

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2024
CURTIS MERRITT HARBOR COMMITTEE MEETING
Council Chambers

Committee Members Present:

J. Arthur Leonard, Chairman
Chris Bott, Vice Mayor
Danny Bowden
George Garner

Committee Members Absent:

Other Council Members Present:

Jay Savage, Councilman

Staff Members Present:

Michael T. Tolbert, P.E., Town Manager
Vernon Merritt, Harbormaster

Call to Order

Mayor Leonard called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Mayor Leonard opened the floor for public comment.

Agenda Adoption

Vice Mayor Bott motioned, seconded by Mr. Bowden, to adopt the agenda as presented. Unanimously approved.

Consider Contract for Fuel Tank Painting

Mayor Leonard commented on the importance of taking care of equipment.

Town Manager Tolbert advised they have 2 prices for painting the fuel tank: Stewart Parks Painting from Onancock, and Handy House, LLC, from Chincoteague. He added that the prices are within \$300 of each other.

Harbormaster Merritt asked what the difference was between soda blasting and sand blasting.

Mayor Leonard advised that soda is not as harsh, and this is what they use on fiberglass pools.

There was further discussion.

Town Manager Tolbert replied that it should take the tank down to bare metal. He stated that the prices were \$434 apart. They have more information on one contractor than the other. He read the scope of work. It has been put on the Public Works schedule but not to begin the job until the Committee decides. He feels it should then go to Council.

There was discussion regarding the company from Onancock.

Mayor Leonard recommended Stewart Parks Painting form Onancock due to his experience.

Town Manager Tolbert advised that Mr. Parks' schedule will allow him to begin in 2 weeks.

Mr. Bowden also asked around and agreed that Mr. Parks should do the work.

Mr. Bowden motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Bott, to accept the bid from Stewart Parks Painting. Unanimously approved.

Town Manager Tolbert advised he would contact Mr. Parks in the morning. He added that he will refer this matter to the Council workshop meeting for approval.

Review Schedule for Hill Cleanup

Harbormaster Merritt stated they've set a date, and he doesn't feel it'll be that bad. He has a couple of people scheduling to get their property. He stated that they'll start January 6th.

Mayor Leonard asked what the plan was for the unclaimed boats.

Harbormaster Merritt advised that if they aren't claimed and removed the Town will auction them.

There was further discussion.

Harbormaster Merritt advised he would notify the owners of the boats, trailers, and equipment for removal.

Review Application for No Wake Zones

Mayor Leonard advised that the application for a No Wake Zone for Eastside didn't go through. They need to resubmit that one and a new No Wake Zone from Waterside Motor Inn to Lewis Creek.

There was discussion regarding buoy placement and replacement.

Town Manager Tolbert suggested signage at the southern end of Lewis Creek and Marsh Island.

Harbormaster Merritt advised they have someone who has purchased a sign and was willing to give it to the Town.

Discussion continued with size of signs, buoys, and placement.

Town Manager Tolbert stated that he'll have this advertised next Friday and the following Friday with a public hearing on December 2nd. The comments will be put in with the application. He hopes to have this in place by spring.

Mayor Leonard stated that enforcement is the hardest part.

There were further comments.

Comments

Harbormaster Merritt stated that he would like to finish the boards for the loading dock.

Town Manager Tolbert stated they are getting ready to order lumber for Memorial Park fishing pier and they can order enough to finish the Harbor's loading dock.

Discussion continued.

Harbormaster Merritt asked about the revenue for Reed Park and other Harbor related revenue going into the Harbor budget.

There was further discussion regarding the budget.

Harbormaster Merritt thanked Mayor Leonard for serving on the Harbor Committee.

Mayor Leonard stated that this is one Committee he's served on that has done the most. They have made the Harbor into an attraction.

Discussion continued regarding fuel at the Harbor.

Adjournment

Mr. Garner motioned, seconded by Harbormaster Merritt to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously approved.