure the grant application administratively, whether as one combined application or two separate applications, based on the advice of those preparing the submission. Council thanked Councilmember Brennan, Tim Leahy, the Infrastructure Committee, DEMA, and others involved in preparing the Town for grant submission.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize moving forward with the two focus-area projects, West Dagsboro Street and West South Carolina Avenue, for Straughan Environmental design work and BRIC grant submission, with authorization to include the prior engineering costs and to structure the application in the manner most advantageous to the Town. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion: To authorize moving forward with the two focus-area projects, West Dagsboro Street and West South Carolina Avenue, for Straughan Environmental design work and BRIC grant submission, with authorization to include the prior engineering costs and to structure the application in the manner most advantageous to the Town.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Bill Rymer

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

h. Approve the State Questionnaire for Planning Commission

Councilmember Susan Brennan provided an update on behalf of the Planning Commission regarding the annual State Planning Commission Questionnaire. Ms. Brennan explained that the questionnaire serves as a reporting tool to update the State on local planning activities, implementation efforts, and initiatives underway within the Town.

Ms. Brennan reviewed the information included in the questionnaire and noted that it reflects the Planning Commission's ongoing work related to the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Matrix and other planning initiatives. She advised that completion and submission of the

questionnaire is an annual requirement and helps maintain coordination between the Town and State planning agencies.

Motion: To approve the State Planning Commission Questionnaire as presented and authorize its submission.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Susan Brennan

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

i. **Review and Approval of FY27 Budget**

Treasurer Rymer presented the Proposed FY27 Budget information which was recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee. On June 11, the Budget and Finance Committee unanimously voted in favor of this FY27 Budget.

SIGNIFICANT HIGHLIGHTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- FY27Budget revenues total \$2.86 million as compared to the FY26Budget of \$2.62 million and the most recent FY26Forecast of \$2.65 million.
- Many revenues categories are consistent with either the FY26Budget or the FY26Forecast based on current information.
- FY27Budgeted RTT revenues of \$350,000 are consistent with the FY26Budget even though the most recent FY26Forecast now estimates RTT revenues of \$415,000.
- The three largest changes in FY27Budget revenues are:
 - The FY27Budget reflects a 4-cent increase in the mill rate for property tax billings. The new proposed rate is 21.4015 cents per hundred dollars of assessed property value as compared to the current 17.4015 cents. This increase resulted in a \$170,000 increase in revenues from FY26Forecast.
 - The long-term rental tax rate is increased from 4% to 7.5% which makes the long-term rate consistent with the current short-term rate of 7.5%. Most other towns have equalized rental tax rates for those two categories. This increase resulted in a \$39,000 increase in revenues from FY26Forecast.
 - There is a \$25 increase in individual parking fines. The current rate is \$50 for illegal parking along side streets and \$75 for dune end parking. Those rates will now be \$75 and \$100, respectively. These increases resulted in a revenue increase of approximately \$10,000 from FY26Forecast.
- FY27Budgeted expenses total \$3.09 million as compared to FY26Budget of \$2.8 million and the FY26Forecast of \$2.9 million. The largest annual increases relate to:

- An overall increase in salaries and related benefits. The FY27Budget reflects a 3% increase across the board for all employees as well as the finalized three-year employment agreement with the Chief of Police.
- The single largest impact relates to including the position of Town Manager in the FY27Budget which results in increased costs of approximately \$150,000 across salaries, health insurance, taxes and other benefits. The town has operated without a town manager for two years and the efforts by the town hall staff and town council have saved the town approximately \$250,000 over that two-year period.
- Total salaries and benefits represent 74% of total FY27Budget expenses.
- The combination of the Police and Lifeguard Departments represent 53% of totaled budgeted expenses.
- After the impact of a \$300,000 transfer of RTT funds to the general operating reserves (consistent with recent years), the FY27Budget reflects an operating loss of \$233,000 as compared to a loss of \$165,000 in the FY26Budget and a forecasted loss for FY26 of \$251,000.

Additional discussions:

- Police Department salaries were based on a detailed analysis and recommendations by the Chief of Police comparing local municipalities police salary structures. The budget also shows increased fuel costs but a reduction in spending on accreditation.
- There is a \$1 per hour increase in lifeguard wage rates to remain competitive with local communities and the State Park just north of town.
- Public works budget reflects inflationary pressures on normal material costs and increased fuel prices.
- Administrative department costs reflect the impact of hiring a town manager in the upcoming fiscal year
- The four largest items impacting “General Government Expenses” are:
 - Legal expenses in FY26 have far exceeded the original FY26Budget as a result of the recent ACLU lawsuit. The ACLU appealed the first ruling so the FY27Budget reflects legal expenses of \$50,000 as compared to the FY26Budget of \$25,000. We don’t expect to spend as much money on the appeal as was necessary to win the initial litigation.
 - There is a 10% increase in the BBVFC annual charge. This is an estimate since a new agreement hasn’t been negotiated. This fee increase is a direct pass through to an increase in revenues (included in annual property tax billings) so the overall impact is neutral to the operating loss for the year.

- Lastly, the FY27Budget reflects the goal of utilizing property valuations created by Sussex County for the FY28 property tax bills (August 2027). Sussex County completed the state-mandated property revaluations last year and many towns are now using Sussex County's valuations for their municipalities. This will remove the annual cost of hiring a third-party appraisal firm (\$21,000 FY26Budget) as well as reduce the administrative efforts and turnaround time. The town will receive a spreadsheet at any point requested which lists all properties in the incorporated town limits detailing the building value and actual land value. Sussex County valuations are higher than the current Fenwick Island valuations so at the time of transition, the Town Council will have to adjust the current mill rate accordingly based on desired property tax revenues. The entire process will require full transparency and significant communications with all property owners.
- Lastly, there are some slight increases in the budgeted general insurance and trash collection costs.

Capital Expenditures

- FY27Budget includes total capital expenditures of \$279,000. The total includes typical annual spending for Mobi Mats, Backflow preventers and road striping. The plan also includes \$100,000 for the completion of the "currently in process" resiliency engineering study that started in FY26. The total cost of that project is approximately \$300,000 of which \$200,000 has already been spent. The FY27Budget includes \$127,000 for street maintenance. The Infrastructure Committee decided to postpone maintenance work in FY26 and will combine that project with the original plan for FY27. Total costs will be less expensive than two separate projects since equipment mobilization will occur only once. There is also the purchase of a new server for town hall which is utilized primarily to support the financial software package and other areas. A new police vehicle isn't needed for FY27. Lastly, there is the second payment related to last year's purchase of new Axon MVRs (police vehicle cameras). New MVRs were installed last year with a five-year payment plan. The first year was fully covered by grants. This is the second payment of five to be made. Unfortunately, the amount of \$8,500 is understated and the full payment in FY27 will be \$23,500 (\$15,000 increase to the proposed information). This \$15,000 increase needs to be approved as an amendment to the original FY27Budget as presented.

Roll forward of Fund Balances

- The budget packet includes projected cash balances from August 1, 2026 to July 31, 2027 for all major funds based on the information presented in the operational and capital expenditure

plans. Overall, the total cash balances are projected to decrease from \$3.3 million to approximately \$2.93 million (\$370,000 reduction). Uncommitted reserve balances (General operations reserves, RTT reserves, Dedicated Street reserves and Resiliency/Special reserves) are projected to decrease from \$3.09 million to \$2.71 million (\$377,000 reduction). As of July 31, 2027, total uncommitted reserves are projected to represent 10.5 months of operating expenses. The town goal is to maintain between 4-6 months of operating reserves.

Rymer then discussed the decision-making process in support of increasing the mill rate by 4 cents.

Even with the increased revenues, the town continues to use reserves to cover a portion of operating expenses and capital expenditures.

Some historical background discussed:

- The town has not raised property taxes since August 2002 (24 years). There was a town-wide property revaluation in 2019 but that was revenue neutral to the town (mill rate was proportionately adjusted the same % as the change in total assessed property values)
- Two local beach towns:
 - One town had a 100% tax increase in 2008 and seven smaller increases since 2010 to total an additional 24% on top of the 100% (124% excluding “compound interest” methodology)
 - One town increased property tax revenue 55% last year
- During the FY2022Budget discussion held in June 2021, the then town manager strongly recommended a property tax increase in FY2022 but no later than FY2023.
- Since that discussion, total payroll and benefit costs have increased \$640,000 (including the newly budgeted town manager position). The largest increases were seen in the Police and Lifeguard Departments along with increased health insurance costs.
- In addition to absorbing operating cost increases, the town has invested more than \$1.1 million in the last four years in three critical areas: Dredging, Resiliency and Sidewalks. This \$1.1 million is in excess of the more than \$2.3 million of grant funding raised for those projects.
- Over the years, different town councils have avoided increasing property taxes by relying upon the strong real estate markets which have provided significant RTT and building permit revenues.
- These councils have focused on controlling the cost structure while investing in the critical areas for the town. An example is operating without a town manager for the last two years.
- There has been a lot of turnover in older properties and the construction of new homes where cottages once stood. We have seen a decrease in the number of properties sold as well as new

homes built over the last 12 months. The individual values have increased but the actual number of transactions has declined.

- Based on the softening real estate market, the members of the Budget and Finance Committee decided the time was now to introduce a property tax increase. Current property tax revenues do not even cover the cost of the Police Department.
- For FY26, the average property tax bill was approximately \$890. Based on the revised mill rate, the FY27 average property tax bill will increase to \$1,095. This is just an average so certain properties will see higher bills and other properties will see lower bills.
- One last item to highlight, the Committee also discussed the likelihood of additional property tax increases in the coming years.

Based on the discussions and information presented, Treasurer Rymer made a motion to accept the FY27 Budget as recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee with the one amendment to increase the capital expenditure budget by \$15,000 to a total of \$294,000.

Motion: To accept the FY27 Budget as recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee with the one amendment to increase the capital expenditure budget by \$15,000 to a total of \$294,000.

Moved by: Bill Rymer

Seconded by: Lucy Wilder

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

- j. Recommendation of the Budget & Finance Committee to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget as presented, with the exception of increasing the Town property tax rate from \$0.03 to \$0.04 per \$100 of assessed valuation

This item was discussed and approved as part of the previous agenda item, i.

- k. Referral to Town Solicitor for Charter Change re: Evaluation of Property Assessments for Town tax purposes with intent to adopt assessment and reassessments of Sussex County as the assessed value for Town taxes

Council discussed moving forward with evaluating a Charter change to allow Town tax assessments to align with Sussex County assessments and reassessments for Town tax purposes. Council first discussed the policy direction of moving toward use of Sussex County assessment data

Motion: To move forward with pursuing Town assessments through Sussex County.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Bill Rymer

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

Council then discussed whether the matter should be referred to the Charter and Ordinance Committee or sent directly to the Town Solicitor. The Mayor stated that because the action may require a Charter change, and because Council had already agreed to move forward with the concept, she was more comfortable sending the matter directly to the Town Solicitor to prepare the appropriate language.

Motion: To refer the matter directly to the Town Solicitor for preparation and review of any necessary Charter change language.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Lucy Wilder

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

6. Committee Reports - Audit, Beach, Budget & Finance, C&O, Dark Sky, Environmental, Infrastructure, Planning Commission

Audit – Bill Rymer

No report was provided.

Beach – Kurt Zanelotti

Kurt Zanelotti reported on summer events, including Fenwick Flicks, the Town Bonfire scheduled for July 18, and additional movie nights scheduled for July and August. Movies discussed included Happy Feet, Minions, and Casablanca. The Committee noted that the bonfire is later than usual because of July 4th activities and the 250th anniversary year. Volunteers were requested to help assemble baskets for the bonfire on Monday, July 13 at 8:30 AM.

Budget & Finance – Bill Rymer

The Budget and Finance Committee report was largely covered through the FY27 Budget presentation and related recommendations.

C&O – Natalie Magdeburger

Mayor Magdeburger reported that they are waiting for additional information from the DarkSky Committee and infrastructure/resiliency efforts. The Committee expects to meet when ordinance or Charter-related changes are ready for review, including potential resiliency-related changes and DarkSky ordinance recommendations.

Dark Sky – Rose Mary Hoy

Rose Mary Hoy provided the DarkSky Committee report. She thanked Council for reviewing and approving the lighting handout and thanked Building Official Mike Locke for working with the Committee to make sure the handout was useful and appropriate. She stated that the Committee is close to submitting the first draft of a new lighting ordinance for further review. She also reported on outreach activities, including a planned partnership with the Fenwick Island Yacht Club for a sunset raft-up and moonrise event, weather permitting. The Committee donated a basket for the July 4 parade, plans to have a table at the Town Bonfire, donated a basket for the bonfire auction, and is scheduled to meet next on August 5. Rose Mary also reported that she had been invited to present to the Barefoot Gardeners at their September meeting.

Environmental – Colleen Wilson

Colleen Wilson reported that the Pollinator Park Summer Soiree was held the prior Saturday with refreshments and music. Approximately 40 to 50 people attended over the course of the event. The Barefoot Gardeners visited the Faucett Okie Park and were impressed with the location and new sign. The Barefoot Gardeners expressed interest in partnering with the Town on a possible arboretum or similar effort. Committee representatives planned to meet with Greg Pepper, the original horticulturist for the Delaware Botanic Gardens, to discuss ideas and potential grant opportunities. The Committee does not plan to meet again until September.

Infrastructure – Susan Brennan

Susan Brennan reported that they held the first public summit of the season on May 29 with approximately 50 attendees. The Committee continues investigating MARACOOS or similar options involving cameras and tide/water measuring devices as potential tools for monitoring flooding conditions. The next infrastructure summit is scheduled for August 21. Council again thanked the Committee for its work leading to the grant and project discussion earlier in the meeting.

Planning Commission – Susan Brennan

Susan Brennan's report included discussion of a meeting with DNREC regarding a shoreline public access plan. DNREC is developing guidance based on federal guidelines for public access. The Town will work on a related plan later in the year, with a deadline expected near the end of the year.

7. Department Highlights

Beach Patrol – John Rykaczewski

Beach Patrol Captain reported that the season is off to a strong start. Lifeguards have been trained, including 12 rookies who completed more than 80 hours of training and passed several certification tests and drills. The Junior Guard Program also began successfully, with young participants learning about beach safety. The Beach Patrol

also received a new side-by-side vehicle, which is in service.

Police Department – Michael Morrissey

The Mayor announced that the Town had signed a contract with Chief Morrissey consistent with the terms previously discussed and approved by Council. The contract includes compensation of \$120,000 per year with a 3% escalator for a three-year term, running through September 1, 2029. Council congratulated the Chief.

Chief Morrissey reported that, at the quarterly SLEAF meeting, approximately \$1,900 was approved or pulled for police department needs. Approximately \$1,600 will be used to replace old-style fire flares with electric flares, which the Chief stated are more environmentally friendly and safer given concerns about fire hazards, including recent dune fire incidents elsewhere. Approximately \$300 will be used for miscellaneous spare batteries for tasers, radios, and related equipment.

The Chief also reported that an additional AED donated to the Town through a foundation had been turned over to the Beach Patrol, providing additional protection on the beach. Officer Quirk completed field training and was scheduled to begin regular rotation the following Monday. The Chief reported that the Police Department is fully staffed and has maintained full staffing levels over the past three years despite a tight market for police officers. The Chief also noted that the new lifeguard vehicle had been received and placed in service.

Public Works – Mike Locke

No verbal highlights provided.

Administration – Erin Ellinger

The Town Clerk's report was included in the meeting packet. No additional verbal highlights were provided.

8. Old Business

No old business was presented.

9. New Business

No formal new business was presented. The Mayor allowed an additional resident comment regarding infrastructure because the item had been discussed earlier and the resident had a related observation.

Rose Mary Hoy commented as a resident regarding South Schulz Road. She stated that, after repaving, the road is beautiful; however, approximately five homes now

experience significant ponding and flooding when it rains. She stated that water comes off the road and creates flooding across yards and driveways, sometimes remaining until it evaporates, and that in winter the water has frozen across and into the road. She raised the issue as a potential safety concern and as an example that infrastructure improvements can create unintended consequences if drainage is not fully addressed.

Mayor Magdeburger responded that the bioretention and right-of-way design concepts discussed earlier are intended to address the type of issue raised by Rose Mary by providing areas where water can be absorbed or directed, rather than simply moving water into residents' yards. It was noted that this type of drainage consideration will be part of future resiliency planning.

10. Upcoming Events and Meetings:

June 30	Voter Registration Deadline	4:30 PM
July 3	Town Hall Closed	All Day
July 4	Independence Day Parade	9:00 AM
July 10	Beach Committee	9:30 AM
July 14	Infrastructure Committee	10:00 AM
July 16	IQ Fiber Community Presentation	10:00 AM
July 17	Fenwick Flicks	8:00 PM
July 18	Town Bonfire	7:00 PM
July 24	Town Council Executive Session	11:00 AM
July 24	Town Council Regular Meeting	1:00 PM

11. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 4:12 PM.

Moved by: Lucy Wilder

Seconded by: Colleen Wilson

Result: Motion passed unanimously.