

Ship Bottom Taxpayers General Meeting Minutes 09/10/22

The meeting was held at the Ship Bottom Fire House and opened at 11:10 am. Our President, Barbara Bishop, welcomed all attendees (there were approximately 65 people in attendance), informed the attendees that the donuts were donated by Ferrara's Bakery, and then introduced our mayor, William Huelsenbeck. Below is a summation of topics he discussed.

After his presentation, there was a voice vote taken to officially approve three new board members. The candidates were Greg Fath as Secretary, and two general members, Denise Cleveland and Kat Leifeste. Ron Kraft made the motion to approve the three candidates, with Angela Trampota seconding the motion. Voice vote passed and there were no dissenting votes.

Barbara announced that we are in the process of having our website upgraded and that there will be more information posted on it including 2022-2023 membership information. The meeting adjourned at 12:24 pm at which time a small group of individuals participated in a townwide cleanup. Barbara gave out grabbers, pails, bags and gloves to assist in the cleanup.

Discussion with Mayor William Huelsenbeck

Barbara asked for a "show of hands" to see how many residents had actually seen our mayor in person. There were a surprising number of folks who never had met him. This segued into a brief summary of the mayor's experience in different capacities on the island up to and including his current position, which he has held since 1999.

He stated that although only 7/10th of a square mile, Ship Bottom's ratables exceed \$1.7 billion and our annual budget is approximately \$9.5 million. The mayor then began discussing particular items:

1. Bulkhead at 4th street is in the process of being replaced with an anticipated completion of Late Spring 2023.
2. Piping to begin on 9th Street on Monday, September 19th. There could be some delays due to environmental issues.
3. Our new water treatment plant is state of the art and our wells are 600 feet deep, so no concern about any impact from the ongoing construction.
4. We are still waiting on DEP to move forward with pump station at 28th Street.
5. Traffic Signals will follow the same schedule as last year per the county, with the ones on 9th Street and 28th Street to remain operational year-round.
6. A discussion ensued on the status of the elementary schools. Many questions were asked and different opinions shared. Bottom line is that we still do not have anything definitive in place at this time.
7. Barbara did let attendees know that the next school board meeting is on September 20th and encourage folks to attend.
8. Another lengthy discussion occurred in reference to the proposed wind farms off LBI. Barbara stressed that this wasn't the forum to discuss at length. The mayor shared that he and his peers on the island are all opposed to them as plans currently stand.

9. Accolades were shared for the Police Department for their service to the community and their 100% accreditation achievement with state law enforcement. In addition, the mayor informed the community that there is now an armed officer at the LBI school and there will be one shortly at the Ethel Jacobson school in Surf City.
10. One of our members publicly applauded the efforts of Barbara Bishop for establishing our taxpayer's association and for the accomplishments from the past year. Recognition was well deserved.
11. Questions were asked about the former CVS building and the mayor confirmed that a state-of-the-art arcade will be opening by Spring 2024. He gave a synopsis of how Fantasy Island was established and why an ordinance was passed many years ago once Ship Bottom reached three mini golf courses and two mini arcades.

Minutes submitted by Greg Fath