

TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND
August 8, 2017

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Prosper Boudart

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

Accounts Payable Review August 8, 2017—Accounts payable in the amount of \$75,836.63 was presented. A question was asked for clarification of the LB Water Bill. Commissioner Fockler moved to accept, seconded by Commissioner Capano. Approved 4-0.

Miller Environmental July 2017 Report – Josh Griffith was present. A total of 2,994,000 gallons were produced for the month, with an average daily production of 97,000. No coliform samples tested positive. Weekly housekeeping and monthly maintenance was performed. Eleven Miss Utilities were provided, one settlement read six leak checks were performed, finding leaks at two. Met with Town Administrator to explain that error reads from the last few quarters are related to maintenance needed and /or meter replacements necessary. Had to reset breakers which directly affected PLC and all operations of wells and tower, after hours. Auto dialer did provide communication, and the online monitoring App information confirmed the need for the visit. Lead and copper sample bottles/instruction forms were passed out to, and collected from residents per MDE's triennial requirement and sent to STL(certified lab). Results pending as of 8/2/2017. Advised the town that the level chart recorder at Water Tower has been failing intermittently, and was also in need of calibration. HIE was scheduled to provide service to the recorder on 8/3/2017.

Cecil County Sheriff's Report – Sgt Schmidt was present and went over his written report which shows the following: A total of 42 shifts and 168 hours were approved for the month. Of those 116 hours were used. There one calls for service during the month a misuse of the telephone. 211 patrol/property checks were performed. 6 traffic citations were issued using radar and 14 without radar; 5 traffic warnings were issued using radar and 8 without radar; 3 safety repair orders were issued and 2 parking citations were issued. No criminal or civil warrants were issued. 2 males were arrested on suspended or revoked licenses. 2 field contact reports were completed. 14 community contacts were made, no business contacts were made. 19 shifts used radar and 10 did not. 2 vehicles were removed to storage at the request of the owners.

Sgt. Schmidt stated that they will be working with coordination of security for the Ant's Army Run/Walk on September 16th. Commissioner Fockler asked what the best way is to directly call when 911 is not necessary. Sgt. Schmid passed along the numbers of 410-392-2130, County Dispatcher; and 410-996-5511 the Sheriff's Department.

SERIES OF TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Fishing Tournament – August 19, 2017 A Review – Commissioner Capano gave a report, everything is on track. She is meeting with Mr. Pumpaly tomorrow to go over where we will need barricades. It is being widely advertised. The fishing poles are being stored at the Community Center at this point. We are using the Stone Wharf, Veterans Park.

Charlestown Colonial Fair

Town Support The Commissioners are in favor of the program, but have many questions.

Parking – Using the two roads the main way into town, they will have signs posted. It is still somewhat preliminary, but at this point we are going to utilize the Calvert Street Lot (Fireman’s Field) and the lot next to Fairgreen Park. Bladen Avenue to a left on Caroline Street to Fireman’s Field with attendants. If that field becomes full then we would use Avalon, with one attendant. We would then have access to a bus to get people to the site. Other way Baltimore Street to a right or left at Bladen and Market to utilize either the field at Calvert and Caroline or the field next to Fairgreen Park. We have also thought about handicapped parking and are thinking of naming a space close in for a few spaces and utilize a golf cart to help with mobility. There has been mention of charging for parking. When Riverfest did it and the Boy Scouts helped a portion went to the Boy Scouts and a portion went to Riverfest. Commissioner Fockler commented that the Fireman’s Field might be problematic with people possibly getting stuck, and he wishes to see it used as a possible venue instead.

Security – Three options were discussed.

Option 1. Don’t do anything call 911 when needed

Option 2. Hiring a private security service who could provide a presence but would have no ability to do anything other than contact the Sheriff’s office.

Option 3. Utilize the Sheriff’s Department Sgt. Schmid said that during Riverfest if they had to take someone out of here that they would be down a person so they went with 5.

Are people planning on camping? Private security was used at the camp sites and the Sheriff’s Department did roving patrols. Expected attendance is around 1500 a day. Are Vendors coming in cars, campers or what? The school seems to be a better plan for parking if it is available. Commissioner Thompson thinks that the school, near Fairgreen, and Avalon and leaving the field for activities would be preferable. Commissioner Fockler asked if Colonial Charlestown had explored the cost. Private would run around \$40.00 an hour and the Sheriff’s Department would be around \$50.00 with the Town rate. Liability Insurance is needed. Mr. Edwards stated that they are getting extra insurance. Times are 10 – 4 on Saturday and Sunday 11-4. President Thompson was in favor of supporting having the Sheriff’s Department and using parking fees to offset the cost. Sgt. Schmid stated that the town already uses the shifts on Friday and Saturday afternoon/evenings. He then stated that the Department would need at least three weeks lead time to get the officers scheduled. Sgt. Schmid suggested that they get in touch with Mr. Tom Durange, a resident who did a lot of the logistics for Riverfest. By the first meeting in September the group will have numbers so that security can be finalized.

Off topic – October 27th will be the Halloween Parade, will the Sheriff’s Department lead the parade, Sgt. Schmid will make sure of it.

Volunteers We are in need of volunteers!

Shuttle Service Mr. Metz will donate the use of one bus and one golf cart.

EMT Services We need to talk to the Fire Department

Vendors They will be charged to set up to sell their wares.

For the next meeting a map of the town a map with where the venues will be taking place. We will go from there. It seems that there is a lot to be done in a relativity short amount of time. There is one person who has done most of the planning and we are in need of volunteers!

Golf Cart Legislation - According to our attorney we should not in any way pass legislation without the general assembly's supporting legislation being passed. Mr. Pumpaly has been working with Jeffrey Wentz of the SHA on this matter and they will be talking about crosswalks and about golf carts. Commissioner Fockler asked to be in on that meeting. Our town attorney says that the state legislature would need to do their work first and then move to the ordinance. Commissioner Letts feels we should not be dealing with this issue. With our roads the way they are someone is going to get hurt. Commissioner Capano also asked to be advised of the meeting with Mr. Wentz. So, we are still in the exploratory phase. Commissioner Fockler asked Sgt. Schmid if golf carts with legislation were permitted, would that be a public safety issue? Sgt. Schmid sees what is trying to be accomplished, but he sees the liability issue, with accidents, arson and stealing of golf carts as evidenced in localities that do allow their use.

Stop Signs and Speed Limit Signs We put up new stop signs on Frederick Street. Commissioner Thompson said that we are exploring speed limit lowering on some of our streets due to the narrowness of the street. We have 96 stop signs in town that seem to at least slow down traffic. Is there any interest in moving the speed limit to 15mph? Commissioner Fockler is not opposed to it. Commissioner Letts says we visit this issue over and over and the real problem is no enforcement. Commissioner Fockler moved to reduce the speed limit to 15mph in "old town"(southeasterly side of 7) Charlestown, seconded by Commissioner Letts. Approved 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Municipal Boat Ramp Fee Program – The honor box is built, the safe has been purchased, both are installed with two steel bollards to protect it. He presented the design of the signs and the envelopes. He expects the signs next week. He is waiting to hear from the printer on the envelopes and stickers. He feels we may be ready to go in September but thinks October is more realistic. There was an article in the Whig last week and it has been widely discussed on Facebook.

Resolution 2017-04 Code Enforcement Officer Authority Mr. Pumpaly presented Resolution 2017-04 which would give authority to Rebecca Mann our Code Enforcement Officer to sign building permits and letters of violation. It would change her title to Code Enforcement Officer and Assistant Zoning Administrator and grant her such authority. Commissioner Letts moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Capano. Approved 4-0.

Termination of Water & Sewer Services In continuation of discussion at the last meeting. Mr. Pumpaly brought to the board the how Perryville performs this service which is for a fee of \$50.00 they remove the meter and cap the service remove the crock and fill the hole. Northeast removes the meter, requires the owner to hire a contractor to excavate to the main and turn the water off at the corporation stop. The owner is responsible for all expenses including making the street repairs needed after excavation. He suggests that our staff remove the meter, lock out the yoke, remove the meter crock, fill in the excavated area seed and straw the same with the sewer line for a cost of \$400.00. Commissioner Thompson feels that this will not happen too often and the cost seems reasonable. Mr Pumpaly wonders if we remove the service at the meter and not the main if we may run into problems in the future with leaks or someone hitting the line while digging for some other reason than working on water lines. A question was asked if this particular residence has a corp stop. There is no way to know at this point. Commissioner Fockler asked what would be the easiest way and Mr. Pumpaly feels using our maintenance staff. Mr. Pumpaly also asked if we should forgive any "back charges" on any residences who wish to stop service. Commissioner Thompson says that once a person has asked to discontinue service we should stop charging them. Commissioner Fockler thinks \$250.00 for the shutoff servicing and we would follow Perryville's system. Commissioner Fockler asked if we should give the homeowner the option of using their own contractor. The consensus is that the town will do the work and retain control over the process in that

way. Commissioner Letts moved to adopt Perryville's policy, seconded by Commissioner Fockler. Approved 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

MOU – County Water & Sewer Group Mr. Pumpaly attended a meeting to organize all of the towns to some degree to put together a group to develop water and sewer services particularly along the Rte. 40 corridor. The County attorney put together a MOU to outline the working of the group. We need to make sure that all of the Commissioners are kept in the loop. Commissioner Capano reiterated her stance that we not relinquish our water rights as a town. The MOU states that participation in the group would not obligate us to agree to anything. They will continue to study this and make a decision at the next meeting.

PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Rosie Bott – She has many reservations about the Colonial Charlestown Fair. If you charge for parking and then the parkers get stuck are you going to have a tow truck available and pay for the tow. No one has contacted the fire company that she is aware of yet, and they need to be contacted if you want them for EMT services. You need to make sure to leave the space open in front of the station for the ladder truck to make the turn. If we do not allow golf carts, then how can we have them at the fair? Keep in mind where you are going to get electricity. She also wants to know how much the speed limit signs cost? \$39.50 each. People who mow their grass and blow the grass into the street is an irritant to her. Are you allowed to live in your house without water service? Yes, as long as you have access (bottled water) to water. You need to disallow parking especially with boat trailers along the streets.

Bill Reed – Last month we brought the town a petition about the new bar that was opened behind Market Street Café. In effect we are trying to have Charlestown enforce their Zoning laws. The Liquor Board is waiting to see if the town is going to enforce it's zoning laws. The issue is that the front of the property is zoned commercial and the back is zoned residential. The town did know after approval that it had not been clearly stated that the property was zoned in two different zones. Commissioner Thompson said that we could use a good neighbor policy. He is not aware of complaints. Mr. Reed says that the issue is zoning. Mr. Kraemer says that the issue is zoning and the quality of life in Charlestown. He feels that a business needs to be a good neighbor. He stated that the noise increased after the bar was added. Mr. Reed continued to say that this is a zoning issue.

Danny Neel – Every street in town will go to 15mph? Yes.

Prosper Boudart – The issue of Market Street is a zoning issue as well as the boat repair business out of town on 267 is also residential. He feels the town should address these issues. He thinks that the town should consider speed bumps. A can of paint on the street also works.

Ursula Boudart – The Planning and Zoning Board made a mistake on the Market Street property and it needs to be corrected. The seasonal passes will they be available on line or at town hall. (At town hall). Should not the cost factor of removing service be on the homeowner. How are we going to enforce the golf carts issue?

Commissioner Letts moved to adjourn and seconded by Commissioner Capano at 9:22PM. Approved 4-0.

Respectfully submitted by: Debbie Myers, Town Clerk I