

**Town of Camden
Public Workshop
Camden Municipal Building
September 25, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Edmanson called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and noticed that this Public Workshop is being held in compliance with the Delaware Open Public Meeting Act by posting the agenda on September 25, 2013, in the following manner:

- a. The Official Bulletin Boards;
- b. The official Town of Camden Web Site;
- c. The Dover Post; and
- d. The Delaware State News.

Council Attending: Mayor Edmanson, Vice Mayor King, Councilman Dougherty, and Councilman Green.

Council Absent: Councilman Casquarelli

Camden Board of Directors: Barbara Blomquist

Camden Board of Directors absent: Tracy Torres

Staff Attending: Town Manager Aaron Chaffinch, and Town Clerk Jamie Fenske.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

DISCUSSION

Between the Camden Mayor and Council and the Camden Appointees to the Camden-Wyoming Sewer & Water Authority Board of Directors

Mayor Edmanson stated that the Town of Camden has 3 appointees to the board of Directors for the Camden Wyoming Sewer and Water Authority. As of Friday, September 20, 2013, Mr. Wood resigned from the board.

Mayor Edmanson expressed his gratitude to Mr. Wood for volunteering on the board.

Mayor Edmanson added that Tracy Torres is unable to attend tonight due to prior obligations. She gave a report to Mr. Chaffinch that he will present on her behalf.

Councilman Green explained that Senator Bushweller requested a committee be formed with council members from both Camden and Wyoming. Councilman Dougherty and Councilman Green were the two from Camden, and Georgette Williams and Jacqueline Stokes were the two Council members from Wyoming, to join the committee.

Councilman Green added that Mayor Edmanson wrote a letter on behalf of the Town of Camden that all of Camden Council signed and sent to CWSWA opposing rate increases.

Councilman Green read out loud a letter that was sent to Camden and Wyoming Mayors and Councils.

Councilman Dougherty stated that he has heard talk that there is a third water tower in the plans for the CWSWA.

Councilman Dougherty expressed that he is fully supportive of hiring a consultant to look at steps that can be taken by the CWSWA to improve services they provide.

Councilman Green agreed that he thinks hiring an efficiency expert/consultant would be a great idea.

Mayor Edmanson asked Mrs. Blomquist if she has heard of another water tower being built.

Mrs. Blomquist responded not to her knowledge.

Mrs. Blomquist added that due to a resolution that was done in the past, the positions of treasurer and secretary were removed from the board of directors. She feels like there should again be a treasurer and a secretary on the board of directors. The treasurer would be the one to sign the checks that are issued by the CWSWA.

Councilman Green stated that the CWSWA would be responsible to pay for the efficiency expert.

Councilman Dougherty explained that the Board of Directors voted to do away with the treasurer position and that they can vote to add the position back.

Mayor Edmanson stated that Camden will speak with Wyoming so that we can move forward together.

Mayor Edmanson added that the resolution from 2011 can be amended.

Councilman Green referenced the letter that was sent to Camden and Wyoming Mayors and Councils in regards to having two check signers. Councilman Green asked Mrs. Blomquist if she thinks there should be two signers on all checks.

Mrs. Blomquist stated that she thinks there should be two signers if it is set up like that.

Mr. Chaffinch responded on Mrs. Torres' behalf, stating that she doesn't think there should be 2 board members to sign because she does not feel they have the expertise to understand the invoices. She does think that two employees should sign the checks.

Councilman Green asked to what extent does the board authorize expenditures, especially large expenditures such as the vacuum truck.

Mrs. Blomquist stated that they do not approve them but she thinks they should.

Mr. Chaffinch responded on Mrs. Torres' behalf, this was brought up at the budget workshop, the vacuum truck is self-funded and it is a regularly used piece of equipment.

Councilman Green asked if given that the CWSWA contracts out much of the administrative work, what are the duties of the administrative employees.

Mr. Chaffinch responded on Mrs. Torres' behalf, answer the phone, take payments, and billing. She does not know if they have job description but she can ask them.

Councilman Green stated that within the past 2 weeks or so, at least three separate areas have had brown water. He added that he thinks there needs to be an expert opinion about the brown water.

Councilman Green asked if the work load supports a full time engineer.

Mr. Chaffinch responded on Mrs. Torres' behalf, the engineer makes \$140,000 salary this year. He is there most of the time which allows for a fast response time.

Vice-Mayor King questioned how many jobs are done each month by the engineer.

Mrs. Blomquist stated that she did not know.

Vice-Mayor King explained that the board members need to ask questions during the monthly meetings.

Vice-Mayor King also stated that he does not have enough information to say if a full time engineer is necessary.

Mayor Edmanson added that this is why an independent consultant needs to come in to give a full inspection of the entire CWSWA.

Councilman Green replied that the directors can feel free to ask any questions to the CWSWA that they would like and they are fully supported by the Town of Camden.

Councilman Green asked if there is proper bidding practices used with regard to contracting out work.

Mr. Chaffinch responded on Mrs. Torres' behalf, that she did not know.

Councilman Green questioned if the debt load of the CWSWA is appropriate and if it is managed well.

Mrs. Blomquist stated that she knows there are two loans, one will be paid off this year and the other has a low interest rate.

Councilman Green asked if the CWSWA purchased equipment that it could have rented or paid others to do the work.

Mrs. Blomquist expressed that sometimes if you rent items they are not always available.

Mr. Chaffinch responded on Mrs. Torres' behalf, in reference to the vacuum truck they purchased that and they use it very frequently.

Councilman Green asked if all employee duties are well defined.

Mrs. Blomquist stated that she does not believe that they do billing in that office.

Mr. Chaffinch responded on Mrs. Torres' behalf, she believes that they do the billing there.

Mayor Edmanson question if they have managed the personnel with the growth of the towns.

Councilman Green added that the CWSWA engineer is contracted and they do not pay the medical or benefits for that position.

Vice-Mayor King thanked the board of directors for volunteering. He asked the board to please be proactive and demand questions and answers. He reminded the board that the Camden Council supports their appointees 100%.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jull Fuchs- 31 Prouse Lane, stated that she thinks a third party review is a great idea, but not someone that the CWSWA picks. She believes that a stipend would help get volunteers on the board of directors.

Mrs. Fuchs added there was notice from the CWSWA that there would be hydrant flushing. When she contacted the Authority she received poor customer service.

Peter Couming- 132 S Kimmer Lane, questioned what business structure does the Authority have.

Mayor Edmanson stated that the Bill that was passed by the Senate, the Councils and Board have the powers to get answers.

Mr. Couming expressed that he supports having a consultant, and thinks that possibly two consultants would be a good idea.

Linda Dougherty- 239 Paynter's Way, explained that she feels there absolutely is need for a consultant. She feels that there is a need for someone to go in and stop them because volunteers can't do it.

Susan Savage- 302 Meeting House Ln, stated that the last time there was a meeting at the firehouse with the CWSWA, the Authority did not answer any questions.

Councilman Green added that we can only move forward and that Camden Council will force them to answer questions.

Vice-Mayor King stated that it is the Council's duty to reinforce to the directors that they can ask questions and that the board needs to come to the council meetings and state if they are not answering the board's questions.

Tracy Green-102 S Main St, explained that she was on the board but resigned due to aggravation. She added that Mrs. Torres and herself worked to get rates reduced.

Mrs. Green expressed that she did not feel like the other board members were supportive.

Mrs. Green stated that she felt an efficiency expert and a financial officer are both needed. She also feels that dual signatures are needed.

Tom Bennett- 133 S Jerman Ln, explained that he feels there is a breakdown of chain of command at the Water Authority.

Mayor Edmanson- expressed that the Town of Camden and the Town of Wyoming are equal partners when it comes to the Authority. He added that he feels a consultant is needed to go in and get questions answered.

Councilman Green thanked Senator Bushweller and the Town of Wyoming for getting a bill that will allow the towns to appoint as well as dismiss directors to and from the CWSWA board.

Georgette Williams- Wyoming Council member, stated that hopefully the board will start demanding answers.

Councilman Dougherty thanked the residents from Barclay Farms for attending the meeting.

Mayor Edmanson stated that he has spoken with residents around town, and they have requested that if the Authority has extra money, that money should go back to both towns.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:29 p.m. a motion was made by Councilman Green, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to adjourn the regular meeting. All in favor; none opposed.

*Town of Camden
September 25, 2013*

Public Workshop Minutes

*Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Fenske, Town Clerk*