SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL - GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE, JUNE 10, 2014

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sussex County Council was held on Tuesday, June 10, 2014, at 10:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers, Sussex County Administrative Office Building, Georgetown, Delaware, with the following present:

Michael H. Vincent
Samuel R. Wilson, Jr.
George B. Cole
Joan R. Deaver
Vance Phillips

President
Councilman
Councilwoman
Councilman

Todd F. Lawson
Gina A. Jennings
J. Everett Moore, Jr.

County Administrator
Finance Director
County Attorney

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Mr. Vincent.

Call to

Order Mr. Vincent called the meeting to order.

M 266 14 Approve Agenda A Motion was made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mrs. Deaver, to approve the Agenda, as posted.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea;

Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea;

Mr. Vincent, Yea

Minutes The minutes of June 3, 2014 were approved by consent.

Correspondence Mr. Moore read the following correspondence:

MILFORD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, MILFORD, DELAWARE.

RE: Letter in appreciation of grant.

CHILDREN OF THE DELAWARE NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH CAMP,

NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE. RE: Letter in appreciation of grant.

Proclamation/ LHS Girls' Softball Team The Council recognized the Laurel High School Girls' Softball Team with a Proclamation entitled "A PROCLAMATION TO HONOR THE LAUREL HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOFTBALL TEAM UPON WINNING THE 2014

DIAA CHAMPIONSHIP".

Proclamation/
LHS Girls'
Softball
Team
(continued)



Administrator's Report

Mr. Lawson presented the following information in his Administrator's Report:

1. <u>Sussex County Emergency Operations Center Call Statistics – May</u> 2014

Attached please find the call statistics for the Fire and Ambulance Callboard for May 2014. There were 15,964 total calls handled in the month of May. Of those 9-1-1 calls in May, 81 percent were made from wireless phones.

2. Projects Receiving Substantial Completion

Per the attached Engineering Department Fact Sheets, White Creek Landing – Water View Court and Fairway Village – Phase 5 received Substantial Completion effective June 5 and June 6, respectively.

[Attachments to the Administrator's Report are not attachments to the minutes.]

FEMA Grant Update and Discussion

Brad Whaley, Director of Community Development and Housing, stated that the Community Development & Housing Office has been working with the residents of the Mallard Lake community to assist them with obtaining a FEMA Flood Mitigation Grant as a result of damage sustained to the residents' properties from Hurricane Sandy. This community is located on Route 54 approximately one mile west of Route 1 and Fenwick Island; there are a total of 47 residential buildings composed of 477 condominium units in the community.

Mr. Whaley and Mike Powell, Natural Hazards Program Manager with DNREC, presented information on the Mallard Lake FEMA flood

FEMA Grant Update and Discussion (continued)

mitigation grant:

- All of the buildings were built to the required flood elevation in the 1980s; however, due to changes to the base flood elevation, four of the buildings are now well below the current level. This insufficient height, combined with a Substantial Damage Claim totaling over \$1.2 million (which removed their grandfathered classification) from Hurricane Sandy, has caused an extreme hardship for the property owners.
- In order for Sussex County to remain eligible under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the County is required to have the buildings brought into compliance with Sussex County Flood Plain Ordinances. This would require the buildings to be elevated to the current base flood elevation level of 7' above mean sea level, which is approximately a 4' elevation for the Mallard Lake buildings. Additionally, the flood insurance for these buildings has increased dramatically, which affects the entire community because they purchased the policy as a group.
- Due to their history of flooding, four of the buildings, containing 24 condominium units, have been identified as Repetitive Loss Properties by FEMA. This recent distinction by FEMA places the four buildings in "another category" of FEMA grant assistance that allows a greater federal-local cost share percentage.
- FEMA allows local municipalities that administer FEMA grants to set their own cost share percentage as long as the breakdown does not exceed FEMA's baseline. Previously, in 2010, the Council approved a cost share percentage for FEMA Flood Mitigation Grants of 50% federal and 50% local, which is lower than the FEMA baseline of 75%-25% respectively. Unless amended, the same cost share percentage would apply to the Repetitive Loss Property with Substantial Damage Claim classification grant program.
- Due to the recent distinction of a qualified Repetitive Loss Property by FEMA in Sussex County, combined with the Substantially Damaged Claim, the Mallard Lake's community and property owners are requesting an amendment to the current 50%-50% cost share established by the Council. The amendment would apply to Repetitive Loss Properties with Substantial Damage Claim classifications only and would not affect the other Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant cost share (50%-50%).
- As proposed, the amendment would permit the greatest level of federal assistance for a Repetitive Loss Property as determined by FEMA. Thus, if a property qualifies for 85% federal assistance, the local match would be 15%. The proposed amendment would allow Mallard Lake's grant application to request the maximum allowable Federal share under this program.

Mr. Whaley noted that the proposed Motion pertains to one project only. He also noted that this would be for a competitive grant on a nationwide level and there is no guarantee that the grant will be awarded.

M 267 14 Amend Cost Share Percentage for the Administration of FEMA's Flood Mitigation Grants A Motion was made by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Deaver, that the Sussex County Council amends the previously established cost share percentage for the administration of FEMA's flood mitigation grants to include properties that qualify as Repetitive Loss Properties and have received Substantially Damaged Claim classification as determined by FEMA; a property in a Repetitive Loss category with a Substantially Damaged Claim classification as designated by FEMA shall receive the federal and local share percentage established by FEMA; Be It Further Moved that the previously established cost share percentage of 50% federal and 50% local for federal flood mitigation grants shall remain in effect.

Motion Adopted: 4 Yeas, 1 Nay.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Nay;

Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea;

Mr. Vincent, Yea

Draft
Ordinance
Relating
to Definition
of Dwelling
Etc.

Vince Robertson, Assistant County Attorney, presented a draft ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 115, ARTICLE I, BY AMENDING THE DEFINITIONS OF "DWELLING", "DWELLING, SINGLE FAMILY", "DWELLING, MULTIFAMILY" AND "FAMILY".

Synopsis: This Ordinance amends the definitions of Family, Single Family Dwellings and Multifamily Dwellings to avoid unintended discrimination under State and Federal Law. It confirms that a family may include one or two people living together and not only their natural or adopted children but also step-children and foster children. It also clarifies that children are permitted to reside with legally appointed guardians. It permits licensed and approved residential houses or no more than ten persons with disabilities as defined in the Delaware Fair Housing Act. Lastly, it recognizes that it is appropriate for two families to reside in a single unit when the owner(s) of the unit are elderly and/or disabled.

Mr. Robertson explained that, as a result of several factors, including the recent Consent Decree between Sussex County and HUD and a review of federal and state law, it has been determined that the Sussex County Zoning Code needs an update with regard to the definitions of "dwelling" and who can reside in such a unit. Attention was also drawn to this issue in a pending campground rezoning application, where it was observed that the definition of "dwelling" specifically excluded "manufactured homes" in regard to the proximity between campgrounds and "dwellings". The information led to this proposed change was also discussed during recent Fair Housing Training sessions.

Mr. Robertson stated that this amendment brings manufactured homes back into the definition of dwelling where it should be; there is no distinction between a dwelling and a manufactured home, mobile home, etc. With the adoption of this ordinance, future campground applications must be 400 feet from the nearest dwelling, whether it is a stick-built home, a

Draft Ordinance Relating to Definition of Dwelling manufactured home, single-wide or double wide manufactured home, etc.

Mr. Robertson stated that the definition of dwelling is based on federal law; that law was also referenced in the Consent Decree.

Etc. (continued)

Mr. Robertson stated that, in accordance with the draft ordinance, the definition of "family" is to be eliminated from the Code as a separate item. This definition was previously required to further define what was a single family or multifamily dwelling. Since that information is now supplied within the definition of those specific items, a separate definition of "family" is no longer required for zoning purposes.

Introduction of Proposed Ordinance

Mrs. Deaver introduced the Proposed Ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 115, ARTICLE I, BY AMENDING THE DEFINITIONS OF "DWELLING", "DWELLING, SINGLE FAMILY", "DWELLING, MULTIFAMILY" AND "FAMILY".

The Proposed Ordinance will be advertised for Public Hearing. [Mr. Robertson noted the Planning and Zoning Commission and the County Council will hold public hearings on the Proposed Ordinance.]

Legislative Update Hal Godwin, Deputy County Administrator, presented the following legislative update:

House Bill No. 385 – "AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 3 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO INDUSTRIAL HEMP"

Synopsis: Section 7606 of the federal Farm Bill exempts the growth and cultivation of industrial hemp for research purposes from the provisions of the federal Controlled Substances Act, the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, Chapter 81 of Title 41 of the United States Code, and any other Federal law so long as such growth and cultivation is also permitted under state law. This Bill authorizes the growth and cultivation of industrial hemp by the Department of Agriculture and higher education institutions for research purposes in the State of Delaware. Any higher education institution wishing to grow or cultivate industrial hemp in Delaware must be certified by the Department of Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture is authorized to develop such rules, regulations, and standards as are necessary to further the objectives of this Act.

Mr. Godwin asked Council members to review the legislation and to submit their opinions on it at the next Council meeting.

Wetlands Advisory Committee Report Hal Godwin, Deputy County Administrator, reported that the Wetlands Advisory Committee will vote on a question at their Wednesday, June 11th meeting and that he needs Council's direction on how to vote. The Committee proposes to increase available tax credits to owners of property with wetlands from \$50,000 each to \$100,000 each, while retaining the statewide cap of \$1 million per year for this tax credit. Mr. Godwin noted

Wetlands Advisory Committee Report (continued)

that this proposal does not increase the tax credit burden on the State budget.

Mr. Godwin reported that the Wetlands Advisory Committee (WAC) voted to recommend an amendment and expansion of the tax credit program for protection and preservation of wetlands and adjacent natural resource areas. At its last meeting, the Committee reviewed proposed implementation measures for the recommendation adopted, which resulted in a withdrawn motion so that the Committee members could review the details with their representative organizations before a vote is taken. The question to be presented to the Committee regarding implementation is as follows: "The Committee recommends that the existing Delaware Land and Historic Resources Protection Incentive Act of 1999 be amended and expanded as follows:

- 1. Category I freshwater wetlands and adjacent areas qualify and be identified as a conservation value for tax incentive program.
- 2. The tax credit program maintains:
 - A. The existing 40% of Fair Market value limit
 - B. The existing 5-year carry forward period
 - C. The existing Statewide cap of \$1,000,000 per year
- 3. The tax credit program be expanded to include:
 - A. Raise the individual maximum credit from \$50,000 to \$100,000
 - B. The allowance of transfer of tax credits to third parties."

Mr. Godwin noted that the original law provided for a \$10 million fund with a \$1 million cap per year. He noted that the Committee's proposal provides that the existing \$1 million Statewide cap remain unchanged so as not to create any new revenue loss exposure to the State.

Marty Ross, member of the Wetlands Advisory Committee, commented on the Committee's proposal. He stated that the biggest change that is being proposed is the transferability, which is preventing the program from being successful. He stated the Committee's charge is to focus on wetlands and to try to encourage preservation of wetlands. He noted that wetland already qualify for this tax credit program even though it is not specifically stated, as do other lands. Mr. Ross stated that "many" members of the Committee would like to see this tax credit recommendation to the General Assembly give a bonus for wetland preservation i.e. a higher percentage than the 40% of Fair Market value limit.

It was the consensus of the Council to agree with the Wetlands Advisory Committee's proposal.

Fair Housing Update Brandy Nauman, Housing Coordinator & Fair Housing Compliance Officer, presented a six-month update on the progress of the County's fair housing settlement requirements for HUD and the Department of Justice:

Fair Housing Update (continued)

U.S. Department of Justice Consent Decree

- Regarding the development of New Horizons by Diamond State CLT and its resubmission and consideration, on May 5, 2014 the County received a letter from Diamond State CLT indicating that they have terminated their contract for the land in Laurel that was originally designated for New Horizons. Therefore, while the County is released from the duties pertaining to the project, the County intends to assist the non-profit in locating other sites for future projects.
- Regarding an Affordable and Fair Housing Marketing Plan, the County has not yet received official approval from the Department of Justice; however, the County has: (1) begun implementing the items, i.e. annually fund the search.org website, a real-time online service that lists all of the State's public and private rental units as well as publically funded for-sale units, and (2) the County is working with several local housing providers and advocacy organizations to provide an inaugural Sussex County Homebuyer Fair, which has been tentatively scheduled for September 2014.
- Regarding housing discrimination complaints, Brandy Nauman, Fair Housing Compliance Officer, receives and reviews complaints of housing discrimination against the County. In the last six months, the County has not received any complaints.
- Regarding the submission of the Third Semi-Annual Compliance Report, the report is due on June 19th and will go to HUD and the Department of Justice.
- Regarding Fair Housing Training, the County completed a Fair Housing Training seminar. In addition, all new employees that are hired into departments affiliated with housing, land use, or zoning receives the Fair Housing Training.
- Regarding the Affordable Housing Webpage, the County created an
 affordable and fair housing webpage, which was launched in June
 2013. Compliance reports and notice of public hearings and meetings
 and other events are posted on the website. The webpage will continue
 to be updated regularly.

Mrs. Nauman reported that for the first time since the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development Voluntary Compliance Agreement was established (November 2012), HUD issued a response to the County's submitted activities and progress.

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development Voluntary Compliance Agreement

• Regarding Fair Housing Training, the County completed a Fair Housing Training seminar. In addition, all new employees that are hired into departments affiliated with housing, land use, or zoning receives the Fair Housing Training.

Fair Housing Update (continued)

- Regarding the requirement to review the 1998, 2003 and 2011 Analysis of Impediments Evaluation to fair housing and develop a Proposed Priority Fair Housing Plan to address those impediments, HUD commented on the County's plan and the Community Development and Housing Office is in the process of updating the document to address those concerns. The Office has also been working to update several items from the plan including completing a Four Factor Analysis which uses census data to determine the percentage of individuals in this jurisdiction where English is a second language. There were a few concerns and impediments relating to the Zoning Code; in regards to definitions, on this date a Proposed Ordinance was introduced by Council to address the new definitions of "dwelling" and "family".
- Regarding the Strong Communities Initiative and the RFP status, the County is required to perform an internal evaluation of ten rural communities in the County. The evaluation would determine the prioritized secondary infrastructure and community service needs of each individual community. Mrs. Nauman stated that there are four additional communities that they work with that should be included, so there are a total of 14 that they plan to evaluate. Once the data is evaluated, the County will have a basis from which to prioritize investments and requests. Through the CDBG program, the County applied for a grant to assist with the data collection part of the study and \$50,000 was awarded in Fiscal Year 2013 funding. A Request for Proposals was issued for the data collection on February 18th; five proposals were received. The Review Panel determined that all of the proposals exceeded Sussex County's predetermined budget for the study; proposals ranged from \$54,000 to \$360,000. Based on the legal team's advisement, the RFP will be altered and rebid.

Proposed Lease Amendment/ PATS Aircraft

Jim Hickin, Director of Airport and Industrial Park Operations, presented an Addendum to a Lease with PATS Aircraft LLC. PATS leases Lot 10 in the Industrial Park, including two large County-owned hangars; the proposed addendum changes two items in the lease:

- Corrects an error in the original lease and first addendum that incorrectly located the lot on Indian River Avenue.
- Allows PATS to place a "lien, mortgage, deed of trust, security interest, or encumbrance of any kind upon the Leased Premises or Tenant's leasehold interest", with the prior written approval of the County.

Mr. Hickin noted that the County has three leases with PATS, one is for Lots 1 through 7, one on Baltimore Avenue, and Lot 10. Two of the leases allows PATS to take out a mortgage or other financing with the County's permission; however, in the Lease for Lot 10, there is no provision for this financing option.

M 268 14
Execute
Second
Addendum
to Lease/
PATS
Aircraft

A Motion was made by Mrs. Deaver, seconded by Mr. Phillips, that the Sussex County Council authorizes the Council President to execute the Second Addendum to the Lease Purchase Agreement with PATS Aircraft LLC for Lot 10 in the Sussex County Industrial Park, as presented.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea;

Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea;

Mr. Vincent, Yea

Sussex
Shores
Proposed
Chapter 96
Community
Improvement
Project

Patti Deptula, Director of Special Projects, presented a proposed project for the subdivision of Sussex Shores. The community has requested inclusion in the County's Chapter 96, Sussex Community Improvement Program. The project is located on Route 1, north of Bethany. The County received a formal request on January 16, 2014 from the Sussex Shores Beach Association to initiate the Chapter 96 process. The request includes the underground relocation of all their existing overhead electric, phone and cable lines, removal of existing utility poles, minor stormwater drainage repairs, some signage, landscaping and fencing improvements, and the repaying of all existing subdivision streets. Included with their request was also a request to utilize the private engineering firm of George Miles & Buhr to coordinate this work with the County. The Engineering Department determined that the project meets all the necessary criteria for inclusion in the Chapter 96 Program. A petition form was mailed out to all property owners; 71 petitions were received back, which meets the representation requirement in Sussex County Code. Construction cost estimates were compiled: the total project cost is estimated at approximately \$2.5 million. This amount calculates into an estimated assessment rate of approximately \$1,614.00 for a twenty year time period or an option for an estimated one time lump sum payment of \$21,929.00 per assessable parcel. A public meeting was conducted to discuss the project with the homeowners. Mrs. Deptula asked for the Council's approval of a Proposed Resolution authorizing the project's inclusion in the Chapter 96 Program, acceptance of the estimated costs, and scheduling of a project election to be held on Saturday, July 12th. Mrs. Deptula noted that, if the election is voted in favor of the project, it is anticipated that construction would begin in the Spring of 2015.

M 269 14 Adopt R 006 14/ Sussex Shores Proposed CIP A Motion was made by Mrs. Deaver, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to Adopt Resolution No. R 006 14 entitled "A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A DATE, TIME, PLACE AND JUDGE FOR AN ELECTION TO BE HELD TO CONSIDER THE SUSSEX SHORES PROPOSED CHAPTER 96 SUSSEX COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT".

Motion Adopted: 4 Yeas, 1 Abstention.

M 269 14 (continued)

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Abstained;

Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea;

Mr. Vincent, Yea

Mr. Cole stated that he abstained due to a potential conflict.

Grant

Requests Mrs. Jennings presented grant requests for the Council's consideration.

M 270 14 Councilmanic

Grant

A Motion was made by Mrs. Deaver, seconded by Mr. Cole, to give \$500.00 from Mrs. Deaver's Councilmanic Grant Account to the Coolspring Civic

Association for community event expenses.

Motion Adopted:

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea;

5 Yeas.

Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea;

Mr. Vincent, Yea

M 271 14 Councilmanic

Grant

A Motion was made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to give \$500.00 from Mr. Wilson's Councilmanic Grant Account to CHEER for the

Annual Car, Truck & Bike Show fundraiser.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea;

Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea;

Mr. Vincent, Yea

M 272 14 Countywide Youth Grant A Motion was made by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mrs. Deaver, to give \$550.00 from the Countywide Youth Grant Account to Pathways to Success for mentoring and after-school programs.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea;

Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea;

Mr. Vincent, Yea

M 273 14 Councilmanic Grant A Motion was made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to give \$3,500.00 from Mr. Wilson's Councilmanic Grant Account to the City of Milford for the museum fundraising campaign.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea;

Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea;

Mr. Vincent, Yea

M 274 14 Councilmanic Grant

A Motion was made by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to give \$750.00 from Mr. Phillips' Councilmanic Grant Account to the Town of Delmar for a community improvement project.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea;

Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea;

Mr. Vincent, Yea

Additional **Business**

Under Additional Business, Barbara Vaughn introduced Rob Morgan who was recently elected to serve on the Lewes City Council.

Under Additional Business, Dixie Boucher commented on the following issues: the definition of "dwelling", updating the County Code, and a County Planner position.

Under Additional Business, Dan Kramer commented on the County's grant program.

M 275 14 Recess/ Go Into Executive Session

At 11:20 a.m., a Motion was made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to recess the Regular Session and to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing issues relating to Job Applicants' Qualifications and Land Acquisition.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea;

Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea;

Mr. Vincent, Yea

Executive Session

At 11:23 a.m., an Executive Session of the Sussex County Council was held in the Council Caucus Room for the purpose of discussing issues relating to Job Applicants' Qualifications and Land Acquisition. The Executive Session concluded at 11:57 a.m.

M 276 14 Reconvene Regular Session

At 11:58 a.m., a Motion was made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mrs. Deaver, to come out of Executive Session and to reconvene the Regular Session.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea;

Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea;

Mr. Vincent, Yea

Executive Session Action

Mr. Moore announced that the Council went into Executive Session for two purposes. There was a brief report given on land acquisition. Regarding Job Applicants' Qualifications, Mr. Moore stated that he believed it would

(continued) be appropriate for the Council to make a Motion.

M 277 14 Conduct Interviews/ Economic Development Director A Motion was made by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Phillips, that all the candidates who met the qualifications of the job posting for the Director of Economic Development, as determined by our staff, be contacted for the purpose of conducting interviews with the entire Council in Executive Session; those candidates are identified for our purposes as Candidates A, C, D, E, H, J, O, S, and U.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea;

Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea;

Mr. Vincent, Yea

M 278 14 A Motion was made by Mrs. Deaver, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to adjourn at 11:59 a.m.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea;

Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea;

Mr. Vincent, Yea

Respectfully submitted,

Robin A. Griffith Clerk of the Council