

TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND
January 10, 2017

The Town Meeting was called to order by Vice President, Mary Carol Durance at 7:00 PM. Present were Commissioners Mary Carol Durance, Joseph Letts, Bruce Hechmer, Renee Capano (by phone) and then in person, Andy Thompson and Mr. Wib Pumpaly, Town Administrator.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Robert Gell

Approval of the Minutes of December 13, 2016 Commissioner Letts moved to approve, Commissioner Thompson seconded. Approved 5-0.

Accounts Payable Review January 10, 2017—Accounts payable in the amount of \$45,354.64 was presented. Commissioner Thompson moved to accept, seconded by Commissioner Hechmer. Approved 5-0.

Commissioner Durance introduced our guest for the evening, County Executive Dr. Alan McCarthy. Mr. McCarthy stated that he thought that the relationship in the past had not been all that it could be. He pledged to work together on projects that will benefit the county and the citizens of Charlestown. He sees a major issue in the future as water and sewer service in the area.

Miller Environmental December Report – Josh Griffith was present. A total of 2,603,000 gallons were produced for the month, with an average daily production of 84,000. No coliform samples tested positive. Weekly housekeeping and monthly maintenance was performed. Five Miss Utilities were provided, no leak was detected a 437 Calvert Street, turned water off at 122 Frederick Street, 107 Cecil Street and 322 Market Street. Assisted Town Maintenance replacing bolts on raw and finished line unions in the WTF. 4th Quarter meter readings were completed. Notified the town of recommended meter replacements.

Cecil County Sheriff's no report We did have a robbery on Frederick Street and another incident where someone was going through cars. There was also a trailer stolen in Cool Springs and garages being broken into.

Credit Card Payments Up-date Nick Trionfo The credit cards are now set up to go through PNC. Janine did a good job on setting this part up. We still need to work on the access through the website. Mr. Trionfo pointed out that we are in good shape, a couple of line items will need to be looked at as they are being spent faster than budgeted and may require a budget amendment.

Proposed Charter Change Discussion

Mayor to be Elected by Residents Mr. Pumpaly presented a proposed question to the ballot for March that would ask the residents how they feel about a charter change. Commissioner Letts is in favor of the question and letting the citizens have a say in who the Board President or Mayor is. Commissioner Thompson is also in favor and thinks the question as presented is a good one. Commissioner Hechmer is opposed as it affects many parts of the Charter. As written, it takes away powers of the President. Commissioner Capano stated that she thought that we could change just the vote of the citizens on the question of the President. Mr. Pumpaly questions how the ballot might be presented to the citizens without a second election. Commissioner Capano says that at the next meeting we will look at the question and made any additions or corrections. Mr. Hechmer feels that we have many more projects that need to be worked on before taking on the Charter.

Old Business

Avalon Park Mr. Pumpaly brought the board up to date on the process. He met with several builders and showed them the plans who are very reluctant to even give a bid or a ballpark as the plans are not definitive and without blueprints. Mr. Pumpaly has now contacted two engineering firms for bids on producing the plans for the stage. He then enumerated the approvals and permits needed for the contract. He met with Patsy Clements from the committee to make sure that we are on the same page. He still feels that the project can be accomplished in a relative short time once plans are in hand. Commissioner Thompson asked if grant money or the \$10,000 Town portion could be used for the engineering portion. The answer is that we could use the \$10,000 but not the \$90,000 for the engineering. Mrs. Clements has a question as to whether the builders were given all of the information from the committee.

New Business

PHS Yearbook Ad – Commissioner Letts moved to purchase a full page ad, seconded by Commissioner Thompson. Approved 5-0.

Period of Public Comment

Jack Kroner – Happy New Year

Ursula Boudart- Are we making any progress on the comprehensive plan? We have talked about putting a committee together to do that. Mrs. Boudart feels that this is a top priority. Did the woman ever have her baby? Yes, we brought the information that out of state could be charged for the boat ramp. If we charge in state or residents of Town then we will be in jeopardy of future grant money losses. Commissioner Thompson stated that if we start out by charging out of state residents this year that would get the ball rolling and we are working on that aspect.

Dr. Robert Gell He is interested in the election of a Mayor and all the questions that the election of such would cause. He thinks that much thought needs to be put in before just changing the charter to elect a mayor.

William Mahaffey & Adrienne Thompson – The expenses of 630 Water Street mostly having to do with heat and air conditioning are more than what was anticipated. There is one room downstairs that was at 48 degrees and the third floor is pretty much the same way useable in the spring and fall. He is asking if they might consider a rent reduction during the months. Today a heating technician was called to fix the oil burner. Mr. Pumpaly was asked to contact Brooks Mechanical to do an assessment of why there seems to be heat inefficiencies.

There being no other further business for the evening, Vice President Durange called for a motion to adjourn the meeting to an Executive Session. Commissioner Letts moved to adjourn the meeting to executive session, seconded by Commissioner Capano at 7:43 PM. Approved 5-0

Respectfully submitted by: Debbie Myers, Town Clerk I