

**TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING**  
**CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND**  
*July 25, 2017, 2017*

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

**The Pledge of Allegiance** was spoken.

**Approval of the Minutes of May 9, 2017 and June 13, 2017** Commissioner Fockler moved to approve the minutes of May 9, 2017, seconded by Commissioner Capano. Approved 3-0 with one abstention. Commissioner Durange moved to approve the minutes of May 9, 2017, seconded by Commissioner Capano. Approved 4-0.

**Accounts Payable Review June 29, 2017.** Accounts payable for the period of June 29, 2017 were presented in the amount of \$38,214.90. Commissioner Durange moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Capano. Approved 4-0.

**Accounts Payable Review for July 11, 2017.** Accounts payable for the period of July 11, 2017 were presented in the amount of \$80,799.76. Commissioner Durange moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Capano. Approved 4-0.

**Accounts Payable Review for July 25, 2017.** Accounts payable for the period of July 25, 2017 were presented in the amount of \$24,011.31. Commissioner Fockler moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Durange. Approved 4-0.

**Miller Environmental June Report** – Josh Griffith A total of 3,283,000 gallons were produced for the month, with an average daily production of 109,000. No coliform samples tested positive. Weekly housekeeping and monthly maintenance was performed. Eleven Miss Utilities were provided. Two settlement reads were accomplished. A leak was detected in the town water supply on Charity Court. Quarterly meter readings were performed. Identified chronic meter problems and damaged meters for repair or replacement. The semi-annual hydrant flushing was performed.

**Cecil County Sheriff's Report June 2017** - A written report shows the following: A total of 39 shifts and 156 hours were approved for the month. Of those 126 hours were used with an additional 1.5 hours of overtime for a total coverage of 127.5 hours. There were six calls for service during the month. A disorderly conduct outside the Charlestown Fire Company, assist a motorist on Water Street near the Wellwood Club, a Child Custody dispute which was worked out, A CDS arrest (less than 10 grams of Marijuana) during a traffic stop, A fight in the area of 223 Conestoga Street, a suspicious male reported living in the woods behind 74 Salvation Circle, unable to locate subject or belongings. 197 patrol/property checks were performed. 9 traffic citations were issued using radar and 14 without radar; 6 traffic warnings were issued using radar and 9 without radar; 3 safety repair orders were issued and 6 parking citations were issued. No criminal or civil warrants were issued. 2 males were arrested on suspended or revoked licenses. 3 male juveniles were arrested. One civil citation was used on the CDS and 2 field contact reports were completed. Eleven community contacts were made, no business contacts were made. 19 shifts used radar and 13 did not. 2 vehicles were removed to storage at the request of the officers.

## COMMISSIONER GROUP DISCUSSION

**Amend Ordinance #9 – Boat Launching Fees** The presented ordinance 2017-02 updates the cost of launching a boat to \$10 per day for both in state and out of state; yearly passes for \$25 in state registered boats and \$75.00 out of state registered boats. With a fine for \$500.00 or 30 days in jail for failure to comply. Commissioner Fockler feels that it is fair for people to use our boat ramp. He would like to see us push on with this. Commissioner Durange moved to approve the amendment of Ordinance #9 and install the honor box system. Seconded by Commissioner Fockler. Approved 4-0.

**Honor Box Payment System (Boat Launching)** – Mr. Pumpaly has received quotes for the building of the honor box from Garvin Construction has bid 1,350.00. Tim Myers has bid \$950.00. We will also need a safe, signage, envelopes, a cement platform, printing of annual passes. A total of 2742.00 will get everything ordered and installed. It will take some time to get this done and it seems too late in the season to begin. Commissioner Fockler believes that once we have the box up we should start. Commissioner Capano believes that it is too late in the season. Commissioner Letts believes that it is too late in the season as well. The consensus is that we will see how we are doing in the construction process to more effectively garner a start date.

### Police Issues - Tabled

**Golf Cart Legislation** – We have an ordinance in hand patterned after the one in Crisfield. Commissioner Fockler would make one variation to it to limit the ordinance to the South East portion of Charlestown in “old town”. Commissioner Capano feels that the people on the other side of Route 7 will be upset and feels that they should be able to use them as well. Commissioner Letts has received complaints of young children driving golf carts at the present time. If we pass this ordinance it will basically amend the transportation code for the state of Maryland which would alert policing agencies that in the Town of Charlestown it is legal to drive golf carts in Charlestown. He sees it as a quality of life thing. Commissioner Durange sees it as a safety issue and opening up a thought process of if golf carts are OK then 4 wheelers, dirt bikes and the like are OK too. Commissioner Fockler said again that it would be up to the Sheriff’s department to enforce those laws on the books. Commissioner Letts wants to know if we are putting ourselves in a liability situation. Commissioner Capano asked Mr. Pumpaly to check with our Town Attorney to seek liability issues.

**Camping on HOA Common Property in Trinity Woods** – We had a transient living in Trinity Woods in the common area. Our attorney has told us that municipalities have run into problems trying to break up homeless campsites when they don’t own the land, so he is to reluctant to have the town get into this particular incident. The land in question is owned by a defunct HOA that never really came into fruition. Mr. Pumpaly also contacted the person who is responsible for forest conservation and she told him that it is not illegal to pitch a tent in the forest conservation. You cannot however start fire or cut a tree down. Our attorney says that we need to resolve the responsibility of open spaces in Trinity Woods.

**Stop Signs and Speed Limit Signs** Mr. Pumpaly was asked by Commissioner Thompson to find out how much stop signs and speed limit signs cost. Stop signs are \$73.00 speed limit signs are \$39.80 each. We have 96 stop signs, and 15 speed limits. This issue is tabled until Commissioner Thompson returns.

**Reservation of a Boat Slip on Municipal Pier** If a person who comes to the top of the list is unable to take the slip their name remains on the list in place until the next year. The current slip opening and the offering of the slip was explained. The consensus is that we will return the person’s deposit and tell him that he will remain on the list as he is now and that his boat will have to be registered in the State of Maryland as we have no

mechanism to take deposits. Commissioner Fockler noted that the Town Code does not follow our current policy. We need to revisit that at a future time. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Capano asked for an accounting of the ins and outs on the municipal town pier. She also asked for an accounting of the MLGIP Pier account.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**David Dahlstrom Upper Shore Regional Planner** – We have begun to work on the Town Code and Mr. Dahlstrom has agreed to look at the Town Code and the Planning and Zoning Code. We have had two meetings with Mr. Dahlstrom and have another meeting coming up in August. Commissioner Capano asked what has happened to the two committees who were supposed to be working on the Review of the Charter and the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Pumpaly feels that the Commissioners need to sit down and tell these committees what they want to see accomplished from their committees. He also stated that Commissioner Capano was to get some information from MML in to the office for distribution to the committees. She replied that she would leave it before she left for the evening. Commissioner Durange stated that the last time we did a Charter review she and Dr. Gell attended the first two meetings of that Committee. Commissioner Letts agreed that attendance at a least of a couple of the first meetings would be a good idea. Commissioner Fockler feels that Mr. Pumpaly is right and some of the Commissioners need to commit to helping to set the direction of the committees. Commissioner Fockler volunteered to attend the first couple of meetings of the Charter Committee. Commissioner Capano voiced that she would have her thoughts in by Friday.

**Rain Garden@ Charlestown Elementary Update – Janine Antoshak** Ms. Antoshak presented an AV presentation on the construction of a rain garden at Charlestown Elementary School, her capstone project as a Watershed Steward Academy Student. She asked if money could be earmarked to plant some more plants at Long Point. Commissioner Capano asked if there would still be money in the Long Point fund for the plants. The answer to that is yes. A lively discussion in the form of questions and answers on the topic of Rain Gardens, the plants in them and other Watershed Steward topics ensued. The Commissioners thanked Janine for her hard work.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Title Change – Rebecca Mann** After Ms. Mann went through our Charter, and Planning and Zoning Code she feels that she is not authorized to sign such things as building permits and letters of citation. Chapter 175 Article 44 subsection names the persons authorized to enforce the code. Mr. Pumpaly feels that the Board should title Ms. Mann's job as Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer and give her the authority to sign such documents as building permits other documents that she should be authorized to sign. Commissioner Fockler suggested that we add language to add to the last sentence to state that the assistance of the Code Enforcement Officer or such other persons as the Commissioners may direct. Mr. Pumpaly will write a resolution for the next meeting to be approved.

**Termination of Water and Sewer Service** A question came up about the termination of water and sewer service. Mr. Pumpaly presented in the presentation books a procedure for supplying such a service. He estimates an inhouse cost of approximately \$400.00. Commissioner Fockler asked if we have talked to other towns and asked what they charge as he feels that is a very low cost. Mr. Pumpaly has not. Commissioner Capano asked to table this until we garner more information.

**Poultry in R2 Zone & Ordinance #2009-01** We have received a complaint about the smell in Trinity Woods about a resident who is keeping chickens, ducks and turkeys. A lively discussion ensued. We are not ready to

open this can of worms at this point. No further action is being taken at this time. It will be passed to our Code Enforcement Officer to investigate.

**Opposition to Outside Bar & Venue @ Market Street Café** Mr. Pumpaly received a complaint with a petition about the venue behind the Market Street Café. It was signed by about 25 residents. They were granted a building permit by Planning and Zoning Board. The owner of the Café was present and said that the Liquor Board, Maryland Environmental Board and the police have been there and they have no problems with the venue. Several neighbors were in attendance and spoke in favor of the Café. The Board in consensus was in favor of dropping the issue unless the issue is brought up again.

**Removal of Tree Branches – 208 Caroline Street** A resident in town owns a large travel trailer which they park in the their driveway. He is requesting that the tree at the corner at Caroline and Calvert be trimmed to help facilitate him getting into his driveway without damaging the AC unit on the trailer. The owner of the property in question was in attendance and will trim the trees.

**ANT'S Army 5K Run/** September 16, 2017 is the date for run/walk. Commissioner Capano asked if the plan had been submitted to the Sheriff's Office. They have been contacted. Commissioner Letts remarked that last year they did not have not enough security to keep walkers and runners safe on Rte. 7. Commissioner Letts of Commissioner Capano will supply the names of Sheriff contacts to Susan Tucker, event coordinator. Commissioner Durange moved to donate \$200.00 to Ant's Army, seconded by Commissioner Capano. Approved 4-0.

**Town Hall Computer Upgrade** We have a quote for \$7818.68 to replace 3 desk tops, 1 laptop and 4 monitors. Ms. Antoshak was asked to look into getting Comcast for the shop and to see if it could be included in the cost of our current service. Commissioner Durange made a motion to release the funds in the amount of 7818.68 seconded by Commissioner Fockler. Approved 4-0.

Commissioner Letts asked where the fishing poles were? They were supposed to be here tonight, but that did not happen. They will be stored at the shop.

Commissioner Fockler asked if we could begin discussions with SHA for crosswalks on Bladen. thinks that we might also get some of those things that say to slow down to save a life if the crosswalks become a reality. He also mentioned that he was grateful for his time at the Summer MML Conference.

**Rosie Bott** – When are we getting the microphone system? She wants it kept on the agenda. Do we have police issues? Yes, some, but not anything urgent. We have one family that is a problem with a golf cart, can't the police go and talk to them? We have sent them to talk to them. Why are we making it so hard for ourselves on the boat slips? If you don't want a slip then you go to the bottom of the list. When there is a water break after hours what is the procedure? A phone call comes in and Wib is contacted to ascertain what the problem is and how it is to be handled.

**Jack Kronner** – He explained a situation of an encounter with a 13 year-old in a golf cart on June 27th. He is now involved in a court case because of it.

**Danny Neel - Golf Carts** – He has noticed kids on a golf cart at 10:30 at night driving up and down the street and all day long. They run through people's yards and everything else. Neighbors are reluctant to confront the parents because of fear of reprisal. His house and driveway have been egged in retaliation before. He has a question about the speed restriction on Caroline Street. Commissioner Letts and Mr. Pumpaly will look into it.

**Pauline Bryant** – She came in support of Bobbie Spangler and Market Street Cafe.

**Lori Wankle** - She is also in support of Market Street. She would also like to see a time limit on the boat ramp. Due to the fisherman use of the boat ramp, that is not possible.

**Prosper Boudart** - He thinks that the property at Market Street is a zoning issue, also the boat repair business on Baltimore Street is zoned residential and not business.

**Joyce Bernier-Lilley**– here in support of Bobbie Spangler and Market Street

**Sandy Tamargo** – She asked if a speed limit could be implemented on the 300 block of Market Street. Due to it being a state road, we have no jurisdiction over the speed limit on it.

There being no other further business for the evening, Vice President Letts entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Durange moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Capano at 9:49 PM. Approved 4-0.

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