

Town of Little Creek Council Meeting Minutes for December 4, 2023

The meeting of the Little Creek Town Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Edward Strouse. Four Commissioners were present in person. Commissioner May declared that four out of four members of the Board of Commissioners were present in person, therefore, the Town Council had a quorum and was free to conduct business and begin the meeting. The four members of the Board of Commissioners present for the Town of Little Creek Council Meeting: Commissioner Edward Strouse, Commissioner Jason Arrington, Commissioner Adrienne Hegman, and Commissioner Theresa May. Seven members of the public were in attendance in person for the general meeting: Dennis May, Joanne Sullivan, William Clark, Carol Williams, Penny Gentry, Judith Hegman, and Karl Saatman. One member of the public attended the meeting via Zoom: Angie Strouse.

The meeting minutes from the previous month were electronically sent to the commissioners for their review prior to this meeting. These minutes were also made available to all in attendance as hard copies. A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Hegman to accept the minutes as received from the secretary/clerk. The motion was put to a full board vote where it was passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's report covering the period from November 6, 2023, to December 4, 2023, was presented as hard copies to the members of the Board of Commissioners prior to the meeting. The report was presented in printed form to those in attendance and read aloud by Commissioner Hegman. Since there were no questions posed by the residents, Commissioner May made a motion to accept the report as presented and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Arrington. When put to a full vote by the board it was passed unanimously.

The current bills were distributed to the Council members as hard copies and in print form to attending residents. The formal motion to pay all the current bills was made by Commissioner Arrington. This motion was seconded by Commissioner May and put to full board for a vote. The Board unanimously passed the motion to pay the current bills.

Committee Reports

- a) **Planning Commission** – Carol Williams and Commissioner Arrington
 - Nothing new to report
- b) **Parks and Recreation** – Commissioner Hegman
 - Getting report for soil addition to make these areas level with the existing grass.
 - Mr. Little suggested getting a quote to Town Council by the Spring of 2024.
 - i) **Dog Park** - Mr. Hegman/Ms. Freese
 - Concern raised about dog (Black Shepherd) that gets out of its home and runs free regularly. This is an ongoing issue and has not changed since being reported at the November Town Council Meeting.
 - The Board of Commissioners reinforced that residents need to report any issues with animals to Animal Control.
- c) **Code Enforcement** – Commissioner Strouse
 - Nothing new to report.

- The letters to address the properties noted at the November 2023 Town Council Meeting have not been sent to date.
- d) **Little Creek Fire Company Report** – President Frazier/Chief Scott Bundek
 - No report.

Old Business –

- a) **Northern Flood Study** - Commissioner Strouse
 - Grant awarded to the Town by FEMA. An agreement was reached for the Town's matching funds to be paid with CTF. The funds will total \$94,969.00.
 - Prior to start of project, the Town will need to get a permit from the Army Corp of Engineers to do the necessary work at the ditch.
 - The permit is expected to go through prior to Senator Carper's retirement.
- b) **ARPA** – Commissioner Strouse
 - There is no change from the report at the November meeting.
- c) **Community Partnerships** - Commissioner May
 - Nothing new to report.
- d) **Southern Flood Study** – Commissioner Strouse
 - More surveys are being done concerning the areas affected in the southern end of town.
 - The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 8, 2023. The meeting is scheduled to take place at the Little Creek Grill and will include a walkthrough of the areas affected by flooding and description of what happens during high tides and excessive rainfall events.
- e) **ORPT** – Commissioner Strouse
 - The Town was awarded the ORPT grant in the amount of \$75,000.00. The matching funds the Town needs to produce are in the amount of \$25,000.00. \$5,000 of this can be paid in kind. \$10,000.00 will come from ARPA funds.
- f) **Cameras for Town Hall and Park** - Commissioner Arrington
 - The Little Creek Town Council has opted to table this topic until January 2024 while awaiting more information from Kyle Tribbitt on affordable systems with the specifications that will provide the best coverage for these areas.
- g) **Traffic Calming** – Commissioner Strouse
 - The Town has paid DelDOT for the installation of the proposed Stop signs on Main Street near the intersection of Main and Port Mahon.
- h) **Future of Town Board of Commissioners** – Commissioner Strouse
 - There are three positions on the Board of Commissioners that are up for election in March of 2024. The current Commissioners are in need of assistance. There is a need for additional members and anyone interested in running for a Town Council position needs to submit a letter of interest to the Town of Little Creek by February.
 - If residents do not become more involved, the Town Council may need to explore the option to unincorporate, thus going back to governance by Kent County.
- i) **Town News Letter**
 - This was sent to Commissioner Hegman who forwarded it to the printer.

New Business – Commissioner Strouse

- a) DNREC has scheduled a meeting for 12/14/23
 - A resident had their well tested for forever chemicals. The numbers were higher than those deemed safe for consumption.
 - The resident reported this to authorities and the well was tested by the state. The numbers came back with similar results prompting DNREC to question the number of wells in the town that may also be affected.
 - This public meeting is designed to provide information to residents and ask people to consider getting their well tested in order to determine how wide spread the contamination is and come up with solutions to make the water safer to drink.

Public Comment

- No Comments.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner May. Motion was carried, and the meeting officially ended at 7:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa May

Secretary