

TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND
May 9, 2017

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Fockler

Approval of the Minutes of April 25, 2017 Commissioner moved to approve, Commissioner Capano seconded by Commissioner Fockler. Approved 3-0

Accounts Payable Review May 9, 2017—Accounts payable in the amount of \$62,372.46 was presented. Commissioner Capano moved to accept, seconded by Commissioner Fockler. Approved 3-0.

Miller Environmental April 2017 Report – Josh Griffith was present. A total of 2,563.000 gallons were produced for the month, with an average daily production of 85,000. No coliform samples tested positive. Weekly housekeeping and monthly maintenance was performed. Seven Miss Utilities were provided, one settlement read and no leak was detected at 519 Calvert.

Cecil County Sheriff's Report – No report

OLD BUSINESS

DNR Grant for Wellwood Marina Pumpout Repairs – The Department of Natural Resources has authorized the grant application for the repairs of the pumpout station on C Dock.

Boat Ramp Launch Fees and other Issues – At the last meeting the Commissioners voted to begin to charge at the ramp. The estimated cost of such an honor box is \$2,400.00. Mr. Pumpaly continues to have some reservations including enforcement, where does the box go, what are boat ramp hours, is it too late in the season to begin this program for this year? Commissioner Fockler asked if we have the ability to have the seasonal stickers online. Yes, however the printing of the daily passes and or annual stickers is problematic but can be done, but does open up to a fraud issue. Commissioner Fockler feels that while we will always have those who might not pay, he feels that most would pay. Commissioner Fockler and Commissioner Letts feel that the entire board should be present to make this expenditure decision. A question was asked from the audience, why not make a decision and not put it back on the back burner yet again? Commissioner Capano was asked for her thoughts, she wanted to know if there was money in the budget? No, but monies could be moved with a budget amendment. Mr. Pumpaly will work on getting a timeline for having the honor box built and an actual bid for the work from the contractor used by Perryville to be brought to the next meeting for a vote.

Little Free Library Construction – Mr. Pumpaly presented the plans for a little free library and the cost estimate for constructing such. The total estimate is 978.00. He also needs to know where the Commissioners would like to see it placed. Commissioner Capano would like to see it by the Gazebo and to have the monies placed in the budget for next year. A few tools will be borrowed to complete the project. Commissioner Fockler moved to move ahead with the construction in accordance with the estimated costs, seconded by Commissioner Capano. Approved 3-0.

Avalon Park “Lot B” Up-date Mr. Pumpaly, and Commissioner Thompson met last Friday with the Avalon Park Committee and they are in agreement with the new plan and the architect is now working on the new plans that can be used for the bidding process. We are expecting the plans in the next week or so.

Golf Carts – MDOT/SHA Review Process The MDOT/SHA have been asked to determine crossings on Rte. 7 and Rte 267 and they have agreed to begin the process. Commissioner Fockler stated that Ms. Myers had typed up the Crisfield’s Ordinance with changes to Charlestown and he has been working on it to tailor for Charlestown and it will soon be ready for presentation to the Board and then could be forwarded to the Cecil County Delegation to present at the next General Assembly.

MDOT/SHA Charlestown Sidewalk Project Mr. Pumpaly has talked to the SHA about the sidewalk project going on in town. There are some serious problems with the project and large areas will need to be replaced, including the wall near Louisa Lane. We can expect the contractors to be in town for some time to come. The original deadline for completion was June 1st we believe. The sidewalk will not be replaced on the bridge.

Long Point Rain Garden Ms. Antoshak presented a plan for a Rain Garden to be installed at Long Point in conjunction with the revetment project. She explained why native plants were used. Some species of butterflies and birds can only survive by eating native plants and while those plants not native are beautiful, they serve no purpose in the survival of native species. There is a natural decline off of the parking lot at Long Point. Without a way to capture the runoff and filter it, it goes straight into the aquifer and into the river filled with pollution. The square footage of the rain garden is 450 square feet with a swale which will direct the runoff into to the rain garden. The cost estimate is between \$2,500 and \$3,000. This does not include signage, which will be an important part of this project and can be expensive. These native plants will attract hummingbirds and birds. Commissioner Fockler asked if the garden will in anyway block the view, the answer is no, the plants will be low to the ground and not higher than 2 feet high. Ms. Antoshak will also make sure that there is enough clearance for mowing around. The monies can come from the Long Point revetment monies that are left in the loan that we can’t give back or use anywhere else. Ms. Antoshak will begin work on the Rain Garden and Mr. Pumpaly will order new benches and a new handicapped accessible picnic bench.

NEW BUSINESS

2017 Constant Yield Tax Rate Certification Mr. Pumpaly is proposing that we do not increase taxes in FY18 and keep the rate of .3334 per 100 of assessed value. This would give us an increase of 8600.00 in income realized by new construction. Commissioner Capano moved to keep our constant yield rate of .3334, seconded by Commissioner Fockler. Approved 3-0.

FY2018 Commissioner Budget Requirements Mr. Pumpaly needs from the Commissioners any things that they would like to see included in FY18. We need these requests in by the 22nd or 23rd when he will next be meeting with our accountant to set the budget. He hopes to present the budget at the next meeting.

Commissioner Guidance for Charter Review & Comprehensive Plan Committees Mr. Pumpaly is one short on the Comprehensive Plan Committee and hopes to garner a member from Cool Springs. He has set the committees otherwise. They will both need some guidance from the Commissioners as to what their goal is as a Committee. Commissioner Capano stated that she has some things from Jim Peck of MML and will get that information to Mr. Pumpaly soon. Commissioner Capano was on the last Comprehensive Plan Committee and Mr. Confalone was on the last Charter Review Committee. Commissioner Fockler has been going through some other municipalities Charters and identifying things that might need changing in our own Charter.

Commissioner Fockler will put together a list of those types of things and bring it to the next meeting to be reviewed by the Board.

Commissioner Fockler asked if we have any update on the 275th Anniversary. None, except for we are helping them to establish a Facebook and Web presence. Commissioner Fockler encouraged those in attendance to be involved in this event.

Commissioner Capano asked if we would be using inmates again to help to clean up the beaches. That is a possibility. Commissioner Fockler noted that the stone pier is eroding substantially right now. Mr. Pumpaly will look into the situation and see what can be done and where monies might be available.

Ms. Antoshak announced that we are past the first hurdle of the Sustainable Communities application process.

PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Ken Confalone – Concerning the Boat Ramp, could we have a seasonal part time worker to take money at the boat ramp? Can we also put more signage at Long Point stating where the town stops and private property begins?

Rosie Boudart - How long has the boat ramp been there? Before 1989. Everybody comes to Charlestown to reap our quiet benefits, but then want to change things. Would a better place for the little library be near the school? No, adults will have books available also. Commissioner Capano has been asked about this. The Post Office used to have such a system, but is not going to reestablish it again. Do we have to renew our parking passes every year, no. Will the plantings in the Rain Garden be low, yes. Are the two committees going to have repeat members, yes.

Lori Wankle – She is very disappointed that the Boat Ramp issue is still going on. She feels that we need to get this issue finished with. In the long run it will generate income. The Wellwood is a problem, they allow their customers to make noise as they leave. She asks that he be told to tone down the sound level. Could the out of town hangers for parking passes be another color? We are looking into it.

There being no other further business for the evening, Vice President Letts called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Capano moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Fockler at 8:05 PM. Approved 3-0

Respectfully submitted by: Debbie Myers, Town Clerk I