



Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting Monday, January 12, 2026

1. The Regular Town Council Meeting Called to Order:

Mayor Harry Ward called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Council members in attendance were Bob Wood, Joanne Plescia and Jamie Draper with Ben Monastero on zoom. Community members in attendance both in person and online are on the attached sheets.

2. Welcome and Announcements:

The Mayor advised there was no correspondence, however the Sussex County Engineers would be in attendance at the February town meeting as by then they will have an update to share.

3. Approval of December 8, 2025, Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes:

A Motion was made by Joanne Plescia to approve December 8, 2025, Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes and seconded by Jamie Draper.

The Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

4. Approval of January 12, 2026, Regular Town Council Meeting Agenda:

A Motion was made by Jamie Draper to approve January 12, 2026, Regular Town Council Meeting Agenda and seconded by Joanne Plescia.

The Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

5. Reports:

a. Tony Pratt/Beach Replenishment/USACE Section 1-11 Study

Tony was not able to join the meeting.

b. Memorial Volunteer Fire Company – Walt Reynolds, newly elected Chief of Station 89, reported that the fire company had their elections in December making him Chief, Kent Glascoe Deputy Chief, Chris and Mike retain their positions as Chief Engineer and Treasurer respectively, Preston as President and Chad as Vice President. If you need to reach Walt for any reason, email is pastchief82@yahoo.com. The fire company had 6 calls, none in town and EMS had 26 calls. Year end was 82 fire calls (down from last year by 18) and 338 EMS calls, the increase in EMS calls has created a need for a supervisor for day-to-day operations.

- c. **Treasurer's Report** – Jamie Draper reported on the General Ledger, Grants, Profit and Loss Actual and Restricted, as well as a new format for reporting spending year-to-date. (Reports available upon request from the office). A Motion was made by Joanne Plescia to approve the Treasurer's Reports pending audit or review and seconded by Bob Wood.
The Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Tax Collector's Report – Jamie Draper advised that late notice bills were mailed mid-December and collection calls have started with some success.

- d. **Zoning Official/Floodplain Administrator's Report** – Ben Monastero read Bob Clendaniel's monthly report (copy available upon request). For any work on your home or lot, please contact Bob Clendaniel, zoningofficial@slaughterbeachde.com. Permits are not unreasonably expensive and while most work won't require a permit, it's best to have a record should our town ever have an emergency and need assistance from DEMA (Delaware Emergency Management Agency).

6. New Business:

- e. **TOSB cameras** – Council reviewed seven bids and quickly focused on two that met all of the requirements of the RFP – differences were cloud-based vs owned with an NVR in the office and backup in the cloud. Concerns for privacy which have come up because of the increase in Flock cameras, and price, helped Council to choose Martel Security. A Motion was made by Jamie Draper to approve the purchase at approximately \$53,000 and was seconded by Joanne Plescia.
The Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

7. Mayor and Council Updates:

f. Grants:

- a. **SLCGP (State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program)** – Jamie Draper advised the grant has ended and reports and paperwork have been submitted. Our next step is changing our emails for the town to .gov and reviewing her draft plan with recommendations for security.
- b. **NFWF 5,000 Grant from Delaware Nature Center** – Bob Wood advised that this grant is in motion – the Town has gotten approval to work with the CRDS team from University of Delaware again on a detailed plan for making Marvel Drive ADA accessible and outline parking. This will also work toward our current conversations with USACE and DNREC on easements and beach access for the replenishment.

- c. **Hazard Mitigation (Phragmites)** – Julia advised the State has pushed back on our management of this grant and we need to review whether owners are cutting down what is killed with the spray. Several owners advised they don't believe they were sprayed while on the call.

8. Old Business:

- g. **Beach Replenishment** – Harry Ward advised we are waiting on the easements from USACE and Jamie is working on a beach access plan to share with DNREC.
- h. **FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) CAV (Community Assistance Visit)** – Harry Ward advised that this continues with fewer issues than at the start. If you have a propane tank, please request it be professionally tied down by the company you purchase the propane from as this is a huge issue should we have a major storm – making loose tanks missiles – for details;
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/how2009_anchor_tanks_cylinders.pdf
- i. **Sewer** – The County engineers will be here for our February 2026 meeting to address any questions and provide updates.
- j. **Seaside Envoys** – If you would like to participate or volunteer, please message Julia in the office at townmanager@slaughterbeachde.com
- k. **Sign up for SMART911** – A gentle reminder that Sussex County emergency responders ask that residents and property owners participate in this program. By registering you can include information on pets, children, special needs, elevators, and more – all the details that can make a massive difference in the responder's ability to help you more quickly and not miss something important. These details are not shared with anyone other than emergency responders.

9. Upcoming Events:

- l. Bookmobile
- m. The next Town Council meeting will be January 12, 2026 at 7:00pm
- n. To be added to the town mail list please message townmanager@slaughterbeachde.com
- o. For the Slaughter Beach Sail Club please message 09sbsc@gmail.com

10. Open Forum Discussion

- p. A question was raised about cell services that work all the time at the beach; Harry advised he would check with emergency services to see if there's more we could do and a resident suggested the best service is comcast as they have an antenna in Jersey that supplements our service.

11. Adjournment

- q. A **Motion** was made by Joanne Plescia to adjourn and seconded by Ben Monastero at 8:28pm.
The Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.