

TOWN COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MINUTES
April 28, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Robert Gell at 7:33 pm. Also present were Mary Carol Durange, Joseph Letts and Donna Sheets. The Pledge of Allegiance was once again led by Ryleigh Johnson.

The accounts payable report was reviewed with Commissioner Sheets motioning to “pay the bills” and all approved. 4-0

Minutes from the previous meeting (April 13th) were reviewed with Commissioner Sheets forwarding the motion to accept them as written. This was approved 3-0 with 1 abstention.

Cpl. Adam Streight was in attendance to present the patrol report for March 2010. Commissioner Sheets asked about a possible solution to the traffic congestion during the elementary school dismissal period.

A discussion concerning the use of Town Foot Log Park was led by Ursula Boudart. She stressed that if picnic tables were installed in that area, they would attract litter and mischief. Apparently the nearby residents have been maintaining the area in the past. They would not object to benches and trash receptacles. There is an objection to the unsightliness of the “Private Property” signs and suggested perhaps planters could delineate the property lines. Chip Muller-Thym is distressed by the litter problem and the “after dark” crowd. He also feels the planters would be more suitable than signs. Steve Kraemer made mention of a manhole in the area that appears to be leaking. All these comments will be given consideration.

Public Comment

Mike Burns appeared to express his concern about residents washing cars with detergents which pollute the river. He hoped to get something published to address this. It was agreed to post something in the “Chatter” and on the Town’s web site. He also would like the Town to address the problem with the post office hours which are inconvenient for working people.

Edgar McMullen asked the Commission to help with the reclamation of about 30 cemetery lots which may require legal representation to resolve.

Jeff Chakar spoke of his frustration with the water flow in the road in front of his house. This flow has flooded his and neighboring yards, ruined the road and creates standing pools. Mr. Pumpaly explained the chronology of the events leading up to the flooding problem. He explained several possible solutions. The engineers who have been called suggest that the wet winter and spring are causing the water flow. The Town crew are

unable to dig deep enough to reach the problem area. Mr. Pumpaly has contacted three site preparation concerns to come to view the area in order to effect a solution.

Allen McDaniel attended to speak on behalf of Riverfest 2010 to ask for the Town's support once again this year. He would appreciate support equal to last year's contribution. He spoke of the growth and activity the event has generated and how it puts Charlestown on display. Perryville High School is very interested in becoming involved in the event via their art and Honor Society groups. Discussion occurred concerning legal notices which must be posted in local newspapers and traffic control. It was suggested that a blurb for the "Chatter" be devised and information be supplied for the Town's web site.

Town Administrator's Report - Old Business

- A list of proposed names for the Charlestown Charter Review Board was presented for consideration. President Gell reviewed a hand-out booklet from MML concerning amending Charters. It is suggested that a board be appointed and be charged with generating a report within approximately October 12, 2010. It was noted that each Commissioner nominated two member apiece. Of the ten nominees, three have yet to be contacted. President Gell volunteered to contact these individuals personally. Commissioner Letts commented that the Town may soon have to consider "districting".

The Resolution to be used to create the Charter Review Board (the Charter was last reviewed some thirty-two years ago) was discussed. A question was asked about the time frame and it was suggested that five months perhaps was too quick. Commissioner Sheets moved to approve the Charter Review Board Resolution and it was unanimously agreed. Commissioner Sheets then further moved to approve the nominees as listed and all agreed to this.

- Mr. Pumpaly spoke of the pot holes by the fire department and noted that the State Roads are scheduled to fix the problem this Friday (4/30).
- A thank you note from Wayne Biggs was concerning Town's assistance with the "Ice Splash" was read.
- A "draft resolution" was then presented to help the Town and residents deal with water leaks which do not enter the sewer system during any particular quarter. A previous resolution is restricted to "blue poly pipe" leaks and does not address other leak scenarios. Mr. Pumpaly read and explained the resolution draft. Essentially credit would be considered for leaks that do not enter the sewer system and only for the sewer portion of the bills. President Gell noted that on May 3rd County officials will meet in Charlestown to discuss the Holloway Beach situation and it is hoped to discuss this proposal with them at that time.

Commissioner Letts had to leave at this point.

- A volunteer recognition event is planned for May 12th at the elementary school and Mr. Pumpaly explained the preparations in motion.
- The Lot 63, Trinity Woods, playground update was discussed. It was noted that the site cannot accept a playground in its present state. URS inspected the site

and will prepare a proposal for site preparation. The playground RFP has been suspended at this time.

New Business

- A proposed Resolution 2010-04 was presented to approve moving the second meeting of the month back to the fourth Tuesday at 6:30 pm. Commissioner Sheets motioned to approve Resolution 2010-04 and this was unanimously agreed upon 3-0.
- A pick-up schedule for the Town recycling, yard waste and bulk is being proposed. It may require further work on wording and distribution.
- Mr. Edwards has submitted his idea for a sign at the Cecil House. Pollitt Sign will be in Friday to discuss this and it was suggested that we also contact Paint'n Place. The funds for this will come from the President's Discretionary Fund.
- URS has completed work to revise the Town's Stormwater Management Ordinance at a cost of \$5,000. With new emergency provisions imposed by the Maryland Department of the Environment after URS had begun their work, URS needs \$1,500 more to complete the project which must be in place by May 2010. Commissioner Sheets moved to approve the additional expense which passed unanimously 3-0.

There was a short discussion concerning dissemination of the unapproved Town meeting minutes and the methods for publication of the "Chatter".

President Gell spoke of his conversation with Rogers Clements about reviewing the Planning & Zoning Code with an eye to identifying and correcting problems with the existing Zoning Code. The proposal would be to combine the P&Z Board and the Board of Appeals to accomplish this reviewing task. The existing Code was adopted in 1974 as a blanket document encompassing many other Eastern Shore communities. A letter was presented which will be sent to the Board members explaining the review and correction process. Commissioner Sheets made the motion to begin the Zoning Code review as outlined. This was approved 3-0.

Commissioner Sheets motioned to adjourn the meeting and all approved with the meeting adjourning at 9:38.