

East Ocean View Civic League  
Minutes of meeting held May 2, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by John Greene, President.

**Treasurer's Report** was given by Jeffrey Lewis:

Total Assets	\$3,927.15
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$3,627.09
Net Income	+\$300.06

A detailed financial statement is available on request of John Greene, President.

**Police Report**

Officer Snyder reported that crimes in the area have gone down; there were “only” 16 incidents this past month—all property crimes except for one drug deal. Radar will be set up in the East Beach area along East Beach Drive and Pleasant Avenue. Beware!

**Speaker: Mr. Chuck Rigney, Acting Director, Development, City of Norfolk**

Mr. Rigney has been the Acting Director since 2011 and, previously, the Assistant Director for 15 years. With a staff of 17, he is responsible for recruiting new business for the City, and retaining and expanding existing business. In fact, about 80% of his effort is spent on existing business—largely “because Norfolk is 98% built out...”—and 20% in attracting new investment—“...so new development is usually on existing property, where something was torn down (Wards Corner, for example).” In terms of EOV and the greater Ocean View area (“both of which are prime for public/private partnerships”), vacant properties are either under Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NRHA), City, or Economic Development Authority (EDA) control. In 2013, the City will be concentrating on about 10 areas, to include the East Beach area; the site of the former Travelers Inn (“which only half burned down, which makes redevelopment harder”); the former Ramada Inn site (“with 3 possible builders”); the soon-to-be-vacated Heritage Bank site (“a prime location for a restaurant or another bank, and we will resist another 7-11”); the former Bank of the Commonwealth (“which could be the site for a relocated Senior Center”); and John Mair’s shopping center (“niche retail possibly”). A hotel site is also possible but not all builders have the prospective downtown hotel/conference center builder’s “deep pockets.” He concluded by saying that “development is key for creation of new revenue, jobs and putting money back in the community,” with “plenty of opportunity for retail—grocery, health/personal care, and boutique sales.”

**Speaker: Mr. David Speer, Civil Engineer, Bureau of Engineering**

Mr. Speer, along with the senior onsite inspector, Thomas King, spoke as a follow-up to a fall presentation on the Pump Station upgrade at the corner of Shore Drive and Pretty Lake Avenue. He categorized what will be a “long term (‘dozen years’) investment in the area’s water distribution, sanitary and sewer infrastructure” as being “on schedule.” New pipes (Phase 2), in response to a question, will be installed beginning in 2014.

## **Speaker: Mr. Evans Poston, Candidate for Commissioner of the Revenue**

Mr. Poston is one of two Democratic candidates for Norfolk Commissioner of Revenue, the other being Sharon McDonald, the incumbent. The primary is June 11<sup>th</sup>. Among Mr. Poston's goals are "to keep the Office out of the headlines...to make the City more business-friendly...provide better customer service...and to do more with less, not ask for more money."

### **Old Business**

Mona Lisa's has been approved by the Planning Commission to extend their operating hours. Their approval was contingent on Mona Lisa limiting the hours of operation for the Disc Jockey to 1 AM versus 2 AM on weekends.

There were two Neighborhood Watch sessions held, with Officer Tony Barrera, the City's NW Crime Prevention Officer, addressing both groups. One group of Pretty Lake homeowners signed up to have a program for their street by the pump station. Anyone else interested in doing that should contact either the President or Officer Barrera and take advantage of information posted on the EOJ website ([www.livingeov.com](http://www.livingeov.com)).

The two Habitat for Humanity homes being built on 15<sup>th</sup> Bay Street should begin construction soon. Both sets of future homeowners were at the "Golden Hammer" ceremony held there recently, and are very excited and appreciative of the help they'll be receiving. If you'd like to help, you can sign up on the Habitat website at [www.shrhabitat.org](http://www.shrhabitat.org), which is also linked from our website.

A Neighborhood Cleanup next has been postponed until July 20<sup>th</sup> and will be run in conjunction with a neighborhood block party on 9<sup>th</sup> Bay Street.

At City budget hearings that were held at Granby HS April 24<sup>th</sup>, the EOJ CL President spoke on behalf of EOJ, though most of the attendees advocated increased school funding and raises for city employees and retirees. The Mayor is now proposing a second increase of 2 cents (for a total increase of 4 cents/\$100 of assessed property) for neighborhood improvements; school operating expenses; and employee raises.

Last, a reminder that the New Life Christian Center "Storehouse," in conjunction with Operation Blessing and Bon Secours Healthy Communities, will be hosting Compassion 2013 from 9 a.m. – noon on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, to distribute food and supplies to folks in our area. There will also be free health screenings & healthy eating demos by Bon Secours; and a variety of exhibit booths by other community partners and local businesses. Volunteers are needed that Saturday morning to help.

### **New Business**

For those interested and available, "Clean the Bay" Day is June 1<sup>st</sup>. There's more volunteer information on the Chesapeake Bay website, [www.cbf.org](http://www.cbf.org).

Last, there's what's called an Apprenticeship Expo on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Scope downtown. It's an opportunity for those seeking employment to apply to one of 68 businesses represented from the service, construction, manufacturing, and shipbuilding industries. Again, there is info on our website.

Our next meeting will be a “Codes Academy” on June 6, with representatives from the City codes inspection elements covering what to look for and how/to whom to report infractions.

We will break for the summer months of July and August and resume regular monthly meetings on September 5, 2013.

A motion was made, and the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Greene, Jr., President