

**TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING**  
**CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND**  
**September 26, 2017 – 7:00 pm**  
**Minutes**

The Town Meeting was called to order by President, Andy Thompson at 7:00 pm. Commissioners present were Joseph Letts, Andy Thompson, and Karl Fockler. Also in attendance was Wib Pumpaly, Town Administrator. Commissioners Renee Capano and Mary Carol Durange were absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lori Wankle

Approval of the Minutes – September 12, 2017 Commissioner Letts moved to approve the minutes seconded by Commissioner Fockler Approved 3-0

Accounts Payable Review – Commissioner Fockler moved to accept the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$26,276.11, seconded by Commissioner Letts. Approved 3-0

**State Highway Administration** – Wayne Starkey from the SHA was in attendance to give a brief update of the sidewalk project. They have met with the contractor and they hope to be back tentatively during the week of October 2 to take the wall down. A detour will be in effect from 8:00 – 4:00 Monday through Friday they think a 2 to 3 week time frame to take the wall down. Then the storm drain will be done which will take another 3 to 4 weeks. What moved the time frame farther out? The detour held them up. Also, a whole design team had to be brought in to figure out how to take the wall down safely. The concrete failed which is why the wall needs to come down. Is there anything the town can do? Please just be patient with us, the detour is really going to affect the town. Also make sure your fire chief knows of the full detour of the roads. People will need to go up Rte 7 and use that way into town during this time. Baltimore Pile will be taking the wall down and Eastern Qualities will be replacing the wall and the storm drain. The SHA is doing its best to get this job completed safely and to code this time. Commissioner Thompson asked for weekly of Mr. Pumpaly for updates to make sure that the time frame stays on track. Members of the audience asked questions which were addressed. Mr. Pumpaly stated that the Maintenance Shop area can no longer be used as a staging area any longer.

**Veterans Wreaths Across America** – Charlestown Commissioners We need to define who the speaker will be for the event December 16<sup>th</sup> from the Commissioners.

**“Ants Army” 5K Event Review** – Charlestown Commissioners Commissioner Thompson mentioned that the event was a success but there were a few complaints. One of the ways to do this might be to move the route of the run. We can't shut the town down for the event. There needs to be a detour. They had 33 walkers/runners and the event was a success. The financial donation needs to be more closely monitored in the future. Commissioner Fockler feels we need to make a punch list of what parking and traffic issues might come up. The town needs to be

more involved in how these events are structured. Mr. Pumpaly was asked to make such a punch list for future events. Mrs. Tucker was not aware of what the officers cost was and offered to return the town's check, that offer was declined.

**Sound Levels at the Wellwood Restaurant** – Charlestown Commissioners The Commissioners are in receipt of Mrs. Wankle's letter. The Wellwood has sent an apology letter to the town and they are working to turn the music off in a timely manner. The state no longer enforces sound levels and have pushed enforcement back to the localities. There are apps that can be downloaded to phones but they cannot be enforced by law. The Commissioners are exploring what other municipalities have in place and will work to set policy for Charlestown. A drop of 10 decibels needs to occur at 10:30 PM on Fridays, 11:00PM on Saturdays and 9:00PM on Sundays. We are looking into adopting a noise ordinance. Mrs. Wankle is asking for the sound to be turned off by 10:00PM. Commissioner Thompson will talk to Mr. Metz about timing and sound levels on the weekends. Commissioner Letts stated that the problem is longstanding.

## **Town Administrator's Report**

### **Old Business**

- McGuirk Construction - Calvert Street Storm Water Plan - The paving of Calvert Street from Frederick to Market. Mr. McGuirk has submitted a letter to address the storm water issues
- Municipal Boat Ramp Startup - The form that will be used for the yearly stickers has been made up. Do owners have to pay \$25.00 for each boat? Commissioner Thompson thinks that a discount might be in order. The sticker goes on the trailer. Commissioner Fockler feels that each trailer needs to have a \$25.00 sticker. Commissioner Letts is in favor of the daily fee. Commissioner Fockler moved that for each boat trailer a \$25.00 annual fee would be required, seconded by Commissioner Letts, approved 3-0. Do those on the Town Pier need a sticker. Commissioner Thompson suggested that the fees for the slips be raised by \$25.00. Commissioner Fockler moved to increase the boat slip fee from \$609.00 to \$634.00, including a sticker, seconded by Commissioner Letts, approved 3-0. Can we give decals to people who have registered boats but do not have a lawfully tagged trailer? Commissioner Fockler moved that if you do not have a legally registered trailer you cannot obtain stickers, seconded by Commissioner Letts. Approved 3-0. What about business entities? Commissioner Thompson feels that if you can produce a legal watermen license, you should be able to use it for free. Commissioner Fockler feels that \$25.00 is such a nominal fee that he feels everyone should be charged equally. Commissioner Letts feels that we should not make exceptions to the rule. Commissioner Fockler moved that the annual fees apply to residential and commercial entities equally. Approved 2-1. What about boats that were launched previously this year? Are we going to charge them? Commissioner Letts feels that we should. They can either pay the daily fee or buy the annual passes.
- Municipal Boat Ramp Security Camera Delmarva Power will not allow any camera installations on their poles at this time, but we are still in negotiations with them.

Alternatively, we could put our own pole in, running power from the restrooms in Veterans Park. Mr. Pumpaly feels that installing it on the Ice House will not give us the angle we need.

### **New Business**

- Chickens within the Incorporated Town Mr. Pumpaly presented in the book an ordinance. Ordinance 2009-01 states that animals kept as pets are exempt. Chickens are not specifically mentioned in the Cecil County Pet Ordinance
- Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa Tour – In the presentation books a preliminary schedule for December 9<sup>th</sup> for the tree lighting. The Charlestown Elementary School Chorus will be in attendance.
- Commissioners Christmas Party – The staff was thinking that maybe the Commissioners might consider a change in timing for a party. Commissioner Letts feels that it should be left as is. They will think about it.
- We had a resignation on the Planning and Zoning Board and he will begin the process of searching for a replacement.
- Ms. Antoshak stated that the rain garden at Charlestown Elementary is now finished and was a success. Green Team members and storm water management people from the county were involved as well.
- We need to plant some more plants at Long Point. Last year we received a letter from the State giving us a pass. Perryville received a fine last year. We need to work on storm water mitigation and we need to have about 20%. Commissioner Thompson asked Ms. Antoshak to put together a map of where trees might be planted. The Green Team has asked to put into the works a Serenity Garden in Fireman's Field. Do you have any other intentions for that property?
- We were wondering if we could store some things at the old Avalon store? We were asked to make a list of those things which we might put there and a cost of shelving

Commissioner Fockler mentioned that we might lose our free fishing area. Mr. Pumpaly has been in contact with the DNR and will offer to take away some of the permit parking spaces and making them free if that would keep the free parking. Commissioner Letts stated that we should take away the permit signs. Commissioner Thompson wants to talk to the state. Commissioner Fockler wants to find a way to issue daily permits. We need to revisit our parking permit issue. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

### **Period of Public Comment**

Mrs. Wankle - stated that the free fishing area was a non issue. On the chicken issue, can't we just amend the ordinance to domestic animals. What about the committees? We do need to get these started. We are waiting on Mr. Dahlstrom to finish his work for us.

Mr. Kronner – SHA, the 2-3 week time frame is ridiculous. That is why we are asking for weekly updates. Ant's army next year could use the old town?

Joanne Hofnagle – Utilize the running path at the Athletic Complex for next year.

Jessica Cook – What is the issue with the chickens? Noise and smell. She has eleven chickens and has never had a complaint. Dogs are her problem. There is also someone in town who has goats.

Jesse Neustadter – He has five chickens. All of their neighbors are OK with it.

Michael Burton – He lives next to 2 turkeys, 3 ducks, 1 rooster and chickens. The smell is overwhelming. Commissioner Thompson stated that we will wait to see what the recommendation is from our Code Enforcement Officer. He thanked the town for fixing the holes in the road.

Andy – Would like to put a storage shed for the Boy Scouts on the Town Agenda. Would the Boy Scouts be interested in helping with Wreaths Across America.

Dan Rubert – Are we registering the boat or the trailer, both stickers go on the trailer.

Commissioner Letts moved to close the meeting at 9:01PM, seconded by Commissioner Fockler, approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted

Debbie Myers, Town Clerk

Approved 10-24-2017