

# TOWN OF BLADES

*Office of the Mayor and Council*  
20 West Fourth Street  
Blades, Delaware 19973

Council Minutes  
January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Present: Mayor David Ruff, Councilman Russell Joseph, Councilman BJ Hardin, Councilman Earl Chaffinch, Councilman Mike Smith, Councilman Charles Green, and Vikki Prettyman, Town Administrator

Also present was Chief Cooke.

Mayor Ruff called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the December 8th, 2008 minutes, motioned to accept by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Chaffinch, motion carried.

Police Report: Chief Cooke read the Police Report.

Councilman Hardin motioned to accept the police report, seconded by Councilman Greene, motion carried.

BEDCO: Councilman Hardin read the minutes for the January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 meeting.

Planning & Zoning: Councilman Hardin read the minutes for the January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 meeting.

Unfinished Business:

- 1) Code Officer Report, Submitted by Bill Matsinger and read by Councilman Hardin
- 2) Housing Report, Submitted and read by Councilman Hardin
- 3) Water Report, Submitted by Brandon Slater, read by Councilman Greene
- 4) Streets Report, Submitted and read by Councilman Joseph
- 5) Parks/Cemetery, Submitted and read by Michael Smith
- 6) Police Report, Submitted by Chief Cooke, read by Chief Cooke
- 7) Mayor Report, Read by David Ruff

Mayor Ruff read the Memo of Understanding for Sussex County. Will take motion under new business. SCAT letter sent to Senators and House for the stimulus package share of the funds if passed. The mayor also read the support letter written from SCAT to the Fire Departments and shared with citizens and council that Verizon Wireless has started construction for the antenna.

All reports were approved and are on file at the Blades Town Hall.

## New Business:

New Town Seal was presented to council for adoption. Councilman Hardin motioned to adopt the new Town Seal, seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried. New Town Seal was created by Dominic Lee as a gift to the Town.

Gutters: Clarification needed if they have a leaf guard system. No vote. Motion made to get clarification by Councilman Joseph, seconded by Councilman Smith, motion carried.

New Furnace for Town Hall: read the bids received, the lowest bid was National HVAC for \$3375.00, motion made by Councilman Chaffinch to accept bid, seconded by Councilman Smith, motion carried.

1996 Chevy Caprice Bids Opened: Two bids received. Bid from Patricia Esterson for \$1500.00 was the winning bid. Motion to accept the bid by Patricia Esterson for \$1500.00 by Councilman Joseph, seconded by Councilman Greene, motion carried.

Resolution declaring the 1985 Chevy Pick-Up as surplus: Motion made by Councilman Joseph, seconded by Councilman Chaffinch, motion carried.

Sussex County Memo of Understanding: Motion to accept the MOU from Sussex County made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Hardin, motion carried.

420B Amendment: Read the amendment changing the prices for Business & Rental Licenses for the third and final time. Motion to adopt the amendment by Councilman Joseph, seconded by Councilman Smith, motion carried.

5.8A Retirement Amendment: Changes the language for the retirement plan. Motion made to move this to further discussion at a council workshop by Councilman Joseph, seconded by Councilman Greene.

5.10 Boot Allowance Policy: Adds a boot allowance for maintenance personnel. Motion made to move this to further discussion at a council workshop by Councilman Chaffinch, seconded by Councilman Joseph.

1.7A 12 Hour Shift Schedule for Police Department: Changes the schedule for the police department, compliant on 2 or more police officers, from 8 hour shifts to 12 hour shifts, outlines the schedule and holiday pay, motion made to move this to further discussion at a council workshop by Councilman Chaffinch, seconded by Councilman Greene.

Town Administrator is instructed to receive bids for a tank-less water heater for Hardin Hall.

Tree at the High Street Cemetery: Due to the storm part of the tree has been blown down. The tree needs to be cut up and disposed of and the other half need to be cut down and removed. Maintenance Department would need to rent chain saws and pay to have tree disposed of. Several quotes received from area tree companies and the cost for the Town's maintenance personnel and for the tree removal companies are practically the same. Several concerns brought up as to why the town's maintenance personnel cannot remove the tree. Councilmen Joseph and Greene will go to the cemetery review situation and make a determination. Motion made to hire Sussex Tree to

remove the tree by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Hardin, motion carried. If needed.

Councilman Joseph presented bids for lining the new truck bed. Motion to accept Linex to line the truck bed and above the tool boxes by Councilman Joseph, seconded by Councilman Greene, motion carried.

Councilman Joseph stated that the old snow plow needed a new blade and a new shield. Total cost of \$285.00 motion made to purchase by Councilman Joseph, seconded by Councilman Hardin, motion carried.

Councilman Joseph shared with Council the price quotes on pre-made storage building. Prices ranged from \$5140.00 to \$2975.00.

Workshop scheduled for January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 6pm.

Good of the Community:

No Comments!

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Hardin, seconded by Councilman Joseph, motion carried. Mayor adjourned meeting at 9:25pm.

Submitted,

Vikki Prettyman  
Secretary