

Meeting Minutes
DAGSBORO TOWN COUNCIL
Bethel Center
Monday, December 22, 2025

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Chandler at 6:00 p.m.

In attendance were Mayor William Chandler, Vice-mayor Jason Russell, Councilwoman Carol Thompson, Councilman CJ Shortridge, Councilman John Marvel, Town Administrator Cynthia Brought, Chief Nicholas Disciullo, and Cpl. Anthony Valenti. Town Solicitor Greg Morris and Engineering Consultant Kyle Gulbranson were absent. See sign in sheet for others in attendance.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Morse, Morse Roofing and Siding, 33334 Main St., stated that he appreciated the opportunity to provide public comment regarding the recent proposal to adjust construction impact fees within the Town of Dagsboro.

He recognized and respected the fact that the Town's impact fees have not been increased in approximately 24 years. It is reasonable to acknowledge that costs associated with fire protection, emergency medical services, and law enforcement have risen significantly over that time, and he agreed that some level of adjustment is both necessary and appropriate to support essential public services.

However, as currently presented, the proposed recommendation to double both the fire department and ambulance fee and introduce a new Town of Dagsboro Police Department impact fee at a matching level would effectively result in an approximate 150% increase over today's total impact fees. While well intentioned, such a substantial and immediate increase may place an undue burden on new construction and development, potentially slowing responsible growth and discouraging investment within the Town.

As an alternative, he respectfully proposed a more measured and sustainable approach:

- Implement an immediate 10% increase to the existing fire department and ambulance impact fee
- Establish a new Police Department impact fee that matches the adjusted fire and ambulance fees

This approach would allow the Town to begin addressing funding needs immediately while avoiding the shock of a large, single-step increase. A gradual and predictable adjustment provides builders, developers, and property owner's the ability to plan accordingly, while still generating additional revenue to support critical services.

Mr. Morse believes that a phased or incremental strategy strikes a fair balance between fiscal responsibility and encouraging continued, responsible growth within the Town of Dagsboro. He respectfully asks that the Mayor and Council consider this alternative as part of their deliberations.

Mr. Morse stated that he also wanted it to be known that he voted for each member of the council because he believed that they each bring a balance, a perspective and a value to our small-town government. He stated that public service is difficult, and these roles are demanding and often thankless and frequently subject to scrutiny. He stated that he appreciated the time and effort that each of the councilmembers are willing to dedicate on behalf of the Town of Dagsboro. The idea of balance in government was envisioned by our forefathers when the construction was constructed nearly 250 years ago. These roles need someone to weigh out the good and the bad and consider consequences and bring balance before rushing judgment to decide. As Council considers its leadership appointments, he respectfully asks that each member look beyond individual preferences and consider what is best for the Town as whole. That includes not only the residents, but also the local businesses that help support the towns' tax base, provide employment, and invest directly back into the community.

As a local businessman that spends nearly as much in this town as the average resident he is asking for thoughtful construction and balanced decision making. Decisions that reflect fairness, reason and long-term stability and growth for the Town of Dagsboro.

Vice-mayor Russell stated that he wanted to thank the residents and business owners for another term on Council and he looked forward to working alongside the other council members to do what is best for the community. Mr. Russell also wanted to express his gratitude to Cindi, Christine, Stacy, Joe, Chief Disciullo, Chief Marvel, Cpl. Cullen, and Brian Baull for helping coordinate the Christmas parade. He also wanted to thank the sponsors that helped to fund the parade. He felt it was a great success, and he looks forward to working on it again next year.

III. OATH OF OFFICE

Carol Thompson, CJ Shortridge, Jason Russell

Mayor Chandler swore in the elected members with the Oath of Office for the Town of Dagsboro. The term for these members is for two years (2026-2027).

IV. REORGANIZATION OF COUNCIL

- a. Mayor**
- b. Vice-mayor**
- c. Secretary**
- d. Assistant Secretary**

Councilman Marvel nominated Jason Russell for the position of Mayor. Councilman Shortridge seconded the nomination. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Councilman Chandler nominated Carol Thompson for the position of Vice-mayor. Councilman Shortridge seconded the nomination. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Councilman Russell nominated John Marvel for the position of Secretary/Treasurer. Councilman Chandler seconded the nomination. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Councilman Chandler nominated CJ Shortridge for the position of Assistant Secretary. Councilman Marvel seconded the nomination. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes November 17, 2025

Approval of Executive Session Town Council Meeting Minutes November 17, 2025

Councilman Chandler made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for both as presented. Councilman Marvel seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Police Department Report**

Chief Disciullo stated that the month of November was mostly administrative due to all the accreditation work that needed to be done. He stated that they did receive Homeland Security seizure funds. The department assisted surrounding departments with their holiday parades. Chief Disciullo stated that their onsite accreditation assessment on 12/3/25 and it went very well. The department had lots of training and the PAC meeting.

Chief Disciullo stated that Cpl. Wechtenheiser had two seizures back in 2022-2023. They were cap seizures linked to criminal activity. He stated that the police department received about \$65k in seizure funds. Chief Disciullo stated that the money is restricted on what it can be used for. They have purchased several pieces of equipment as well as a department overtime fund which the department has not had before. He stated that this fund allows him to be more flexible with how he pays the officers. They are installing two Flock license plate reader cameras on Rt. 113. He stated that one will be in Frankford and one will be in Millsboro which will help with criminal investigations and highway interdiction for Dagsboro as well as other agencies. Councilman Shortridge asked who was putting them in as Chief Disciullo stated "we." Chief Disciullo stated "yes, that Dagsboro Police Department is installing them." Chief Disciullo stated that the schools have Flock cameras like the one that was run over, but these will be ours and we will have access to them and they are statewide.

Chief Disciullo stated that Cpl. Valenti has been moved into the detective position. He stated that Cpl. Valenti, coming from Dover, he met all the qualifications to be a criminal investigator. He is doing a very good job and already has a couple of cases that he is working on. Chief Disciullo stated that Det. Valenti will also be involved with the State Task Force for ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children) and working with the State prosecutors and their investigations.

Chief Disciullo stated that at a previous meeting he discussed the construction that occurs in town and wanting that overtime to stay in Dagsboro and he did get a resolution. There is a company called Jobs4Blue which handles all the contracts for all the construction that occur in Delaware through DelDOT. He stated that it is free program to sign up and he signed that contract and they will be reaching out to Stacy for financial information. He stated that if a construction company comes in, we will now be notified that they are in town and need police. Vice-mayor Thompson asked if that was new for us. Chief Disciullo stated that this is the first that Dagsboro has ever done it. It took him several weeks to get straight answers about what needed to be done.

Chief Disciullo stated that today (12-22-25) they did go up to Millsboro PD to deliver thank you gifts for them allowing us to use their facility for accreditation. While there he spoke briefly with the Chief and the Chief would like to discuss implementing an MOU between the agencies to help with coverage and special events. Chief Disciullo stated that he felt that was a great idea and once he receives the info on that he will get it to the Council for review. Councilman Shortridge asked how many officers does the Millsboro Police Dept. have? Chief Disciullo stated that they have 18 full-time officers and several admins and their department is about three times the size of Dagsboro. Councilwoman Thompson asked if the re-certifications happen at the same time every year? Chief Disciullo stated that yes for the Dagsboro Police Department and he tries to keep them at the same time and same day and this one was for firearms and tasers. Mayor Russell stated that one camera is going in Frankford how is that relationship? Chief Disciullo stated that it is technically in the DelDOT right of way, but he did let the Frankford and Millsboro Police Chief's know. Councilman Shortridge asked if those towns could access the cameras. Chief Disciullo stated not unless they had their own camera, but if they needed assistance that Dagsboro could run the information for them. Mayor Russell stated that he saw on the news that Frankford is also using Millsboro for their evidence storage in order to get their PAC Certification. Mayor Russell asked if K9 Buzz was used in the seizures. Chief Disciullo stated that he was not sure but that he had been involved in other seizures. Mayor Russell stated that it is great that he continues to be an asset for us.

- b. Treasurer's Report**
- c. Administrative Report**
- d. Cemetery Report**
- e. Code Enforcement Report**
- f. Water Department Report**
- g. Correspondence**

Town Administrator Brought stated that we did receive the DELL computers today. There is a plan to get them up and running but at separate times. She stated that the credit cards are working well. Ryan Homes are coming around and bringing in permits and making the corrections that they needed to do.

Councilman Marvel asked the status of the nail salon at 33378 Main St. Ms. Brought stated nothing at this point, they have started bringing all their information into us, but there is a lot they need to do. They are trying to comply, but she thinks there still may be some issues because the apartment is down on the first floor and the business on the second floor and feels it is going to be questionable for the fire marshal. Mayor Russell stated that it is not Town Code anyway, correct? Ms. Brought stated correct.

Councilman Chandler made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Vice-mayor Thompson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approve 2026 Meeting Schedules and Holidays

Mayor Russell stated that the only change for him would be February 16, which is President's Day, he will be out of town. The meeting for February 16, 2026, has been moved to February 23, 2026.

Councilman Marvel made a motion to approve the meetings and holidays for the year of 2026. Councilman Chandler seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

b. Approval of Subdivision Application – Lands of Brad Connor

Town Administrator Brought stated this is a partitioning where they are changing the line to meet the requirements of setbacks and it is in order.

Councilman Chandler made a motion to approve the partitioning. Councilman Marvel seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

c. Change of Use – Carusso Homes – Savannah Square

Town Administrator Brought stated that this is a business going into Savannah Square and it is an office and it is in order.

Councilman Marvel made a motion to approve the Change of Use for Carusso Homes. Councilman Shortridge seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

d. General Discussion/Thoughts Policy on Sick/Vacation Time

Chief Disciullo stated that this discussion involves Cpl. Cullen who has been out for almost two years due to surgery. He is believed to be coming back full-time. Chief Disciullo stated that the vacation time has been challenging with everything going on. Cpl. Cullen is set to lose about nine days going into next year which includes the ten that can be rolled over. Chief Disciullo is asking Town Council to approve him splitting Cpl. Cullen's time up between vacation and sick because he has been helping Chief Disciullo administratively part time. Chief Disciullo stated that he knows it against policy but wanted to ask if the Council would make an exception. Mayor Russell stated that 10 vacation days and 30 sick days are what is allowed to be rolled over into the next year per the current policy.

Councilman Chandler stated that he felt that there are extenuating circumstances that justify trying to modify our policy for Cpl. Cullen therefore he would be in favor of the modification. Councilman Marvel seconded the modification. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Chief Disciullo stated that he and Town Administrator Brought discussed potentially helping Town Hall with lessened days / hours per week and that it would help them to use their time. He stated that for the police department when they have someone call out it is very difficult as they lose coverage. If Town Hall has employees call out, the office suffers. He suggested a possible three-day work week so that they don't have all their time at the end of the year that they are trying to use before they lose. Vice-mayor Thompson asked if he was suggesting a compressed work week. He stated something like that yes. Town Administrator Brought stated that Stacy is losing four vacation days as well. She stated that she has mixed emotions on it because there are certain times of the year that you can't take vacation because of the functions or meeting scheduled. Ms. Brought stated that she made sure to use her vacation but will lose a lot of sick time, which she was fine with because they are a benefit. She stated that she did speak with Stacy and told her she would have to use her vacation this year when we are slow like January, February and March. She stated that we are just going to have to make a better effort, but it would be nice to have flexibility. Councilman Chandler suggested that when the Town has regularly scheduled holidays to also close the day before or day after just close the office and staff use their vacation time. Ms. Brought stated that like the upcoming Federal government is going to do three days. Mayor Russell stated that you should feel entitled to the time since you earned it and it is part of your compensation package. Vice-mayor Thompson asked Ms. Brought if they have ever tried buy-back, where the employees could buy back their vacation time that was not used. There was discussion between Council, Town Administrator Brought, and Chief Disciullo on how much time would be paid out.

After discussion, Vice-mayor Thompson made a motion that the Town Administrator and Police Chief could determine if an employee should be able to buy their vacation time instead of losing them, but only if they tried to use it within the year. Councilman Shortridge seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

e. Thoughts/Discussion Live Streaming Town Council Meetings

Mayor Russell stated that over the course of the last month he has talked to a lot of people that want to be involved and would like to know what is going on. The way that the current process works for the people that want to be involved but cannot attend the meetings it takes almost 45 days for them to be able to go back and read the minutes. The neighboring towns Selbyville, Millsboro, Georgetown and Ocean View all do an online feed, whether they use an online meeting source like YouTube Live or teams meeting. It's a live stream so they could watch it live or watch a recorded version. That way they could have a more transparent view of what is going on in the town without having to wait 45 days when decisions have already been made. He stated that they might not know that a motion is coming, yes we put notice of a Public Hearing, but if they are not reading the newspaper or following the facebook page they might not even know and then they find out 45 days later that a decision was passed and they had an interest in that topic. He stated that a lot of towns seem to be using YouTube, he doesn't believe that it costs anything, it's just a matter of setting up a page and a camera. Vice-mayor Thompson stated that is what they do at the school. Councilman Shortridge stated just the cost of the camera. Ms. Brought asked about the internet because they did try to do online curing COVID and most of the time the internet was spotty. He just felt that it would be more transparent and doesn't think it would be a huge cost.

Vice-mayor Thompson made a motion to look into seeing what options there are. Councilman Marvel seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

a. Continued Review, Discussion and Possible Voting on Building Permit Fees, Impact Fees, etc.

Councilman Chandler stated that everything distributed by him was created by him without anybody's help. He then passed out two drafts of the Ordinance that has been discussed for the past 2-3 months. The Ordinances are the same except for the new impact fee for the Police Department for the police protection fund the Ordinance maintains the fee for the fire and ambulance companies. The only other change is one draft is at a .25% increase and the other at a .50% increase. Councilman Chandler emphasized that these increase changes are only to major or minor subdivisions not for individual lots. There is also blank for the effective date meaning you could make it effective immediately or at a later specified date.

Councilman Chandler gave the following four different scenarios:

A. CURRENT IMPACT FEES FOR A HYPOTHETICAL RESIDENCE

Hypothetical Model Home: Project Cost: \$172,000 based on 2,300 sq ft residential dwelling with one EDU per dwelling unit. [NOTE: this "construction cost" number (\$172,000) is provided by the Developer, and we accept whatever the Developer tells us is the cost of construction].

Project Cost: $\$172,000 \times .25\% = \430 . This is what the fire company and the ambulance company each receive from the Town. Total: \$860.

In addition, developer pays (1) building permit fee of 1% x sq foot construction cost per ICC Building Valuation Data, which is \$4,462.46 for a 2,300 square foot dwelling, (2) water meter is \$289, (3) water impact fee for each EDU (typically 1 EDU per single family dwelling unit) is \$3,000, (4) New service Connection fee is \$2,600 and (5) Capital Improvement Impact Fee is \$2,500.

Grand Total: \$13,711.46 for a 2,300 square foot residential dwelling unit under the existing Ordinances [$\$4462.46 + \$430 + \$430 + \$289 + \$3,000 + \$2,600 + \$2,500 = \$13,711.46$]. That is a one-time, non-recurring fee.

Assume: Developer builds 20 residential dwelling units (2,300 sq ft units) each year: $20 \times \$13,711.46 = \$274,229.20$. This is the total amount that Dagsboro collects before it sends part of the fee amounts to the fire and ambulance company.

B. PROJECTED IMPACT FEES UNDER ORIGINAL PROPOSED ORDINANCE OR A HYPOTHETICAL RESIDENCE

Hypothetical Model Home: Project Cost: \$172,000 based on 2,300 sq ft residential dwelling with one EDU per dwelling unit. [NOTE: The developer provides this construction cost number (\$172,000), and the Town accepts whatever the developer tells us is the cost of construction].

Project Cost: $\$172,000 \times .50\% = \860 . This is what the fire and ambulance company would receive from the Town. Total: \$1,720

In addition, the developer pays (1) building permit fee of \$4,462.46 (based on the existing formula of 1% x construction cost per sq ft based on the ICC Building Valuation Data), (2) \$860 to the Police Protection Fund [$\$172,000 \times .50\% = \860]

as well as the other fees listed above: Water meter \$289, water impact fee \$3,000, New Service Connection Fee \$2,600 and the increased Capital Improvement Fee \$5,000.

Grand Total: \$17,931.46 for each residential dwelling unit under the proposed ordinance [$\$4,462.46 + \$860 + \$860 + \$860 + \$289 + 3,000 + 2,600 + 5,000 = \$17,931.46$]. That is one-time, non-recurring fee. The total increase over the existing fee is \$4,220 [$\$17,931.46 - \$13,711.46 = \$4,220.00$].

Assume: Developer builds 20 residential dwelling units (2,300 sq ft units) each year: $20 \times \$17,931.46 = \$358,629.20$. This is the total amount that Dagsboro collects before Dagsboro sends part of the fee amounts to the fire and ambulance company and (under the proposed ordinance) Police Protection Fund.

The difference in the annual yield of revenue to the Town of Dagsboro is \$84,400 [$\$358,629.20 - \$274,229.20 = \$84,400$]. Again, this assumes a building rate of 20 new residential dwelling units annually and is before the deduction for fire, ambulance, and police.

What is the percentage increase from the existing impact fee charges and the new proposed impact fee charges per residential dwelling unit?

The aggregate increase is \$4,220. That constitutes slightly less than a 31% increase over the existing rate ($\$13,711.46 \times 31\% = \$4,250.41$).

C. IMPACT FEES FOR HYPOTHETICAL RESIDENCE UNDER REVISED ORDINANCE FOR POLICE PROTECTION FUND AT .5% RATE

Hypothetical Model Home: Project Cost: \$172,000 based on 2,300 sq ft residential dwelling with one EDU per dwelling unit. [NOTE: The developer provides this construction cost number (\$172,000), and the Town accepts whatever the developer tells us is the cost of construction].

Project Cost: $\$172,000 \times .25\% = \430 [Fire Co.] + \$430 [Ambulance Co.] + 860 [.5% for police protection fund] + \$4,462.46 + \$289 + \$3,000 + \$2,600 + \$2,500 = \$14,571.46.

Total Increase is \$860 [$\$13,711.46 + \$860 = \$14,571.46$].

This constitutes a 6.274% increase over the current fee structure ($\$13,711.46 \times 6.274\% = \860).

D. IMPACT FEES FOR HYPOTHETICAL RESIDENCE UNDER REVISED ORDINANCE FOR POLICE PROTECTION FUND AT .25% RATE

Hypothetical Model Home: Project Cost: \$172,000 based on 2,300 sq ft residential dwelling with one EDU per dwelling unit. [NOTE: The developer provides this construction cost number (\$172,000), and the Town accepts whatever the developer tells us is the cost of construction].

Project Cost: $\$172,000 \times .25\% = \430 [Fire Co] + \$430 [Ambulance Co] + \$430 [Police Fund] + \$4,462.46 [1% sq ft construction cost per ICC] + \$289 [water meter] + \$3,000 [EDU Impact Fee] + \$2,600 [new service connection] + \$2,500 [Capital improvement Impact Fee] = \$14,141.46

Total Increase is \$430 [$\$13,711.46 + \$430 = \$14,141.46$].

This constitutes a 3.15% increase over the current impact fee structure ($\$13,711.46 \times 3.15\% = \431.91).

Assume: Developer builds 20 residential dwelling units of \$2,300 sq ft each year $20 \times \$14,141.96 = \$282,829.20$. This is the total amount Dagsboro collects before it sends the fee amounts to Fire and Ambulance Company and Police Dept. (under the proposed ordinance).

Additionally, Councilman Chandler handed out examples of fee structures from other Towns, chosen at random, and noted they all have impact fees for their respective fire, ambulance, and police. Additionally, they have impact fees for their parks and recreation, as well as their town. He highlights the comparative advantages other towns have in relationship to small communities like Dagsboro, noting how other towns have other sources of income like parking meter fees, water systems, sewer systems, etc. He notes the risk of comparing apples to oranges when comparing our fee schedules to other municipalities, especially when it comes to property taxes and property values. He poses the question, "why do anything?". Councilman Chandler answers by pointing out the budget barely breaks even every year. He highlights Will Labor's analysis of the Town and how the data showed we are not sustainable in the long run. Councilman Chandler compares the Police Department building to a homeless shelter and how the Town Hall building is from the 18th century, emphasizing the buildings are not outfitted to meet our current operating needs and safety. He says the Police Department does an amazing job - we have 6 great officers who we don't pay competitively because we can't. They do an amazing job for us even though they are underpaid and overworked for what we expect of them. Councilman Chandler points out the operating cost of the Police Department to the Town is roughly \$800k - that's salaries, health benefits, pension, training, uniforms, guns, vehicles - that doesn't include the hovel they are operating out of. He expresses how the department is worth every penny - more than that- but it's all we can afford to pay. He continues with the cost of operating Town Hall for three people, and one part-time maintenance person is roughly \$190-200k. That's a million dollars to operate the Town Hall and Police Department.

Councilman Chandler asks, "how do you fix it?" and suggests one way is to raise property taxes in the Town, which haven't been raised in 15 years. He notes how attractive property taxes are here compared to elsewhere, especially for those moving here from out of state. He says the Town is near the poverty level, stating it not as a joke, but what USDA told him when they applied for a loan. He asks whether raising property taxes is the right way to obtain the revenue we need to sustain the Police Department and Town Hall. He doesn't think raising the property taxes is a fair option because he believes increase of burden on the Police Department and Town staff are those who are moving here and thinks they should be the ones who pay a little extra. He reiterates this is his own personal view. There's an equity problem with raising the property taxes, noting many people live on fixed incomes, and raising the property tax would be a strain for them, noting that some have trouble paying their water bill. Councilman Chandler feels these points justify the options he presented earlier. This leads to the following decision with the following 5 choices: the four presented earlier or raising property taxes. He closes with, "You've got options - you can figure out what one you like the most."

Councilman Shortridge comments that about 25 years ago when they started the impact fees, they were supposed to be increased for the cost of living, whatever parameter they used, and it wasn't done. He asks if whichever option is put in place, will it be increased by whatever parameters were in place to adjust for the cost of living? Mayor Russell confirms the Council did overlook the adjustments for the cost of living in the past and the Council will have to put in more oversight to see this doesn't happen in the future. Vice-mayor Thompson expresses that is the reason why we are here - so when new builds come along, we are ready for them. Councilman Chandler circles back to Shortridge's question by stating there is a doctrine in the law called a desuetude for when you don't enforce a law for a certain period, it cannot be enforced. He doubts anyone would challenge the Council for applying the cost of living. Councilman Shortridge suggests the cost-of-living clause be re-written when adopting the new fees, which Councilman Chandler agreed.

Councilman Shortridge expresses the need for that to be in order, whichever option is chosen. Councilman Chandler asks about the effective date. There was discussion amongst the councilmembers of whether or not the Ordinance should be adopted effective immediately or if it will be adopted at a future date.

Holly Stiles, Cea-Dag, asked if anyone currently in the permit process would be affected by the change or if they would be grandfathered in. Town Administrator Brought confirmed that, "Any new building permit received would be affected by this."

Mr. Morse said he likes and respects the research done by Councilman Chandler. Mr. Morse expresses concerns that the council was ready to vote last month and are ready to vote again tonight. He asks why the council is not taking this home, reading, and digesting the information before voting. He said if we shouldn't increase the taxpayer's taxes because we haven't changed them in 25 years, this would be the same thing. Let's postpone this after we digest it.

Vice-mayor Thompson clarifies no one on the council has agreed to make a decision tonight – There is a lot of information, and it would be prudent to look through it and digest it. She continues, regardless of what option we pick, the choice of when it goes into effect shouldn't matter. Mr. Morse reiterates his concern of making a decision tonight.

Vice-mayor Thompson made a motion to digest the information and come back next meeting prepared to make a decision. Councilman Chandler asks Vice-mayor Thompson to withdrawal her motion and she says, "ok". Councilman Chandler motioned to table instead so we can bring it back up in January or February, but before he gets a second or a vote, he addressed Mr. Morse directly about his frustrations, stating he has worked day and night for the past four months, expending his own personal time and effort without taxing the office, legal counsel, or Kyle. He expressed no one has come to him from the public or the council with questions, suggestions, or criticisms. He said he did not get any feedback and feels like "Linus with the football" where everything is getting pulled out from underneath of him. He would rather people come to him directly with concerns than going behind his back on social media. He has laid out the options and people can do whatever they want whenever they want.

Mr. Morse responded by saying he can feel the frustration. His point being, at the last meeting, there was no conversation about this at all. He reiterated how appreciative he was about the information presented this evening, and because we have an idea we feel strongly about does not mean it requires a vote. He expressed how he isn't always right and values when people tell him if he's wrong. Mr. Morse states he doesn't think Mr. Chandler is wrong, but his concern is that last month was the first time the community and the council ever heard about it and they were ready to vote. Mr. Morse continues, "I'm not going to say it on Facebook, I'm going to say it to your face, so it wasn't me talking about you or anyone else on this council". He expresses how he would appreciate a council who is willing to pause, put thought into it, and have the opportunity to discuss. Out of all the people able to vote, you get about 10% - they're all in this room. Councilman Chandler notes this topic was discussed, but Mr. Morse wasn't at the meeting when the discussion occurred. Mayor Russell redirects conversation stating there is a motion to table for now – expresses there is a need for police and fire. Chief Disciullo expresses that if we do not do something now, he cannot sustain these salaries. Vice-mayor Thompson replies to Chief Disciullo that his concerns were expressed and heard during the last meeting and asks for clarification from Mayor Russell whether the fire department needs the impact funding or if the department gets their funding by the state. Mayor Russell says they get some funding from the state, but not all. Councilman Marvel says the state money goes down every year. It's a smack in the face.

Vice-mayor Thompson requests to have more discussion on the impact fees before we table. She thanks Councilman Marvel for the clarification regarding impact fees for the fire and ambulance and asks where the Town receives any benefit from the impact fees. Councilman Chandler says the \$2,500 is towards the Town. Vice-mayor Thompson asks if anything else needs to be discussed before voting. Mayor Russell responds the implementation timeline the percentages

need to be discussed. Vice-mayor Thompson asks who the vote is affecting, noting the Town needs to generate money and we can't wait too long. Councilman Shortridge suggest a 30 day timeline to go into effect for either the .25% or .50% options. After some hypotheticals from the council and Mr. Morse, Councilman Shortridge recommend doing the police, fire, and ambulance impact fee at .25%, effective immediately.

Holly Stiles makes a comment about past discussion on impact fees from two years ago with the previous Chief of Police, stating she's baffled that we would wait even longer to give impact fees to the Police.

Councilman Chandler withdraws his motion to table the discussion and gives the suggestion to simply adopt the .25% that fire and ambulance get to include the Police on a comparative schedule, effective immediately, and then discuss the other options later. Motion and second. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Mayor Russell encourages everyone to do some research and review their notes. Vice-mayor Thompson asks for clarification to come back next month for just fire and ambulance or all three. Councilman Shortridge and Mayor Russell say we can come back for all three, the increase, and the timeframe.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Discuss site acquisitions for publicly funded capital improvements, all in accordance with 29 Del. Code Section 10004 (b) (2)

Councilman Chandler made a motion to move into Executive Session. Councilman Marvel seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

X. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Mayor Russell stated that Town Council met in executive session and discussed various plans and strategies moving forward with respect to capital asset issues. He opened the floor to public comment and heard none.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Chandler made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Marvel seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy West, Finance Clerk
Christine Bennett, Town Clerk