

TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND
March 28, 2017

The Town Meeting was called to order by President, Renee Capano at 7:00 pm. Commissioners present were Joseph Letts, Mary Carol Durange, Andy Thompson, and Renee Capano. Karl Fockler was also present.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Ron Edwards

Approval of the Minutes of February 28, 2017 Commissioner Durange moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Andy Thompson 4-0.

Swearing-In Ceremony New Commissioners – Ms Charlene M. Nartacola, Clerk of Court performed the swearing-in ceremony installing Karl Fockler and Joseph Letts as Town Commissioners.

Election of Town Officers The results of the election of officers is as follows:

President: Andy Thompson

Vice President: Joseph Letts

Treasurer: Karl Fockler

Selection at-large P & Z Commissioner/Board Member: Renee Capano

Accounts Payable Review of March 14, 2017 –Commissioner Capano moved and Commissioner Durange moved to accept Accounts payable for March 14, 2017 in the amount of \$26,108.03 and for March 28, 2017 in the amount of 23,648.57. Approved 5-0.

Financial Discussion/Preliminary Budget Discussion– Nick Trionfo, Town Accountant brought the Commissioners up to date on the state of our finances as of February 28, 2017. All of the monies have been moved to PNC from Cecil except for one CD which must stay as a CD. There is a great deal of money in the checking account which we may want to move to MLGIP accounts that would generate interest. We have received some of the outstanding AR monies owed over last month. He also pointed out that there are some Accounts Receivable for Personal Property Taxes that cost us more to invoice than we collect. It would take a resolution to possibly stop sending invoices for Personal Property taxes under a certain amount (we have one for .16). In the 2018 budget there will be more breakdown of accounts to show more detail making it easier to answer specific questions on expenditures. We are in a positive cash flow for the year and things are looking as they should be at this point in the fiscal year.

We are anticipating the budgeting process for the upcoming year. In the booklets is the first memo put out by MML for our use in planning the budget for FY2018. Our budget must be passed by ordinance not resolution. Mr. Trionfo and Mr. Pumpaly will begin work on the budget in detail very soon and the commissioners were asked to let them know if they have any desires for expenditures in the next fiscal year.

Review Sustainable Communities Application – Janine Antoshak presented the Resolution 17-02 in support of the Town's application to become a Sustainable Community. President Thompson voiced that he is in favor of the resolution. Commissioner Letts moved to accept Resolution 17-02, seconded by Commissioner Fockler. Approved 5-0.

Colonial Charlestown Fair 275th Anniversary Ron Edwards presented an overview of a Colonial Fair to be planned for the fall by Colonial Charlestown. It is planned for October 21 and 22. Mary Clark Confalone will head the committee and will need lots of help. President Thompson and Commissioner Capano voiced their support. The Commissioners by consensus gave their support.

Town Administrator's Report

Old Business

Avalon Park – On March 20th, Patsy Clements, Commissioner Letts, Pia Fassold, Mary Clark Confalone and Mr. Pumpaly met with Alpha Engineering. Alpha Engineering will give us a plan, which will be contractor ready. This plan should be ready in 30 to 45 days. Once we get that plan we will use Dan Speakman of McCrone Engineering to get through the Critical Area Commission requirements and to the county.

Golf Cart Use on Town Streets – Mr. Pumpaly once again brought to the Commissioners the request to use golf carts in town. He provided some information from Crisfield on their golf cart regulations of use. He cautions the use of such as we have no enforcement capabilities. We have no way of managing the use of golf carts in the Town of Charlestown. Commissioner Fockler thinks that this might improve quality of life for some of our elder residents. He does wonder about liability issues though. He thinks that we should do some fact finding and due diligence. President Thompson thinks that we should check with the State Highway about crossings and liability of the town through our insurance. Commissioner Capano stated that Crisfield received from the state two different crossings of state roads for the use of golf carts. Commissioner Fockler moved to further explore this issue and come back with a recommendation of whether to allow their use or not, seconded by Commissioner Letts. Approved 5-0.

New Business

AT & T Proposed Lease Assignment Purchase – Several months ago we were approached by AT & T to amend the current lease as it stands which would garner the town \$1.25 million over the extension of the lease, which was signed. We have now been approached by AT & T to “buy out” the lease for \$420,000. In discussions with Mr. Trionfo the figure is somewhat low and there will be more study. There will be more discussion at the next meeting.

Resident Tree Issue 140 Salvation Circle - The resident desires that the tree be removed. It is on town property and the resident says it drops an inordinate amount of acorns which become a tripping hazard. The tree is not dead and to our knowledge we have not spent a great deal of time maintaining the tree. Commissioner Capano stated that the tree looked healthy and is not leaning; it should be left as is. Commissioner Thompson agreed with this assumption as does Commissioner Letts. Commissioner Letts moved to leave the tree alone as it is not causing any property damage, seconded by President Thompson. Approved 5-0.

Damaged Fence – Cool Springs Pump Station Access Road – During the last ice storm a tree came down on a section of fence of a resident from the Cool Springs Pump access road. Our maintenance staff has taken care of the tree. The resident had a section of fence and replaced it. This is a point of information only.

Code Codification Up-date – Mr. Pumpaly has been in contact with Michael Peter with General Code. General Code did our work in 1999. They are now working on a proposal to do the recodification work for us. This project will take probably in the ballpark of a year to complete. A brochure is included in the books to

introduce General Code. General Code will be an exhibitor at the Summer MML conference and Mr. Pumpaly encourages the Commissioners to visit their booth at the Conference.

Commissioner Capano announced that on April 18th @ Market Street @ 6:00 PM the Hook Line and Little Sinkers Committee will have another planning meeting. The event will take place on August 18th and the Coast Guard has been confirmed to be in attendance.

National Night Out is also in the preliminary planning stages. Commissioner Capano has contacted the Fire Department. The next planning meeting for National Night Out will be on April 21st @ 6 PM @ Market Street. The Drug Training has been confirmed as part of the program for the evening which will be held on August 1st.

Commissioner Fockler brought to our attention that our current resident agent is Judge Baynes. We may want to look into naming a new resident agent, the most likely candidate being our current legal counsel. This will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

He would also like to explore the possibility with the state and other towns to see about making a push to dredge or re-dredge the channel. This would give access to larger boats. A deeper channel would give greater access and make Charlestown a destination by boat. Commissioner Thompson agreed with the looking into the possibility.

President Thompson brought a suggestion from a town resident of applying graffiti proof paint to the new wall being placed on Bladen Street in connection with the sidewalk project. This application would prevent graffiti paint from sticking to the wall if applied before such damage is perpetrated. We need to explore what the wall will be faced with before a decision is made on coating it.

Patricia Clements – Last year the Commissioners supported a town clean-up day. Is it a possibility to do the same this year? Avalon Park could greatly benefit from this event again. Saturday April 22 and April 29 are dates that might be used. It could be advertised on our website and on the town sign. Earth Day, April 22. Commissioner Fockler moved that we advertise Town Clean Up Day as April 22, seconded by Commissioner Letts. Approved 5-0

Jack Kroner - Congratulations to all the commissioners.

Prosper Boudart – Congratulations to Janine for all her hard work on the Sustainable Communities application.

Ursula Boudart- Congratulations to everybody and put it in the front of your head to look for ways to make money for the town.

Ken Confalone – Please do not use the word golf cart as a euphemism for lawn tractors, ATVs or other such vehicles.

Pauline Bryant - Congratulations to the Commissioners. She has checked with her insurance she would be covered the same as a car. She has a golf cart because of her health. She also would like to have signs that say do not feed the geese and ducks. It creates more of a mess than the dog waste.

Lori Wankle – Why are golf carts not allowed in other towns? What is the update on charging for the boat ramp? The boat ramp issue will be on the agenda for the April 11th meeting along with a way to enforce it.

Janine Antoshak – She announced the annual Wade in on June 17th from 10-2. It will have exhibitors near the Fairgreen Park and then the “wade in” at 12:30pm. Cecil Transit will provide transportation with parking available at the elementary school.

There being no further business, President Thompson moved to adjourn the regular meeting seconded by Commissioner Durange at 8:02 PM. Approved 5-0.

Respectfully submitted by: Debbie Myers, Town Clerk I

Approved 4-11-2017