

Town of Henlopen Acres

104 Tidewaters
Henlopen Acres, DE 19971

302-227-6411
fax: 302-227-3978

MINUTES: The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Henlopen Acres held their Board Meeting at **10:00am on Friday, March 10, 2017** at Town Hall, 104 Tidewaters, Henlopen Acres, Delaware.

PRESENT:

David Lyons Sr.	Mayor
John Staffier	Commissioner
Joni Reich	Commissioner
Andrew Brittingham	Commissioner
Frank Jamison	Commissioner
Beatrix Richards	Commissioner
Tim Hidell	Commissioner
Thomas Roth	Town Manager
Lisa Michaels	Town Clerk
Glenn Mandalas, Esq.	Town Solicitor
Louise Montgomery	80 Pine Reach

[Minutes are Not Verbatim]

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by Mayor David Lyons at 10:00 am.

4. Review and possible action on Amendment to Chapter 35 Animals

The Commissioners reviewed the Ordinance to amend Chapter 35, Animals, which requires all dogs be on leashes of no more than six feet in length when off the owners' property and also changes the violation of the Ordinance from criminal to civil. A **motion** to adopt the new Ordinance as written was made by Commissioner John Staffier and seconded by Commissioner Paddy Richards. **Motion** passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and possible action on employee health care coverage

Commissioner Joni Reich extensively reviewed with the Board how the continued increase in health care coverage for Town employees affects the annual budget. To balance the 2016-2017 budget, building permit fees, business license fees and gross receipts tax were all increased. Annually, employee related expenses are 80% of the Town's total budget. Ms. Reich presented several pages of data including how much the State and other local towns pay towards their employees' health care coverage. In anticipation for another increase in health care costs for the 2017-2018 budget, she opened the possibility of having employees contribute towards the cost of their coverage. Another option would be to switch the Town's coverage with the State of Delaware to a less expensive plan that still provides extremely good coverage. Mayor Lyons reminded

the Commissioners that while last year showed a 7% increase in health care premiums, the two years prior to that did not have an increase at all. Mr. Mandalas discussed how his firm switched their employee coverage and allowed employees to pick from two different plans, with the less expensive option being completely covered by the firm and the employee contributing if they wanted the higher priced plan. Mr. Staffier suggested waiting to see what the increase is for this year and potentially covering the entire cost for one more year. Commissioner Frank Jamison agreed with waiting to see how high the increase in costs is this year before making any decisions. The Commissioners agreed to discuss again at their April meeting after receiving the new costs for health care coverage through the State that will be effective July 1, 2017.

3. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, in accordance with 29 Del. C. § 1004 (b)(9)

Executive session was not required

5. Adjournment

A **motion** to adjourn was made by Ms. Richards and seconded by Mr. Jamison. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50am. .

Approved 04/21/17