

TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND
October 24, 2017

The Town Meeting was called to order by President, Andy Thompson at 7:00 PM. Present were Commissioners Renee Capano, Karl Fockler, Joseph Letts, and Andy Thompson and Mr. Wib Pumpaly, Town Administrator. Commissioner Mary Durange was excused.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lori Wankle

Approval of the Minutes of September 26, 2017 and October 10, 2017 Commissioner Letts moved to approve the minutes of September 26, 2017, seconded by Commissioner Fockler. Approved 3-0-1. Commissioner Capano moved to approve the minutes of October 10, 2017, seconded by Commissioner Letts. Approved 3-0-1

Accounts Payable Review October 24. Accounts payable for the period of October 24, 2017 were presented in the amount of \$43,880.75. Commissioner Capano moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Fockler Approved 4-0. Commission Thompson mentioned that a check to the Charlestown Elementary School for their Holiday party was in and needed to be approved separately, so moved by Joe Letts, seconded by Karl Fockler Approved 4-0.

Charlestown Sidewalk Project - Mr. Wayne Starkey and Mr. Richmond Vernon from SHA were in attendance to give an update on their project to place sidewalks on the west side of MD267 (Bladen Street). Mr. Starkey, Project Engineer was in attendance. The last part of the wall came down today with just a small part of the foundation remaining which should be down by tomorrow. The contractors have worked beyond the 4PM hour and he apologized for the extension. He feels that the demolition should be out of here by the end of next week. After that the second contractor is on board to start the replacement of the wall. There is also a punch list that will be addressed too. Mr. Vernon stated that if the town sees things that they feel need to be on the punch list, let SHA know and they will add them to the project. They know that we are not happy and they are not happy either. Commissioner Capano asked about the sidewalk going out "that way" (from the end point at this time to the school) might be in future planning? They will check and see and let us know. Commissioner Thompson thanked them for their time in keeping us up to date.

Selection of Planning and Zoning Board Right now we are in the process of setting up interviews and then will select a new member of the planning and zoning board.

Comprehensive Plan and Charter – Initial Planning Discussion Commissioner Thompson stated that we need to provide guidance to the committees. In his mind it could be divided into these phases: Phase I go over what is already there, do we need to update? Phase II does anything need to be added along with the town staff and Commissioners input? The last update of the Charter was in 2012. Commissioner Capano agrees that we need to go through the whole thing. Rebecca Mann is working with David Dahlstrom from Maryland Department of Planning to update the ordinances and code from 1999. This process will take nine months to a year. We need to set a date to begin our process. Mr. Pumpaly was asked to set up the meetings in the next two weeks.

Speeding in Charlestown (Actions – Deterrents) Commissioner Thompson feels that those that are speeding in town are residents and not visitors. He feels speed bumps are the way to go. He is in favor of the build in place speed bumps as Charlestown is a walking town. He feels Frederick Street, Ogle Street, park in Cool

Springs, Cecil Street. The cost of the removable speed bumps are about \$500 a piece that we would have to maintain. McGuirk has estimated \$500 - 600 if he works on more than one at a time. The suggestions of places to start with are: Cool Springs on long stretch going in; Trinity Woods playground vicinity; Frederick Street at park; Ogle Street at park; Cecil Street on the hill. Commissioner Letts moved to place speed bumps at the to be determined spots near the mentioned locations, seconded by Commissioner Capano. Approved 4-0.

Use of Golf Carts on Town Streets Commissioner Thompson wants to know if we want to OK this or not? He hates to see us spend any more time on this if it was going to be voted down. Commissioner Thompson feels that they need to be electric, with lights and wipers and only driven by licensed drivers. Commissioner Capano feels we need to have something in writing because of all of the issues we have going on in town with golf carts. Commissioner Fockler is in favor of having the use of golf carts be legal. Commissioner Fockler also has concerns about the petition that was circulated and he wonders if the people in Cool Springs and Trinity Woods are desirous of having the use of golf carts. Commissioner Capano feels it should be town wide, not limited to a certain area of town. This legislation would still need to go to the state legislature for passage to allow the use of golf carts. Commissioner Fockler moved to approve the prior draft of the bill to allow for golf carts to traverse the streets of Charlestown and to forward such to our delegate for passage at the legislature and to MML, seconded by Commissioner Capano. Approved 3-1. Commissioner Thompson did talk to the family that has been using golf carts illegally and recklessly. The take away from the meeting was that they needed to see something in writing to change their behavior.

Charlestown Event Punch List Review Commissioner Thompson liked the form that is presented but would like to see a few additional items added to the checklist. The question was raised about charging for this use and if we are going to charge nonprofit? Commissioner Thompson like the addition of a couple of things from the Chesapeake City form. Commissioner Fockler asked if we could incorporate those changes and have a revisable form to vote on at a future meeting. Commissioner Thompson also stated that they will revisit at the next meeting about charges for these events that would be covered by this form.

Chickens Commissioner Thompson feels we need to rework our current ordinance to remove the pets part of 2009-6. He feels that no roosters, so maybe six chickens would be OK. Commissioner Capano does not have a problem with chickens, with the current restrictions of space in the backyard. Commissioner Fockler was at Calvert and Frederick Street early in the morning and heard the rooster and thinks that a rooster might be annoying. Commissioner Thompson stated he felt no slaughtering on site, no roosters. This will be brought up at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Critical Area Consistency Report – Avalon Park (Lot “B”) We have received permission from the Critical Area to go ahead with the construction of the stage at Lot B. Mr. Pumpaly will be working on the bid package next week.

Water and Sewer Work Group – Procurement and other Collaboration Opportunities Mr. Pumpaly and Commissioner Thompson attended the meeting of this group. Commissioner Thompson felt that the county was asking for things from the towns and not giving back to the towns. If we could do a co-op thing for purchasing it might be to our advantage. Mr. Pumpaly asked the board to give to him or Commissioner Thompson things that we might work together with the county.

Janine Antoshak, Office Manager, presented a request of things that the office staff would like to store at the building in Avalon. She stated that building permits could be stored there. Some of the things on the list were

approved and some were not (i.e. no electronics). Commissioner Fockler moved to utilize the building at Avalon, seconded by Commissioner Letts. Approved 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business

PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Sean Durgin A resident of Cool Springs and he thinks that the speed bumps are a great idea. Thank you for getting the sink holes filled. A couple of years ago he brought up a project of bringing natural gas to town. He did hear the music on Saturday night. It was coming from Market Street.

Lori Wankle – She was wondering about the golf carts and what times they might be utilized. Dawn to dusk is written into the ordinance. She is listed on the Comprehensive Plan Committee and would like to be moved to the Charter Committee, but is willing to be on both committees and feels that there should be some carryover between the committees.

Mary Clark Confalone She was really excited about Avalon Lot B news! She also wanted to put in a good word for chickens. They eat bugs and they are part of a sustainability sweep across the country. She does not feel roosters should be allowed.

Kathleen Matter Caroline Street putting the stop signs in did no good. They do not stop. The signs have not stopped the kids in the golf carts in her area either and they are a real problem.

Debbie Stozek The golf carts are being driven in the dark by children, who do not stop at signs and are speeding. They swear, do u-turns in her yard and generally make a nuisance of themselves. When the sheriff is called no one comes out. They are antagonizing her and her family. The one child is ten years old. Commissioner Letts stated that it all comes down to enforcement. Commissioner Thompson stated that we will reengage with the police force, but she should continue to call them.

Jack Kronner – He reiterated the golf cart problems. He feels that the people involved feel that they are above the law. His frustration level is high on this issue.

Sam Jones – He is happy about the speed bumps! On the livestock thing, chickens he does not have a problem with, but they can be a “gateway” to other animals.

There being no other further business for the evening, President Thompson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Capano moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Fockler at 8:19 PM. Approved 4-0

Respectfully submitted by: Debbie Myers, Town Clerk I