

TOWN COMMISSIONERS MEETING
March 25, 2009
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Steven Vandervort at 7:35 pm with Mary Carol Durange, Robert L. Gell, Joseph G. Letts and Donna M. Sheets in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was led once again by Ryleigh Johnson.

The Accounts Payable report was reviewed and there being no discussion, Commissioner Gell made the motion to approve payments with Commissioner Sheets seconding and all approving.

The minutes from the March 10th meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Gell motioned to approve them as written with Commissioner Durange seconding and all approving.

Ron Edwards was present to report on the progress of the Cecil Inn Renovation Committee. He presented documentation mapping Phase I. This would identify the "era" and the structural integrity of the Inn. Mr. Edwards requested \$1,000 to fund part of this phase. Commissioner Sheets made the motion to approve the \$1,000 with Commissioner Durange seconding.

President Vandervort began discussion about the availability of grants, capital and non-capital. Capital grants fund actual, physical work to be done; non-capital grants concern research and architectural paperwork. It was revealed that this year, capital grants have all been cancelled by the State. Mr. Edwards revealed that as of last week it was possible to apply for \$50,000 in capital grants each year. This cancellation has, of course, changed the prospects. The vote was unanimous to provide the requested funds.

Mr. Edwards questioned how access the funds now made available would be handled. A portion of the Inn's restoration funding will be included in the next fiscal year's budget. It was revealed that the restoration is on a 5-year schedule with the master plan hopefully finished by the end of the first year. The first year's work is all in the non-capital grant area. It was revealed that although the loan from Maryland Historical Trust is certain, it will take a minimum of 3 months to process. Early July is the date when the information on the loans should be available. An engineer's report has been a previously acquired and indicated that the structure is basically stable.

The Town Administrator noted that he had been asked to decommission two wells on the property and has received instructions on the procedure from the Cecil County Department of Health. The Town maintenance staff will be going forward with this project.

President Vandervort spoke about the need for Resolution 2009-1 which is required in order to apply for the non-capital grant. Commissioner Gell motioned to approve the resolution with Commissioner Durange seconding and all approved.

The Town Administrator, Wib Pumpaly, spoke about the drainage project for the Curtis Elmer property and the runoff going onto the Red Lion, Linton House and Indian Queen properties. Mr. Edwards commented on the how this project may cause the runoff to be more concentrated and further, how the structure and driveway proposed for the lot will increase the impermeable surface and change the water flow onto the downstream properties. Discussion ensued concerning how the future structures on the Elmer lot may effect the run off. Mr. Edwards asked if it would not be prudent to get an engineer to evaluate the situation. It was noted that permission for this project has not been granted by any landowners. It was decided to plan a walk-thru with the concerned landowners to observe the situation.

Public Comment - A question was asked to clarify the location of the previous discussion.

The Office Administrator, Debi Keeley, presented a invoice recap on the Town's I&I projects and detailed the report she had prepared. It was noted that discrepancies have been caused by actual costs being lower than the bids estimated. It was mentioned that Cecil County DPW hoped to have better communication with Charlestown in the future.

Details of the April 16th MML meeting to be held in North East were distributed. President Vandervort mentioned the need for a Secretary/Treasurer for the Harford/Cecil Chapter and that this will be addressed at the meeting.

Regarding the County Commissioners' meeting to be held in Charlestown (Fire Hall) on May 19th; Commissioner Sheets made a motion to not treat the Commissioners to dinner at the Town's expense. Discussion ensued on the subject with Commissioner Letts eventually forwarding the second. The motion passed 3-1.

On April 23rd, a Maryland Mayor's (Council of Government) meeting will be held at 5:30 in the Cecil County office building. The Town Administrator asked to receive any agenda items the Commissioners may have in mind so he may forward them.

Commissioner Letts spoke about the second Neighborhood Watch meeting which was held recently and had about sixty people attending. He reported the progress being made with organization and that part of Trinity Woods is already functional. Another meeting is planned for late summer.

In order to go forward an easement is required from the Town for relocating the new, main sewer pumping station. It was presented for discussion and indicated that the Town's attorney has been asked to prepare the proper document.

Town Administrator's Report -

MML Summer convention registration applications must be returned soonest.

MML board nominations are due in by June 29th.

The Cecil County Department of Assessments and Taxation has accelerated the deadline for the constant yield tax rate. The "tapes" from the Town are now due by June

10th. It was noted that this is an annual event which coincides with the development of the next fiscal year's budget. It was noted that there had been a previous discussion about the "constant yield tax rate" and that it was not expected to change enough to require a public hearing.

Town dock is being power washed and water sealed. The area of the walkway is being weeded and cleaned. The boat ramp pier is next to be policed and tidied.

Mr. Pumpaly told of the need for two replacement weed trimmers. Suitable equipment (Stihl) can be obtained for approximately \$295 each, outside of State contracted items. Commissioner Letts motioned to approve the purchase with Commissioner Sheets seconding and all approving.

Mr. Pumpaly spoke about a letter sent in March 2008 by the Town attorney concerning the requirement to remove the overhead electrical wires on "C" dock. Since this letter has been ignored, the Town Attorney will be asked to go forward with whatever action may be necessary to accomplish the removal..

Mr. Pumpaly recounted that the bids for trash collection have been opened and reviewed. Discussion ensued about the bids submitted. The highest bid per housing unit was \$17 and the lowest was \$9.99 (Signature). There was discussion concerning the wide disparity in the bids. Mr. Pumpaly spoke with an official at the town of Westgrove, a Signature customer, and learned that they are quite happy with them. It was noted that residential bins were not included in any bid and Signature did not take the option to increase according to land fill tip fees. Commissioner Durange made the motion to go with the lowest bid (Signature) with Commissioner Sheets seconding and all approving.

Commissioner Durange made the motion to adjourn with Commissioner Sheets seconding and all approving.