

**Town of Onancock  
Town Council Meeting  
April 24, 2017  
7:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consideration and Approval of the March 27, 2017 Meeting Minutes
4. Public Business
  - a. Resolution 2016 Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan Town of Onancock, Virginia, Mr. William Kerbin, Jr.
  - b. Town Wide Yard Sale, Ms. Cynthia Holdren
5. Closed Session (if needed)
6. Adjourn

Town of Onancock  
Town Council Meeting  
March 27, 2017  
7:00 PM

Call to Order and Roll Call:

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and roll was called. Mayor Russell Jones and Councilmembers Catherine Krause, T. Lee Byrd, Ray Burger, Joshua Bundick and Fletcher Fosque were present. Councilmember Robert Bloxom was absent. A majority of members were present and a quorum was established.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Consideration and Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2017:

Mayor Jones asked if there were any changes, additions or corrections to the meeting minutes as submitted.

*With none, Councilmember Burger made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilmember Fosque seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

Public Business:

- a. Eastern Shore Communications Proposal to Extend Fiber Optic to the Wharf, Mr. William Kerbin: Mr. Brian Manly, Eastern Shore Communications, spoke to council about the proposal to bring fiber to the town wharf. Eastern Shore Communications is asking that the town pay the \$700.00 installation fee and in turn Eastern Shore Communications would provide the monthly service to the wharf for free. Eastern Shore Communications would place an antenna on the top of the marina so that they could bring wireless access to additional customers that currently cannot get broadband because they are not in range.

Councilmember Byrd asked Mr. Manly how long Eastern Shore Communications will pay for the monthly wireless fee for the town. Mr. Manly stated that the term is usually five years but he was unsure if that date specific clause was in the agreement proposed to council.

Councilmember Fosque asked if 18-feet would be enough clearance for sailboats being pulled out of the water with their masts up. Councilmember Byrd stated that the plan is to put markings on the line so that boaters are aware of its existence.

Mr. Manly shared that the marina will be directly connected to the fiber through an Ethernet cable.

Councilmember Burger asked how far the signal will reach once it's on the Harbormaster Shack. Mr. Manly explained that the signal will only reach a few blocks. Part of the problem is that the Harbormaster Shack is in a lower lying area. Mr. Manly stated that some customers are allowing Eastern Shore Communications to place a repeater on their homes to help extend services to those that are not already in the line of sight of the wireless signal.

Councilmember Bundick asked what the cost of direct fiber costs monthly. Mr. Manly shared that a dedicated line of five megs is \$360.00 a month. Councilmember Bundick stated that the town would get its return on the cost of the installation quickly.

Councilmember Bundick also asked what other purchases the town would need once the fiber line was installed. Mayor Jones explained that they already have the repeater and extender at the wharf so once the cable is installed the wharf will be fully functional for extending the internet service to the transient boaters.

*Councilmember Byrd made a motion to approve the contract with Eastern Shore Communication and approves the \$700.00 expenditure for the cost of the installation. Councilmember Bundick seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

- b. Free Little Library Proposal, Ms. Kathy Carmody and Mrs. Janet Rochester: Ms. Kathy Carmody, Nancock Gardens, asked council to consider granting permission for her to place a Free Little Library on town property. Ms. Carmody explained that this idea began in Wisconsin about ten years ago. The idea is to take a book, leave a book. The Free Little Library receptacle can be anything such as an old refrigerator but the one she has selected looks like a large bird feeder. Ms. Carmody explained that she will purchase the materials for the construction of the Free Little Library as well as do the initial stocking of the books. She also agrees to be the library steward for a minimum of three years. Mr. Carmody asked council to designate a place on town property for the receptacle. She also asked council to register the location of the Free Little Library. Ms. Carmody has the support of the Friends of the Library who have also agreed to repair damages to the structure if vandalized over the next three years.

Mayor Jones asked what type of foot traffic the receptacle attracts. Ms. Carmody stated these receptacles get a lot of regular foot traffic as well as visitors to the area. Visitors will be able to locate the receptacle once it is registered nationally.

Mayor Jones asked what Ms. Carmody preference would be for a site for the receptacle. Ms. Carmody explained that she is open to wherever council would like it although she would prefer that it be in a visible area. Mayor Jones suggested Custis Park.

Councilmember Byrd suggested the town wharf by the gas tank so that boaters would have easy access to it.

Councilmember Krause stated that she would prefer to see it in the downtown area where there is more foot traffic. Councilmember Krause then asked how many books the receptacle can hold. Ms. Carmody shared that it holds 25-35 books, depending on the size.

*Councilmember Bundick made a motion to approve Ms. Carmody's proposal and that the Free Little Library be placed at Custis Park. Councilmember Fosque seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

Ms. Carmody thanked council and shared that her goal was to have it up by May 15, 2017.

- c. Partial Demolition of the Accessory Structure at the Old Onancock School, Mr. William Kerbin: Mr. Kerbin explained that this discussion began at last month's council meeting. Mr. Kerbin is looking for council to formalize this process since there is a general concern about the condition of the building and the safety hazard it poses. The Friends of Onancock School has asked the town to assist with the demolition of this building. The Friends of Onancock School will pay for the dumpster and the tipping fee and the town will pay for the demolition. Mr. Kerbin shared that the cost to the town will be around \$3,000.00.

*Councilmember Krause made a motion to approve the partial demolition of an outbuilding at the Onancock School and assume any costs associated with the demolition excluding the storage and removal of the debris.*

Councilmember Bundick asked what the town's expectations are regarding the possible finding of asbestos and lead paint in the building. The town needs to be aware of the potential of hazardous waste. Councilmember Bundick asked that Mr. Kerbin get a consultant to survey the situation before the town begins the demolition.

Mrs. Karen Splawn, Friends of Onancock School, shared that the floor is concrete, there is no insulation, and the pipes are not wrapped it is unlikely that there is asbestos in the building.

*Councilmember Krause resubmitted her motion with an amendment stating that the town will demolish the building after the asbestos inspection is completed. Councilmember Bundick seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

- d. Onancock School Lease Addendum, Mr. William Kerbin: Mr. Kerbin explained that the lease addendum in council's packet was also discussed at the last council meeting. Council's consensus was that the Friends of Onancock School met most of their ten-year benchmarks and therefore the town will continue with the existing lease as planned.

Councilmember Fosque asked if the Friends of Onancock School will update council soon on their corrective measures outlined in the engineering report. Mrs. Carol Tunstall, Friends of Onancock School, stated that they are still working on the items outlined in that report.

Councilmember Byrd stated that the Friends of Onancock School has done a great job to date with keeping up with the maintenance of the building.

Mrs. Karen Splawn, Friends of Onancock School, asked council if they can finally move forward with the school and stop worrying about ten-year benchmarks, asking should she go home or stay and continue the corrective actions. Does council plan on taking the school back from the Friends of Onancock School Board? Mrs. Splawn shared her concern over a threatening letter that was received from council about the prospect of council voiding the lease.

Councilmember Krause explained that there had been a lack of communication and knowledge until recently. Council had been unaware of the engineering and structural assessment the building underwent. Councilmember Krause explained that any misconceptions council had

about the Friends of Onancock School Board's lack of maintaining the lease's benchmarks have been dispelled.

Mayor Jones addressed Mrs. Splawn's concern about the town taking the building back, stating that has never been the goal of council. Mayor Jones did, however, express his concerns about the longevity of the building without a major renovation.

Councilmember Burger asked council to give a verbal acknowledgement to the Friends of Onancock School Board, stating that they are satisfied with the benchmarks and wish to continue the lease.

Mrs. Carol Tunstall, Friends of Onancock School Board, stated that she is comfortable with council's verbal acknowledgement of the benchmarks being met.

Mr. Kent Sudman, Meadville Drive, suggested that the record reflect council's agreement with the continuation of the lease even though not all the benchmarks were completed.

Mayor Jones asked all members if they agreed. All councilmembers verbally stated their agreement to continue the lease and that all requirements have been satisfied.

Mayor Jones again stressed his concerns about the continual deterioration of the building.

Public Comment:

Ms. Joani Donohoe, Tree Board Member, wanted to remind council of all the hard work the Tree Board does for the town, sharing that it takes about \$1,500.00 to keep up with the maintenance and care of one large tree in town. Ms. Donohoe explained that while \$1,500.00 a tree sounds expensive it is cheaper than removing a dead tree. Ms. Donohoe shared that she is mentioning this since it is almost time for council to set the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mayor Jones asked Ms. Donohoe if there were any more plans from Chairman Bill Burnham on updating the Tree Board's mission. Mayor Jones shared that Mr. Burnham mentioned getting the Tree Board out of the town landscaping business. Ms. Donohoe stated that nothing has been discussed since before the Board's winter break.

Planning Commission Report:

Councilmember Fosque shared with council that the Planning Commission is working on updating the town's Comprehensive Plan. They are in the process of reviewing the individual sections. Councilmember Fosque explained that this will be a lengthy process and that council should not expect a revision for a few months.

Councilmember Fosque also shared that the Planning Commission also discussed the idea of special use permits for businesses and the idea of how the approved permits should stay with the property and not the owner. Councilmember Fosque explained that after further consideration he believes that the permit should stay with the property since it would make resale of the property more appealing to prospective business owners. Mayor Jones suggested that they may want to amend the special use permits they approved at the last council meeting since those permits are now affixed to the owners and not the property.

Waterfront Committee Report:

No meeting.

Personnel Committee Report:

No meeting.

Holiday Committee Report:

No meeting.

Mayor's Report:

No report.

Town Manager's Report:

Town Manager William Kerbin shared with council the following:

- The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development staff will be visiting the Northeast and downtown sections of town as well as the Old Onancock High School within the next few weeks. They will be able to assist town staff with future community development grant planning for those areas.
- The accounting firm of Robinson, Farmer, Cox and Associates has completed the town's FY16 audit. Not significant issues were uncovered and the town's staff was complimented on its internal controls.
- Town staff is currently reviewing four proposals for a phone system upgrade in town hall.
- The town manager and department heads have been diligently working on the revision of the personnel manual which will be shared with the personnel committee in the beginning of April. Special thanks to Chief Eric Williams and Mr. Bryan Horton, Operator-In-Charge for their hard work on the rewrite.
- The town manager and maintenance staff attended a OSHA training held by the Virginia Municipal League (VML) to review safety standards and compliance issues. VML representatives are scheduled to conduct a risk assessment of the town on April 6, 2017.
- Wharf staff are diligently preparing the marina for the beginning of the 2017 boating season. Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Johnsen for their assistance with the preparation work. Mr. Kerbin also thanked the Onancock Volunteer Fire Department for their donation of an old fire hose to line the bulkhead.
- Town staff is currently working on preliminary figures for the FY18 budget. A budget workshop has been scheduled for April 10, 2017 and the public hearing on the budget is scheduled for the April 24, 2017 regularly scheduled council meeting.
- The Samuel Outlaw Building now has the official designation of being a 501(c)(3). Mr. Gerald Boyd and Mr. Kerbin met with Dr. Mark Williams who is a blacksmith from Furnace Town who has offered to do a demonstration once the building is opened back up. The non-profits first board meeting will be held in late April.
- Finally, vehicle decals are on sale and due on vehicles no later than April 15, 2017.

Closed Session, if needed:

None.

Adjourn:

Councilmember Bundick mentioned that VML Regional Supper is going to be this April at Mallard's at the Wharf and that it would be nice if council had a group together to represent Onancock.

*Councilmember Byrd made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Krause seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

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Russell Jones, Mayor

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Lisa Fiege, Deputy Clerk

**RESOLUTION  
2016 EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA  
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN  
TOWN OF ONANCOCK, VIRGINIA**

WHEREAS, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, as amended, requires that local governments develop and adopt natural hazard mitigation plans in order to receive certain federal assistance; and

WHEREAS, an Eastern Shore Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee comprised of members of the business community and non-profit organizations, and local officials was convened in order to study the County's risks from and vulnerabilities to natural hazard, and to make recommendations on mitigating the effects of such hazard on the County; and

WHEREAS, the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission updated a regional Hazard Mitigation Plan including the Town of Onancock; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of the Town of Onancock, the Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee members, and the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission have resulted in an update of a regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Onancock, Virginia, that the sections pertaining to Onancock in the Eastern Shore Hazard Mitigation Plan dated April 2017, is hereby approved and adopted for the Town of Onancock, Virginia.

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Russell Jones, Mayor  
Town of Onancock

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Date





# A-NPDC

ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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## Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption

Thank you for your participation in the creation of the new and improved Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan! The process began in November of 2014 and both the process and the final product are something for all of us to be proud of and use wisely to best benefit our communities.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires local agencies to update their Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) every five years. The Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan is multijurisdictional, including both Counties and 16 of the 19 incorporated towns in the region. Local entities whom participated in the HMP process are eligible for hazard mitigation grant opportunities, once the HMP is adopted. The first ESVA HMP was written and adopted in 2006, the next in 2011, and now we have the 2016 Plan approved by FEMA and ready for adoption!

**At your next Town Council meeting, please consider adopting the ESVA HMP using the adoption resolution that A-NPDC staff has supplied with this letter of appreciation and return a copy by email, fax, or post to the A-NPDC as soon as possible.**

A-NPDC staff will be distributing a color copy of your jurisdiction's chapter and mitigation actions from the HMP in the coming weeks. This copy will serve as a resource to Town management and will include several pages for comments and suggestions from both Town staff and from any interested member of the general public.

All chapters of the HMP and some additional background information can be found at <http://www.a-npdc.org/accomack-northampton-planning-district-commission/coastal-resources/hazard-mitigation-planning/>. If there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Shannon Alexander, Coastal Resources Program Manager with the A-NPDC by phone at 757-787-2936 x115 or email at [salexander@a-npdc.org](mailto:salexander@a-npdc.org).

Thank you again for your active engagement and all of your contributions to the new Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan!

# TOWN OF ONANCOCK

## TOWN PROFILE

The Town's port was founded to collect tax on tobacco and other products exported from Accomack County. In 1680, the Act of Cohabitation set aside 50 acres at the head of Onancock Creek for development of a town center. This area was called Port Scarborough, but was quickly changed to Onancock. Accomack's county seat was located here until 1693 when a new courthouse was built in the nearby Town of Accomac. The Town was a major port on the Eastern Shore allowing access to Baltimore's markets. The Town declined after 1884 when the railroad was built further inland (Onancock Town Plan, 2004). Today, the Town includes 665 acres (just over a square mile) and is a residential center, service area and small active port with 95 business establishments, many in its old downtown (2008 Zip Code Business Patterns).



**Figure 1 : Onancock Satellite Imagery**

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC

Part of assessing hazards in relation to their risk is understanding the people affected. Not all people are affected equally. Some are affected by the factors that relating to their ability to understand risks posed by hazards, and some by their ability to remove themselves from harm's way. Those factors include age, mobility, income and the languages individuals speak and the languages in which individuals are able to access information.

### DEMOGRAPHICS

The 2010 Census indicates that the Town had a population of 1,263, which is a 17.2% decline from the 1,525 people that lived in the Town during the 2000 Census. The most recent American Community Survey estimate from 2014 has the population at 1,226. The median age for residents in 2014 was 51.6, signifying an older population than the national average.

**Table 1 : Onancock Demographic Information**

	2014***	2013**	2010*	2000****
<b>Population</b>	1,226	1,381	1,263	1,525
<b>Median Age</b>	51.6	50.1	51.1	45.3
<b>Disability</b>	101	73	NA	NA
<b>Income</b>				
Median Household Income	\$39,927	\$40,313	\$41,372	\$28,214
Poverty Level	30.1%	25.6%	21.2%	NA
<b>Language</b>				
Only English	92.7%	94.7%	93.5%	94.0%
Other	7.3%	5.3%	6.5%	6.0%
Spanish	0.3%	0.9%	6.3%	4.1%
Ind-Euro	6.6%	4.2%	0.2%	0.8%
Asian	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Other	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%

\* U.S. Census 2010, \*\* American Community Survey 2009 – 2013, \*\*\* Annual Estimates of the Residential Population: 2010 – 2014, \*\*\*\* U.S. Census 2000

### WORKFORCE

Employment patterns are important to examine for two reasons. They can help to identify concentrations of people for hazard information dissemination or hazard rescue and evacuation. Additionally, they can identify where disruptions in employment and income might occur in the aftermath of a disaster.

The majority of the work force in Onancock work in educational, health care, and social services. They also work in retail trade, reflective of the downtown retail area, and manufacturing due to the close proximity of various industrial poultry plants nearby. Following an emergency situation that caused significant negative impacts to the tourism industry, the rebound for the Town would most likely also be negatively impacted. However, the significant amount of the workforce employed in education, construction, professional services, utilities, and more would be in high need and thus the negative impact would hopefully be lessened.

**Table 2 : Onancock Workforce**

Civilian Employed Population						
Industry	2014*		2010*		2000**	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Agriculture, forestry, fishing/hunting, or mining	15	3.0%	16	2.2%	11	1.8%
Construction	21	4.2%	72	10.0%	36	6.0%
Manufacturing	91	18.1%	88	12.2%	86	14.3%
Wholesale trade	6	1.2%	47	6.5%	51	8.5%
Retail trade	49	9.7%	76	10.6%	81	13.5%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	5	1.0%	27	3.8%	11	1.8%
Information	10	2.0%	11	1.5%	16	2.7%
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rentals	37	7.4%	22	3.1%	24	4.0%
Professional, scientific, waste management	37	7.4%	47	6.5%	37	6.2%
Educational, health care, social services	143	28.4%	126	17.5%	131	21.8%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, food	48	9.5%	94	13.1%	42	7.0%
Public Administration	33	6.6%	73	10.2%	48	8.0%
Other	8	1.6%	20	2.8%	26	4.3%
<b>TOTAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYED POPULATION</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: \* American Community Survey, 2010 – 2014, \*\* U.S. Census 2000

## BUSINESSES

Business data provides basic information used in projecting potential economic losses from business and employment disruption, along with wage losses to employees. It can also serve as an indicator of community recovery resources. Finally, it can help to prioritize restoration of utility and infrastructure functions following a high-intensity hazard.

Onancock is one of the few incorporated towns in the region that has an entity responsible for increasing the success of the community in order to enhance the quality of life for the citizenry. The Onancock Business & Civic Association fills this role and is an excellent resource for new residents, entrepreneurs, and information about businesses in the Town.

Onancock was once an active maritime shipping center for locally grown produce. Though it remains an active maritime port of seafood landings and commodity imports, the rail and truck shipping industry supplemented the transport of locally grown produce. The majority of Onancock’s industry focuses on retail and commercial areas. There are also construction and food services throughout Onancock.

**Table 3: Onancock Business Types**

Industry Code Description	Total Establishments		
	2013	2011	2009
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1	1	1
Construction	12	10	11

## Town of Onancock

Industry Code Description	Total Establishments		
	2013	2011	2009
Manufacturing	2	1	1
Wholesale Trade	1	2	2
Retail Trade	14	11	14
Information	4	4	4
Finance and Insurance	5	4	4
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	7	6	8
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	8	11	10
Management of Companies and Enterprises	1	1	1
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	3	4	5
Health Care and Social Assistance	9	9	9
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2	4	4
Accommodation and Food Services	10	10	8
Other Services (Except Public Admin)	11	14	14
<b>Total, All Establishments</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Total Employees</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>533</b>

Source: Census Zip Code Business Patterns, 2013

## BUILT INFRASTRUCTURE

Housing units, community facilities, and transportation are all important factors when considering hazard resiliency. They provide the social services necessary during hazardous scenarios, safe cover for those wanting to stay, and a way to leave towards safety.

## HOUSING UNITS

Knowledge of a community's housing base contributes to hazard and vulnerability analysis by identifying how many homes are at risk. Vehicles available to households is one indicator of a household's ability to evacuate when necessary. The Town of Onancock does have some higher density, multi-family accommodations on the northwest area of town. During educational outreach, these areas would be well-suited for additional focused attention.

The trend revealed in Table 4 below shows a steady increase in the number of total housing units in the Town. The majority of these units are single-family housing and are owner-occupied. The presence of substandard housing in Onancock has been greatly reduced the last 40 years. There is still a presence of some substandard houses that have peeling paint, leaking roofs, and windows and doors in disrepair (*Onancock Town Plan, 2004*).

**Table 4: Onancock Housing**

	2014*	2010**	2000***
<b>Total Housing Units</b>	794	753	733
Occupied	649	594	656
Vacant	145	159	77
<b>Owner-Occupied</b>	394	350	411
<b>Renter-Occupied</b>	255	244	245
<b>Median Housing Value</b>	\$183,000	NA	NA

## DRAFT Eastern Shore Hazard Mitigation Plan 2016

\* American Community Survey, 2010 – 2014, \*\* U.S. Census 2010, \*\*\* U.S. Census 2000

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### TRANSPORTATION

Market Street (Route 179) serves as Onancock’s primary street, and provides a direct route in and out of the Town to Highway 13. Other major roads in Town include Hill Street (Route 179), Liberty Street, and North Street. Hill Street connects to communities from the South such as Cashville, East Point, and Pungoteague. The most active internal collector roadways in Town are Kerr Street and Boundary Avenue. VDOT maintains approximately 75% of the Town’s roadways, with the Town maintaining the remaining 25% (*Onancock Town Plan, 2004*).

STAR Transit offers weekday bus service to Chincoteague and Cape Charles, with stops to all major communities, shopping centers, health care facilities, and government offices. The seasonal Tangier Ferry offers regular service to Tangier Island, and offers foot passengers and bicyclists the opportunity to connect to other boats travelling to Reedville, Virginia and Crisfield, Maryland (*Onancock Town Plan, 2004*).

**Table 5: Onancock Vehicles Available Relative to Households**

Vehicles Available	2014*	2010**	2000***
None	94	105	95
One	284	274	256
Two	172	218	200
Three or more	99	118	100

\* American Community Survey, 2010 – 2014, \*\* American Community Survey, 2006 – 2010, \*\*\* U.S. Census 2000

Individuals with personal vehicles can most often more easily remove themselves and their families from harm’s way in the case of an emergency. As of 2014, about 15% of the Town’s occupied residences are without even a single vehicle according to Table 5 above.

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### COMMERCIAL AREAS

Commercial activity in the Town is concentrated in three areas along Market Street. The first is concentrated along Market Street and clustered into three distinct areas, separated from each other by residential land uses. This commercial area is referred as the “business highway” area and includes a laundromat, car service stations, and other businesses. The second commercial area is the downtown area located farther west on Market Street. This is the Town’s “Main Street” and is characterized by one-story and two-story brick buildings. Commercial activity in this area consists of local government administrative offices, services and retail shops, and offices. The third area of commercial activity is located on Onancock Creek, known as the Onancock Wharf. Commercial uses include retail stores, a sand and gravel loading area, an oil company, a seasonal ferry service, and commercial fishing operations.

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### COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Community facilities comprise all the public services and facilities provided by the Town to all residents. Those services include public water and sewage treatment facilities, police and fire departments, wharf, parks and recreation facilities, and solid waste management.

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#### PUBLIC SAFETY

The Town employs five full-time police officers, headquartered at the police station on North Street next to the Town Hall. Fire protection and rescue service is provided by the Onancock Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. The volunteer fire department serves the Town of Onancock and the outlying areas of Deep Creek, Chesconessex,

## Town of Onancock

Bayside, Cashville, Nebo, East Point, and part of Savageville. There are 40 active members, 4 paid full-time firefighters, 26 volunteer firefighters, and 10 non-firefighting volunteers, providing 24/7 coverage of EMT/fire fighters paid by Accomack County. The department currently operates three fire engines, one brush fire truck, and one ambulances (Lisa Feige, *personal communication, June 2, 2016*).

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### PARKS AND RECREATION

Onancock's Town Square is located on Market Street and covers an area of about half an acre. It features a gazebo and a monument to General Edmund R. Bagwell. The Northeast Onancock Community Park is about 14 acres and has a basketball court, playground equipment, and benches. There are fields in the Town at Fireman's Field with no active courts or maintained fields. The fields at the water tower are leased for recreational sports use. Onancock landing park (from Market St to the creek) with dingy docks, kayak launch, near the wharf. The Onancock School and surrounding recreational opportunities including a nature trail maintained by the Master Naturalists and fields for soccer, frisbee, etc.

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### WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER

The Town has a municipal water system supplied by groundwater wells at Hartman Avenue. Well depths are about 265 feet, and sodium hypochloride is injected into the water at the water tank. Two smaller, back-up wells are located at the Parker Street site, along with a pump station. The water tower is 168 feet high and contains 300,000 gallon elevated storage tank. Water is distributed through two, four, six, and eight inch water lines.

The Town owns and operates a wastewater treatment facility located on North Street. The facility serves all residents and businesses in Town, as well as Airport Industrial Park, and several businesses and commercial establishments located on the west side of Route 13 south of Route 179 in Onley. The facility was updated in 2012 from a capacity of 250,000 gallons per day to 750,000 gallons per day. There are still a few septic systems in the Town, less than ten total (Lisa Feige, *personal communication, June 2, 2016*).

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### SOLID WASTE

The Town contracts with Davis Disposal for weekly residential trash collection, which is transported to the Northern Accomack County Landfill. Most residents also use the Tasley Convenience Center regularly and so this is an important resource for the Town.

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### POWER AND COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

Eastern Shore Communications has a contract with the Town to have a receiver on the Water Tower for broadband. AT&T antennae for wireless service and the broadband transmission is also on the water tower. Landline telephone service is primarily provided by Verizon and Charter Communication, the latter of which is housed in the Town). The water tower, therefore, is vital in providing communications during and following emergency situations. Onancock is served by multiple power substations, and so is less likely to have widespread power loss during a hazardous event.

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

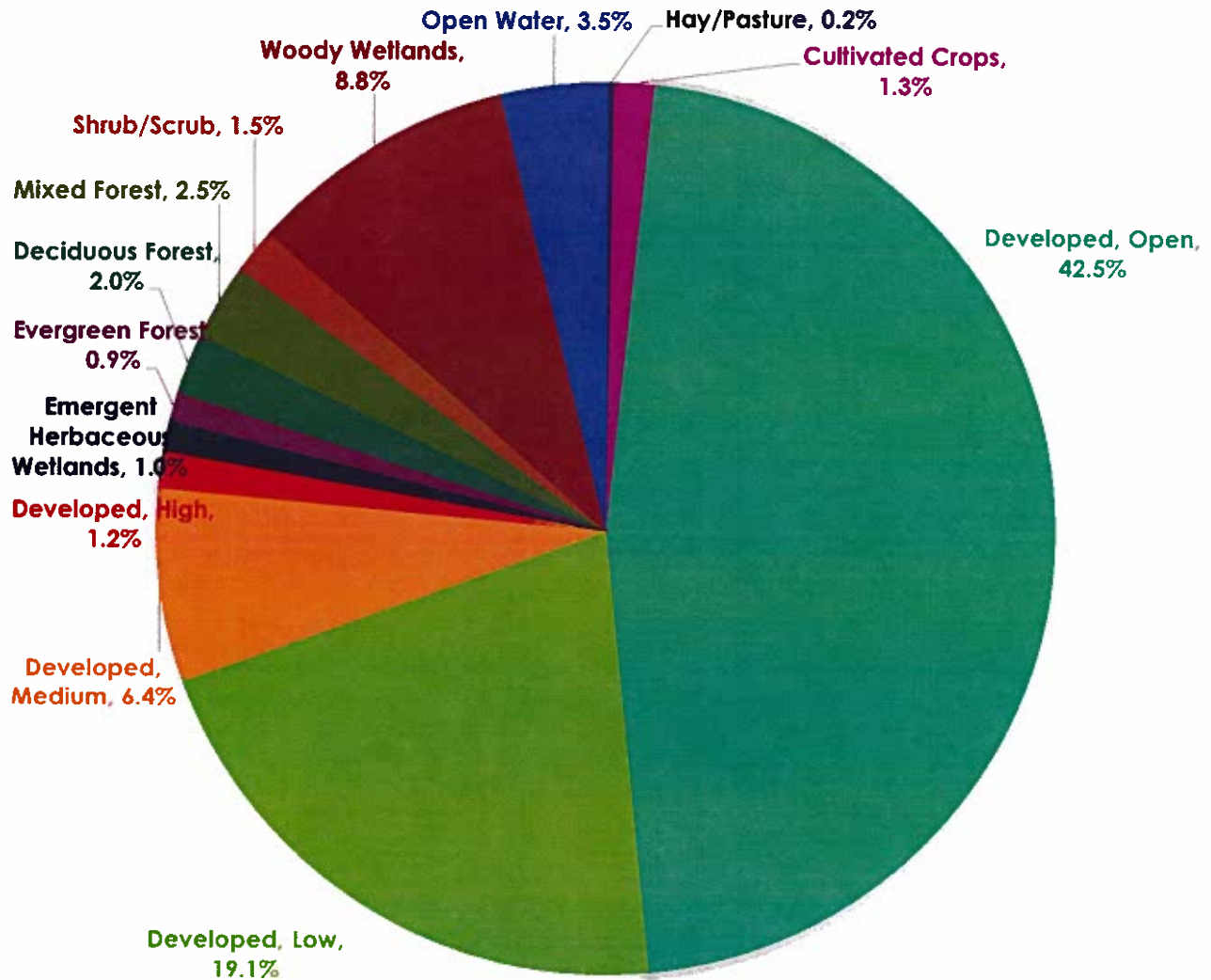
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### LAND USE LAND COVER

Almost 70% of Onancock is developed (see Figure 2), however this includes green space, such as parks and large grass yards. This trend can easily be seen in the satellite imagery for the Town, presented in Figure 1, where the majority of the Town is residential. The percentage of wetland area is somewhat low relative to the waterfront

DRAFT Eastern Shore Hazard Mitigation Plan 2016

property, approximately 3.3 miles, and many of the homes on waterfront properties are less than 80 feet from the water's edge. Because wetlands act as sponges during flooding events, typically areas with more extensive wetland fair better during these events. That said, the elevation of much of Onancock is over 20 feet, thus the Town is less sensitive to flooding, except the westernmost areas of the Town. Onancock has an official Tree Board, and thus improves their green space and long-term green-scape planning.



Source: USGS. National Land Cover Dataset. 2011

Figure 2 : Onancock Land Use Land Cover



# HAZARD PREPAREDNESS & COMMUNITY CAPABILITIES

## PREVIOUS HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

Onancock has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process since 2006. The Town's primary risk is associated with coastal flooding.

**Table 6 : Onancock Hazard Mitigation Resources**

		Ordinances, Plans					Resources, Committees							
Agency														
Local														
County	*													
Regional				*								*		
State														*
Federal														
	Building Code													
	Chesapeake Bay Act													*
	SWMP	*												
	Hazard Mitigation Plan	*												
	Comprehensive Plan	*												
	Zoning Ordinance													
	Storm Water Regulations													
	Transportation Infrastructure					*								
	Inundation Vulnerability Report					*								
	All Hazards Preparedness					*								
	Emergency Operations Plans					*								
	Mutual Aid					*								
	Neighborhood Emergency Help					*								
	Virginia Hurricane Evacuation								*					
	Oil & HazMat Response Plan;							*						
	HazMat Commodity Flow													
	Ground Water Committee							*						
	Navigable Waterways Committee							*						
	Climate Adaptation Working									*				
	Group													
	ES Disaster Preparedness											*		
	Coalition													

## NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM & HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

### NFIP

The Town joined the NFIP on December 15, 1981. Between April 2011 and January 2016, according to the respective NFIP insurance reports, the Town had two flood insurance claims totaling \$13,954.00, which is just less than their premium of \$14,483.00. To date, the Town hasn't participated in the Community Ranking System (CRS). Unlike many of the coastal Towns on the Eastern Shore, the amount of land in the SFHA remained the same with the new 2015 FIRM. Although the area in the SFHA remained 0.1 square miles, the delineation shifted slightly, removing two buildings from the zone and adding three buildings, for a net increase of only one building in the SFHA.

**Table 7 : Summary of Onancock's past NFIP participation**

	<u>HMP 2006</u>	<u>HMP 2011</u>	<u>HMP 2016</u>
NFIP (date joined)	December 15, 1981	December 15, 1981	December 15, 1981
Number of Policies	-	30 policies	23 policies: 4 A-zone, and 19 other
Total Premium Amount	-	\$15,897	\$14,483
Total Coverage Amount	-	\$8,660,200	\$6,899,700
Number of Claims (since 1978)	0	0	2
Total Paid (since 1978)	-	-	\$13,954
HMGP	NA	NA	NA
CRS Score (1 highest, 10 lowest)	10	10	10

Source: FEMA NFIP Insurance Report April 2011, January 2016

### HMGP

The Town has never participated in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

## HAZARD PROFILE

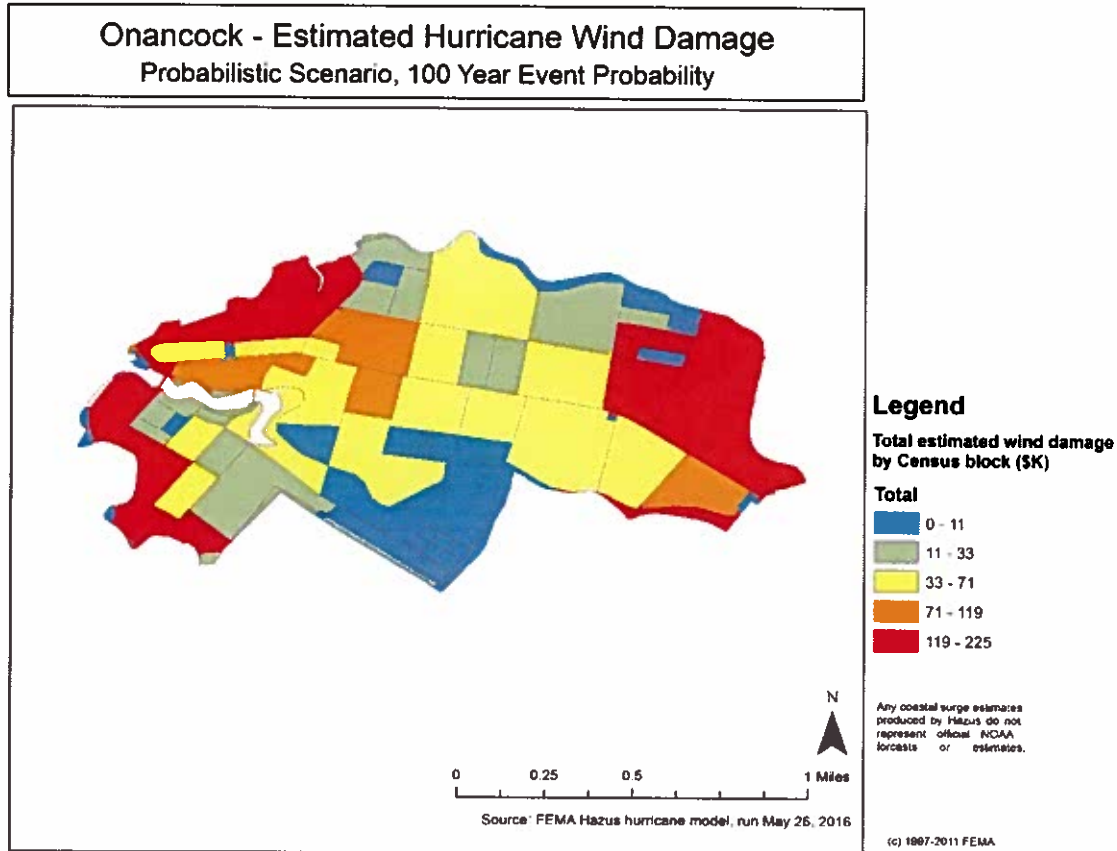
### WIND

The Town is not located in the wind borne debris hazard area. However, most of the residential areas have mature trees. High winds could damage trees within the Town and this might lead to some damage to houses and outbuildings. The Town constructed a water tower in 2008 on the east side of town that was built to withstand high wind events. Major Town facilities, including the wastewater treatment plant and water supply tower, are equipped with back-up power supplies in the event of a power outage.

Figure 4 reveals the estimated dollar value of damages for each Onancock census block that would result from wind damages from a hurricane that has a 1% chance of occurring each year. The total damages for the entire

## Town of Onancock

Town, is estimated to be just over \$3 million. About half of this total is from building damages, over 15% from content losses, and over 20% from rental and relocation costs. The total also incorporates losses from income, wages, and inventory.



**Figure 3 : Onancock Hazus® Estimated Wind Damages**

### COASTAL EROSION

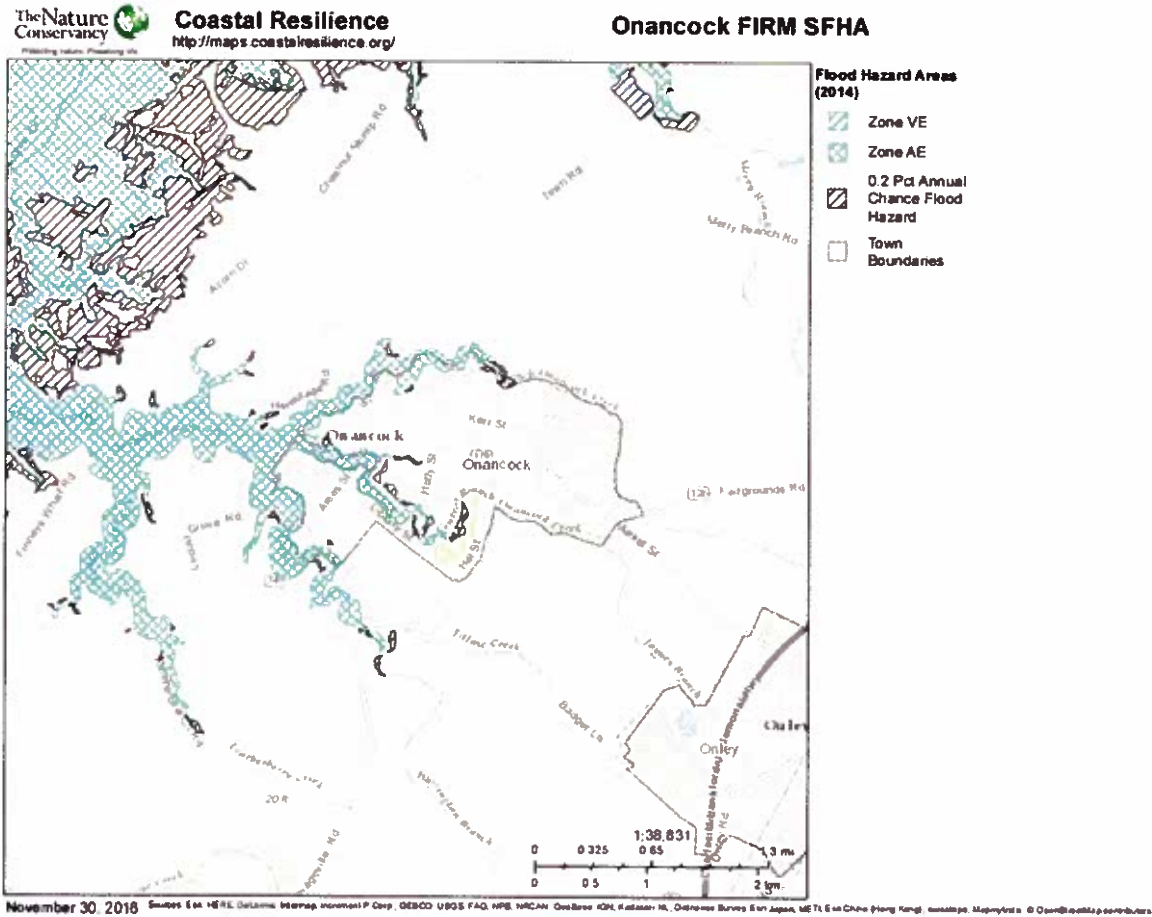
Although there is some erosion risk around Onancock, no structures located in the Town appear to be vulnerable to coastal erosion at this time. The initial dredging of the Onancock Creek in the 1800's allowed the Town to develop and prosper. Regular dredging and maintenance of the Onancock Creek channel to prevent shoaling and ensure navigability is vital for the economics of the Town.

### COASTAL FLOODING

The Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for Onancock, completed in 1981, identifies that the greatest threat of flood inundation comes from hurricanes and northeasters. Development within the floodplain is minimal (Onancock FIS). The Town is located inland from the Chesapeake Bay. Onancock Creek, North Branch and Titlow Creek border the Town on three sides. In addition, Joynes Branch bisects the Town creating a northern and southern section.

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According to the 2014 FEMA Flood Risk Report, the Town of Onancock still does not have any identified V zones. The Town, however, does have A zones located near the Town Wharf and along the three branches of Onancock Creek. Approximately 12 properties are located in the flood zone, nine of which are estimated by Hazus® to incur damages to structures during a 100-year storm event. During such an event it is expected that the buildings would receive about \$192,000 in building damages, just over the expected damages in 2011. There would also be about \$213,000 in content loss, and \$150,000 in losses from business interruption, for a total of just over \$555,000 in total losses. There are only four NFIP policies in the A-Zone, indicating that 7 properties and 5 structures that are in the flood zone are uninsured (FEMA NFIP Insurance Report, January 2016). The Hazus® model also estimate that there will be a total of 1,051 tons or 42 truckloads of debris generated during a 100-year storm.



**Figure 4: Onancock Special Flood Hazard Areas Identified, as presented in the TNC Coastal Resilience mapping tool**

The Town also has three facilities that are affected by flooding, the wastewater treatment plant, Onancock Wharf, and the Harbormaster's House. The wastewater treatment plant could contaminate Onancock Creek and North Branch and to a lesser extent the Chesapeake Bay if it failed during a flood event. Recent improvements to the plant have lessened threats from coastal and stormwater flooding and in turn have reduced the threat of contamination to the creek. The Town now has 4,000 gallon storage and dispensing tank at the Wharf. The new Onancock Wharf Harbormaster's House, completed in 2014, was built several feet higher than the previous building and thus is more resilient to flooding damages (Mayor Jones & Lisa Fiege, personal communications, June

## Town of Onancock

2, 2016). Figure 3 below reveals a more and more common flooding situation at the wharf in Onancock (Mayor Jones, personal communications, June 2, 2016). Recent repairs were made to the wharf parking lot and drain approaches, but flooding during storm events remains a problem.



***Figure 5: Clockwise from top: The historic Hopkins Store, the new Harbormaster's House, and the parking lot, all of the Onancock Wharf during the October 2015 North American storm complex, largely influenced by Hurricane Joaquin. Photo by Connie Morrison***

### STORM WATER FLOODING

An additional 19 structures carry flood insurance, but are not located in a flood zone (FEMA NFIP Insurance Report, January 2016). This may indicate potential storm water flooding issues within the Town. The total number of NFIP policies rose from 10 in 2003 to 30 in 2011, but fell to 23 in 2016 (FEMA NFIP Insurance Report, July 2003, May 2011, January 2016).

The soil in Onancock drains well compared to many areas on the Eastern Shore and due to its coastal location, there is a change in elevation (reaching sea level approaching the surrounding creeks). Despite this, the Town still experiences some stormwater flooding problems, including the Police Office. Of particular concern is Lilliston Ave, (west of Lee St), which is partly paved right off of Market. VDOT is responsible for the maintenance of the ditches

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adjacent to state owned roads, however there are several roads that are owned by the Town, and for which the Town is responsible for maintenance.

Onancock subcontracts to have a twice weekly April through October Town-wide spray for reducing the number of mosquitos and the associated diseases.

### HAZARDS OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

Due to the existence of the new fuel tanks at the wharf, there is a potential for a Hazmat incident to cause damage to Onancock Creek, North Branch and the existing homes on King Street and commercial buildings on Market Street and Onancock Wharf. There are also houses located on the creek outside of the Town's boundaries that could be damaged by an incident.

Onancock's location on the Onancock Creek and its direct connection to the Chesapeake Bay cause the Town to be vulnerable to two types of saltwater intrusion. Wells further inland could lead to vertical movement of brackish water found below the lens of potable water. Because all of the Town residents rely on the municipal water system, which is supplied by groundwater wells, this is of high concern. Further south on the Bayside, the Town of Cape Charles has already experience salt water intrusion.

Hindrances to navigation or a lack of channel maintenance would negatively impact the Town economically.

### CRITICAL FACILITIES

The following table lists the critical facilities and their relative importance to the Town.

Facility	HMP 2006	HMP 2011	HMP 2016	Hazards	No of People Affected	Loss potential	Relocation Potential	Retrofit Potential
<b>Town-owned Facility</b>								
Town Office	X	X	X	Wind Fire	Town Residents	Inconvenience	No	Yes
Police Office			X	Wind Stormwater r Fire	Town Residents	Major Disruption	No	Yes
Town Wharf, related properties and fuel tanks	-	-	X	Wind Ice Flooding Fire	2,000 +	Inconvenience	No	Yes
Waste Water Treatment Plant	X	X	X	Flooding Wind	Entire Town and properties on Onancock Creek	Devastating	No	No
Water Supply Tower	X	X	X	Wind Stormwater r	1,500	Major Disruption	No	No
South Street Pump Station	X	X	X	Flooding Stormwater r	Town Residents	Disruption	No	Yes
<b>Other Critical Facilities</b>								
National Guard Armory	X	X	X	Wind Fire			No	

Town of Onancock

Fire Station	X	X	X	Wind Stormwater	2,000 +	Major Disruption	No	Yes
Telephone Company Exchange Building	X	X	X	Wind Stormwater Fire	Entire Eastern Shore	Major Disruption	No	
Corner Mart & Royal Farms (gas stations)			X	Wind Stormwater Fire				
Bagwell Oil	X	X	Facility Removed	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

## SUMMARY STATEMENTS

1. The greatest threat to the Town is the secondary effects of flooding. A 1%-annual-chance flood event would directly impact 9 structures within the Town and cause an estimated \$555,806 in damages.
2. Most of the residential areas are older construction with mature trees. During a storm wind or snow/ice event, branches and trees may come down causing secondary wind damage and power outages.
3. A 1%-annual-chance wind event is estimated to affect 65 buildings and cause about \$3 M in damages.
4. The Town constructed a new water and wastewater facility with increased capacity and backup power supply.
5. There are several higher occupancy housing areas in the Town that may not have access to personal vehicles and may require additional efforts in outreach for education about preparation for hazard events and for assistance during and following an event.

# ONANCOCK POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Summary of Police Activities for March 2017

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Events initiated \_\_\_\_\_ 2,573

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### Traffic:

Number of summons issued \_\_\_\_\_ 72

Number of warnings given \_\_\_\_\_ 51

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### Court:

Number of times attended \_\_\_\_\_ Twice

Number of fines \_\_\_\_\_ \$2,884.00

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### Calls for Service-

<u>Call Type</u>	<u>Number of Times</u>
Disorderly_____	4
Assault- Simple_____	3
Drunk in Public_____	1
Mental Health_____	4
Motor Vehicle Theft_____	1
Animal Abuse_____	1
Assault- Shooting_____	1
Trespassing_____	1
Drug Offense_____	2
Larceny- Simple_____	1
Driving Under the Influence_____	1
Refusal- DUI_____	1
Brandish a Firearm_____	1



11. Assist Another Onancock Police Officer	10
115. REGISTRATION- not in possession	1
12. Assist Fire and Rescue	4
128. Mental Health Problems	4
132. Wharf Check	117
145. ISSUED NOTICE OF SUSPENSION	5
15. Assist State Police	1
2. Alarm Activation	4
22. BUSINESS- Check	138
25. CITIZEN- Complaint	2
29. Defective Equipment	1
32. Domestic Assault	1
38. Fail To Stop For Stop Sign	6
49. REGISTRATION- improper	1
50. Investigation	4
57. No Liability insurance	1
6. Arrest For Trespassing	1
61. DRIVER LICENSE- none or expired	2
64. Noise Complaint	1
7. Assault	3
80. Residence Check	144
84. Served Trespass Notice	1
88. Speeding 10-19 MPH over Limit	17
91. DRIVER LICENSE- suspended or revoked	5
94. SUSPICIOUS- Vehicle	2
102. Verbal Warning	51

107. BUSINESS- Assist	3
114. TRAINING	7
116. Assist Parksley P.D.	1
122. ASSIST OUT OF STATE POLICE AGENCY	1
13. Assist Motorist	2
142. SPECIAL PATROL AREA	937
148. Welfare Check	1
18. Assisted Onley Police Department	5
20. Brandish a Firearm	1
24. CITIZEN- Assist	2
27. Court	2
31. Disorderly Conduct	2
34. Driving under the Influence	1
45. Hang-Up 911 call	2
5. Animal Complaint	4
51. Larceny	1
59. DRIVER LICENSE- not in possession	1
60. No or Expired Inspection Sticker	15
62. REGISTRATION- none or expired	3
68. Parking Ticket	1
71. Possession of Marijuana	1
82. Seat Belt	10
86. Special Detail	6
9. Assist ACSD	1
92. SUSPICIOUS- Activity	1
96. Tinted Windows	3