

## **Town of Little Creek Council Meeting Minutes for July 7, 2025**

The meeting of the Little Creek Town Board was called to order at 7:01 pm by Mayor Edward Strouse. Two Commissioners were present in person and two Commissioners attended the meeting via Zoom. Commissioner Strouse declared that four out of four members of the Board of Commissioners were present, therefore, the Town Council had a quorum and was free to conduct business and begin the meeting. The two members of the Board of Commissioners who were present in person for the Town of Little Creek Council Meeting: Commissioner Edward Strouse, Commissioner Adrienne Hegman. The two commissioners who attended via Zoom: Commissioner Dennis May and Commissioner Theresa May. Eight members of the public were in attendance in person for the general meeting: Penny Gentry, Joanne Sullivan, Carol Puleo, Judy Hegman, Joe McGonigal, Shawn Brighenti, Carol Williams, Bill Clark. Two members of the public attended the meeting via Zoom: Andrew May and Ryan Kraus.

Due to technical issues the meeting minutes from the previous month were not available at the time of the meeting and will be presented to the Board members electronically as soon as possible. These minutes will also be made available to all in attendance as hard copies at the August meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Hegman and seconded by Commissioner D. May to defer the review of the June minutes until received from the secretary/clerk at the August Council meeting. The motion was put to a full board vote where it was passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's report covering the period from June 2, 2025, to July 7, 2025, was sent in electronic form to the Commissioners prior to the meeting for review. The report, and the list of current bills, was presented verbally by Mayor Strouse to those in attendance. Since there were no questions posed by the residents, Commissioner Hegman made a motion to accept the report as presented and to pay the current bills. The motion was seconded by Commissioner T. May. When put to a full vote by the board it was passed unanimously.

### **Committee Reports**

- a) **Planning Commission** – Carol Williams and Commissioner Arrington
  - Nothing new to report.
- b) **Parks and Recreation** – Commissioner Hegman
  - Mayor Strouse contacted Susan Freese about the trash not going out. A volunteer will be taking care of that going forward.
  - Old movie screen has been taken down.
    - i) **Dog Park** - Mr. Hegman/Ms. Freese
  - Nothing new to report.
- c) **Code Enforcement** – Commissioner Strouse
  - No one has been to the Tow Yard to work on the property since Memorial Day.
  - A letter will be sent to the Tow Yard concerning the property.
  - The Bailey property update: Dennis has been in contact with Veteran Agencies and gave Betty Bailey a number to call for assistance. The Commissioners are brainstorming ways to get a dumpster. One option is to get one through Lowe's.

Another option is to borrow the dumpster that was acquired by a member of the fire company.

- Grass letters are coming.
  - Rodent issue in Workman property on Wilson Lane. A letter will be sent.
  - Mayor Strouse received an email from Ed Angwin. It stated that he is working on a contract from a different company to destroy the burnt house. He will get a permit once he has a date when the company can begin demolition.
- d) **Little Creek Fire Company Report** – President Frazier/Chief Scott Bundek
- Nothing new to report.

#### **Old Business –**

a) **Northern / Southern Flood Study** - Commissioner Strouse

- The LeBeau family accepted the new appraisal amount, and the Nature Conservancy will be purchasing for the Town. Nothing will be built on these parcels. One parcel out of the six is considered outside town limits. Mr. Cartanza has agreed to maintain that area by the field as it borders his farm.
- FEMA grants are drying up. The Department of Defense money that is available through the Air Force Base will help with expenses, but the town will wait to apply for grants until the property has been purchased.

b) **ORPT 2024** – Commissioner Strouse

- ORPT Max. \$75,000
- Buckson \$29,991
- Grant has been extended to December 2025
- Borders and sunshades are still needed.
- **ORPT 2025** – The ORPT Max. grant of \$45,000 has been approved. The Town portion is \$15,000. CTF funds from Representative Carson have been disapproved due to this project being determined ineligible.
- Mayor Strouse received two quotes for the new pad:  
Quote #1 – \$9,500.00 from Dill Masonry  
Quote #2 - \$8,300.00 from Quality Concrete
- The location of the Pavilion was discussed by the Board, and it was decided to place it parallel to the basketball court. The 20x50 pad is 10 feet longer than the current pavilion. A motion was made by Commissioner Hegman and seconded by Commissioner T. May to go with the \$9,500 bid quoted from Dill's Masonry. The motion was put before the full board where it passed unanimously.
- **ORPT 2026** – The paperwork has made it to the second phase of the approval process. This grant would be used to build/install an outdoor bathroom next to the Town Hall. There are several options being researched. The Board is waiting for quotes for this project. The final application is due in September.

c) **Kent County Grant** – Commissioner Strouse

- There has been no communication from Kent County concerning the grant application that was submitted toward providing a bathroom at Town Hall.

**d) Pedestrian Study/Traffic Calming** – Commissioner Strouse

- A public meeting with Dover Kent MPO is scheduled for July 10 at the Firehouse. The meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm.
- Grant money to finish sidewalks (\$8,000) needs to be used before it expires. Dry Tech can be contracted to level the sidewalks and their quote is within budget. July 16, 2025, Dry Tech will be in town to level the sidewalks where needed.
- Carol Williams brought up the overgrowth of grass on the sidewalks. She was advised by the Board to fill out the code complaint form on the website so we can send a letter to those property owners.
- Traffic calming measures and concerns: Two stories were aired on WBOC about the traffic and speeding through the town. The State of Delaware is raising the toll price on Route 1 which will potentially lead to an increase in traffic on Route 9. The cost of hiring a State Trooper to monitor traffic through town has increased to \$140/hour. Mayor Strouse has another meeting with the Governor on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, to voice our concerns.

**e) Tow Yard Update** – Commissioner Strouse

- The owner has been cleaning up the property.
- Environmental study is in progress.

**f) Well Testing Update** – Commissioner Strouse

- If you test positive once you can get a new well.

**g) Municipal Elections** – Commissioner Strouse

- There is still one position left unfilled on the Town Board.

**h) NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program) Compliance Walkabout** – Commissioner Strouse

- The audit was conducted on April 2.
- Only a few issues were mentioned in the report.
  - Hegman - Shed Vents. The Shed vents have been received and need to be installed.
  - Chilton – Propane Tank. Mr. Chilton contacted Sharp Energy, and they anchored his propane tank securely for free.
  - Bailey – Commissioner Dennis May - RVs. Betty Bailey spoke with members of the Town Board and is working with them to develop a plan for the removal of the RVs. She is unable to drive them and is willing to work with Council to find solutions, but she needs assistance with implementation.
- The NFIP representative will be kept informed of the plan and progress in rectifying the violations cited after the audit walkabout.

**i) Comprehensive Plan Update** – Commissioner Theresa May

- This plan needs to be updated and submitted by November 2026. The cost to get it redone by the University of Delaware is \$30,000. The Town of Little Creek does not

have the funds to pay this much. David Edgell is the person who helped write the current comprehensive plan. The Board will investigate

- j) ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Reporting** – Commissioner Strouse
- \$1,000 of this money was spent after the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2024. This money may need to be paid back.
  - It is unknown if other expenses will be approved in the amount of \$10,223.00

### **New Business**

- Mayor Strouse explained what unincorporating the Town could look like and what it would mean for the residents. He asked all residents who own property and pay taxes to consider
- The City of Dover is raising the electricity rates by 10% as of the vote held at the last City Council meeting.
- The well pump sprung a leak at Town Hall. Edgewater Well Service came out to help. It was discovered that the fitting at the top of the pump was rusted out. A new pump was installed for \$1,200.
- Mayor Strouse reported that DelDOT has it in their 2026 budget to install a 3 way stop sign at Bayside Drive and South Little Creek Road.

### **Public Comment**

- Penny Gentry asked about DNREC spraying for mosquitos. Commissioner T. May will reach out to see when they are going to spray again.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner T. May and seconded by Commissioner D. May. Motion was carried, and the meeting officially ended at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa May

Secretary