

**'TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING**  
**CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND**  
*June 13, 2017*

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

**The Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Commissioner Mr. Ron Edwards.

**Approval of the Minutes of May 9, 2017 and May 23, 2017** Due to Commissioner Fockler's absence, the minutes of May 9th could not be approved as a quorum was not in attendance to approve them.

**Commissioner Durange moved to approve the minutes of May 23, Commissioner Letts seconded. Approved 3 for and abstention due to absence at the May 23, 2017 meeting.**

**Accounts Payable Review May 9, 2017**-Accounts payable in the amount of \$62,372.46 was presented. **Commissioner Durange moved to accept, seconded by Commissioner Letts. Approved 4-0.**

**SHA Sidewalk Project - Edward Stein III - SHA District 2** - Mr. Stein introduced Richmond Vernon and Wayne Starkey, project engineer of the sidewalk project. They had halted the work and have now begun to repair and finish the project. The major repair is the retaining wall. The entire project will be ADA compliant and will have some grading to make the sidewalks safe. The projected date for finishing is mid to late August, weather permitting. What is left to do is very time consuming. He was asked if the wall needs to be taken out if it is bumped out, only in part, the main thing is the concrete failed. Is the resident's house OK? As far as he knows, yes, but if there are issues the homeowners would have to take up those issues with the contractor. He was asked to let the town know if there is another slip in the timeframe. Traffic control will be handled better this time. When the wall is to come out, the road will have to be shut down during the day to accommodate the 100 ton crane that will be used to remove the wall. They will use flyers, portable message signs and such. Do you know if there is a stipulation for the spoils? This project does not provide a contractor lay down area. Most contractors will have an agreement. They can absolutely haul it to their waste site. Mr. Ron Edwards asked who pays for the mistakes, and overruns? We pay for the contract as it is bid, corrections are on them.

**Distressed/Priority Properties Report - Rebecca Mann** Ms. Mann presented a Distressed Properties List of those properties that are health and safety risks. Commissioner Thompson asked for this list to help track what the issues are. In two instances letters to the homeowners have gotten their properties back into compliance. Ms. Mann uses a rating system to identify the deterioration of the property. She also included a report for the quarter. She wanted to bring to their attention high grass issues. Some homeowners respond by mowing their grass. There seems to be more properties this year. Does the town want to keep the current procedure of having the maintenance staff mow when there is non-compliance. Commissioner Durange thinks it might be too much for our staff, and we should see what our mowing contractor would charge. Our town attorney is looking into liability issues of our maintenance staff mowing on private property, but that might also be an issue with an outside contractor. One of the properties is in very poor shape and is in need of more than mowing. Ms. Mann also complimented Mr. Scott Atwater as he volunteers his time to keep some of the abandoned properties mowed. For the next meeting we will put together a concrete plan.

**Miller Environmental April 2017 Report** - Josh Griffith was present. A total of 3,055,000 gallons were produced for the month, with an average daily production of 99,000. No coliform samples tested positive. Weekly housekeeping and monthly maintenance was performed. Eleven Miss Utilities were provided, and one

settlement read.

**Cecil County Sheriff's Report** - A year to date report covering the timeframe of January 1, 2017 to June 2, 2017 was emailed into the office and reflects the following. There were 74 calls for service resulting in 16 actual incident reports. The 16 incidents were broken down as follows: 2 sick or injured, 2 disorderly conduct, 4 domestic complaint, 2 burglaries, 1 suspicious person, 1 verbal disturbance, 1 CDS, 1 threatening suicide, 1 theft, 1 assist other agency.

## COMMISSIONER GROUP DISCUSSION

**Amend Ordinance #9 - Boat Launching Fees** The presented ordinance 2017-02 updates \$10 per day \$25 in state \$75.00. With a fine for \$500.00 or 30 days in jail. **Commissioner Durange moved to approve the ordinance and have the ordinance sent to the DNR for approval, if approved by DNR, then to get the box built.** Commissioner Letts wants to know how we are going to enforce it? This will be an honor system. **Motion seconded by Commissioner Thompson. Vote 2 -2. We will vote again at another meeting.** Commissioner Capano stated that at a previous meeting Mr. Pumpaly was supposed to contact DNR to get their approval. The same information will be in the books at the next meeting. The ordinance will be sent to DNR before the next meeting.

**Honor Box Payment System (Boat Launching)** - Tabled

**Golf Cart Legislation** - Tabled

**Little Free Library** - Commissioner Durange thanks Mr. Myers for building it and installing it. She is keeping it stocked and trying to keep a good selection to keep kids and adults reading.

**Police Issues** - Tabled

**Colonial Fair 275th Anniversary-October 21st and 22nd.** Mr. Edwards. We estimating 1500 to 2000 people over the 2-day event. The time frames are 10AM to 4PM on Saturday and 11AM Sunday to 4PM Sunday. Parking is available in town and they may use the Elementary school as overflow parking. Traffic control will be needed. We will need a police presence. After the event is completed there will be clean up needed. Mrs. Confalone went over the list of events and demonstrations. Some of the reenactments will be at Long Point and may need to shut the street down for a brief period of time. There will also be reenactments in front of the Red Lion. One group of the reenactors will be at the Tory House. The other groups will be on Conestoga and Water Street. Commissioner Durange mentioned that they used a private security company for Riverfest. Most of the events will be in the lower portion of town. They might ask if they could use the high school shot puts for one of the games. Colonial cricket will also be taught and played. Commissioner Letts asked if we are using Avalon? Probably not unless the participation is overwhelming. They are looking to have the boat ramp closed for the day. A notice will have to be posted in the paper to close the boat ramp. The committee will keep the Commissioners informed on a monthly basis.

**Stop Signs@ Frederick and Cecil Street intersection** Commissioner Thompson would like to see the speed limit on side streets reduced to 15 mph. We would have to buy all new signs, we will look into the price of signs. Being hit at a speed of 15mph vs 25 mph greatly increases chance of survival. Mr. Pumpaly will look into how many signs we have and the cost to change them to 15mph. Commissioner Thompson would also like to see stop signs at 3way and 4way intersections. **Commissioner Durange moved to place stop signs at Frederick and Ogle and Frederick and Cecil Streets, seconded by Commissioner Letts. Approved 4-0.**

**Fishing Tournament** - Commissioner Letts asked why the MSSA was cut out? This is the first year the town has sponsored the children's fishing tournament. MSSA had done the tournament up until this year. Also, the meetings are open to everyone to attend. The tournament was originally a part of Riverfest. The MSSA took over when Riverfest ceased, and when a resident who ran it was ill others from the MSSA group took the running of it over and did not do a good job. The town has taken it over. They have a fishing group, the CC Lip Rippers to help, the Coast Guard, a sanctioned casting contest. Why did we spend \$600 on fishing poles? We didn't have any poles and we will keep them for the future. Where are we going to store them? Somewhere in a town building. Commissioner Thompson asked if we could have worked things out with the MSSA? They were invited and have not responded. Commissioner Thompson asked that if anything over \$500 is spent for the fishing tournament it be approved by the board. Commissioner Capano then stated that that means everything the town purchases over \$500 be approved in an open meeting. Commissioner Durange stated that if you want to know when money is spent ahead of time then they can do that. Commissioner Letts stated that he is hearing two different stories and we need to be kept in the loop of planning of events.

**Town Meeting Cancellation -June 27, 2017 - Commissioner Durange moved that the meeting be cancelled on June 27 due to all Commissioners attending MML, seconded by Commissioner Capano. Approved 4-0.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Avalon Park Update** The final plans are done and will be delivered to Town Hall Wednesday or Thursday and Mr. Pumpaly has met with the Critical Area engineer and hopes to have his proposal by the end of the week as well.

**Street Re-surfacing** We have approximately \$27,812 to spend on streets. Mr. Pumpaly suggests moving that amount to an MLGIP account for use after the new fiscal year. He would like to finish the quadrant of Caroline Street from Calvert to Bladen for an estimate of 21,591.00. The end of Caroline at Bladen Street storm water management will be addressed as the street is done and a driveway pipe will need to be replaced as well. **Commissioner Durange moved to move \$27,812.00 to the MLGIP account, seconded by Commissioner Letts. 4-0. Commissioner Durange moved to pave Caroline from Calvert to Bladen for \$ 21,591.00, seconded by Commissioner Letts. 4-0.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Tree Removal @ 334 Baltimore Street** - The tree is not dead, nor is it causing any problems with the street. **The Commissioners in consensus agreed to not take down the tree. 4-0.**

**Kubota Extended Warranty-** Mr. Pumpaly presented warranties for the unit, excavator and the loader. The warranties for \$2,700.00 is a two-year bumper to bumper warranty. **Commissioner Durange moved and seconded by Commissioner Letts to extend the warranty. 4-0.**

**Equipment Purchase for Maintenance Department** We need a small push gasoline mower and trailer sprayer. **Commissioner Durange moved to purchase the aforementioned equipment, Commissioner Letts seconded. Approved 4-0** Mr. Pumpaly is asking to move \$4,000 to the MLGIP account to get tires for the 350 dump truck, 550 dump truck, and the town car. **Commissioner Letts moved and Commissioner Durange seconded to move the money for the above-mentioned equipment and tires for two trucks and the town car. 4-0**

**Salute to Cecil Co. Veterans (American Eagle Sponsor)** We have received a notice from the Cecil County Veterans for a \$1,000 donation. **Commissioner Capano moved, seconded by Commissioner Durange to donate \$1,000.00. Approved 4-0.**

**Wade-In-The** Cecil County Wade In will be from 10-2 on this coming Saturday. There will be about 20 exhibitors set up in a tent that will be pitched in the field by Fairgreen Park. The guest speaker will be Nicholas DePasquale head of the EPA for the Chesapeake Bay. At 12:30 we will head over enrnasse to Foot Log to wade in to see how far out we can see our shoes as an unscientific way to test the health of the bay.

#### **PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Joseph Baxter** -He wants to thank the Commissioners for their service to the town. Traffic on the dead end portion of Baltimore Street has cars going too fast. He would like to see a speed sign there to help. He thinks that the Wade-In is a great idea but he thinks a barricade at the end of the street for this Saturday would help with traffic control. We will place a barricade at the entrance to the street.

**Bob Gell** - He wants to thank the Commissioners for helping out with the Salute to Veterans. He would like to also encourage the Commissioners to support the Martha Lewis.

**Lori Wankle**- Who is responsible for picking up trash around town? Like trash on the ground? The town maintenance crew. She is not seeing them pick up trash. She is also very disappointed that the boat ramp is still on the table. This should have been decided and put into action long ago. She is also upset that the Wellwood was given a permit to put up a temporary bandstand. Is he licensed to be a nightclub? While he stops the music at 11 the noise continues after hours as people are leaving.

**Ursula Boudart**- Congratulations on moving in some direction on the boat ramp. She suggests that you gear for next season. Mr. Fockler while on the board but should not be passing any legal advice, he is not the town attorney. Regarding the trees on Baltimore Street, don't cut any more trees on Baltimore Street.

**Prosper Boudart** - The State was on the site during the whole time and they should be held accountable as well as the contractor. We as a community are going to suffer because of their incompetence as well as the contractor, maybe not financially but certainly in inconvenience.

**Mary Clark Confalone** - At a wedding in Rhode Island she encountered someone who has an app on their phone to measure sound levels. She thinks that at the boat ramp the noise is very disturbing. No parking along the street has cut down on the trash.

There being no other further business for the evening, President Thompson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Commissioner Durange moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Letts seconded at 9:00 PM. Approved 4-0**

*Respectfully submitted by: Debbie Myers, Town Clerk I*