



TOWN COUNCIL

Joint Work Session with Cheriton Town Council

Cheriton Fire Hall

January 11, 2010

7:00 p.m.

At approximately 7:05 p.m. at the Cheriton Fire Hall, Mayor Dora Sullivan called to order the Joint Work Session with the Cheriton Town Council. In addition to Mayor Sullivan, present were Councilmen Bannon, Bennett, Burdiss, Evans and Veber. Councilman Elliott was not in attendance. Also present were Town Manager Heather Arcos, Town Planner Tom Bonadeo and Town Clerk Libby Hume. In attendance representing Cheriton were Mayor Robert Lewis, Vice Mayor Norma Spencer and Councilmen Richard Craft, Larry LeMond, J. Wesley Travis, Jim West, H. Lawrence West and Consultant Beverly Harper. There were approximately ten (10) members of the public in attendance.

Mayor Sullivan announced the business for the evening would be to discuss the issue of boundary adjustments with the Cheriton Town Council.

Boundary Adjustments

Mayor Lewis began by explaining the background regarding Cheriton's pursuit for a boundary adjustment and gave each Council member from both towns the opportunity to make a statement regarding this issue. The majority of the Council members that spoke agreed that boundary adjustments for both towns would be beneficial for the area. Several of the Council members added that they were in favor of pursuing regional water and wastewater systems.

Town Planner Tom Bonadeo reviewed various items to be considered in regards to a boundary adjustment such as the Cape Charles National Historic District, business development and protection of the small town character, water and wastewater, the Eastern Shore "nature" and the need to protect it and the "small village" lifestyle, the relationship between the County and the towns, Cape Charles' town infrastructure and the studies that would be required such as tax parcels and their impact on the towns, the cost to extend services, a residential survey, increased administrative costs and the projected revenue vs. the costs. The Councils went on to review the two maps which showed the proposed boundary adjustments as discussed in 2006 and the current boundary adjustment proposal from Cheriton.

There was some discussion regarding the anticipated resistance from the property owners in the areas involved in the Cape Charles proposal due to the real estate and property taxes assessed by the Town. Several of the Cheriton Council stated that the Town of Cheriton does not assess taxes to its property owners and has no immediate intention of doing so. Cheriton's revenue comes from local businesses in their jurisdiction and they are interested in expanding their boundaries to enable commercial growth which would bring in more revenue.

There was also discussion regarding the two towns needing to work together regarding any proposed commercial growth along Route 13 to ensure the commercial uses in this area are compatible with new business while protecting and enhancing existing businesses.

After further discussion Councilman Craft suggested the creation of a sub-committee to work on the details of this issue before approaching the County. The sub-committee members are Cape Charles Councilmen Burdiss and Veber, Tom Bonadeo, Cheriton Vice Mayor Spencer, Councilman LeMond and Beverly Harper.

Councilman Evans suggested a final poll of both Councils to show those in favor of Cape Charles and Cheriton working together toward a common goal of boundary adjustments as discussed. All Council members were in favor of moving forward with this project.

Motion made by Councilman Bannon, seconded by Councilman Evans and unanimously approved to adjourn the Joint Town Council Work Session with Cheriton Town Council.

Mayor Sullivan

Town Clerk