

TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
April 22, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Steve Vandervort. Commissioners Robert Gell, Richard Price and Donna Sheets were in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ryleigh Johnson. Commissioner Mary Carol Durange arrived at 6:40 pm.

Accounts Payable report was perused and questions were resolved concerning a water tower payment check, a water bill refund, two Wellwood Club payments and a charge for the Veteran's Park rest rooms. Commissioner Gell motioned to approve the Accounts Payables with Commissioner Sheets seconding. The motion was unanimously approved. The April 8th minutes were approved with the correction to change "Senator Rudolph" to "Delegate Rudolph". Commissioner Sheets moved to approve the minutes with the changes as noted with Commissioner Gell seconding. There being no discussion, all approved.

Sgt. Dennis Campbell was in attendance and delivered the Sheriff's Report from March 2008. Notation was made of the requested increase in patrol coverage. It was noted that Saturday and Sunday afternoons are the most active as far as noisy motorbikes and are concerned. The shift-change times for the Sheriff's Office were explained and patrol requests that coincide with the shifts are easier to accommodate.

The Town Administrator's Report began with the notation that the part-time maintenance person has gone. The possibility of changing this to a full-time position was presented for consideration.

Mr. Knapp's water leak was discussed to hopefully arrive at a solution. Since Mr. Knapp has continued to pay his water charges in spite of obvious leaks, there was no clear resolution. Mr. Burden was advised to continue to work with the customer in this matter.

Next was the matter of hats and shirts for the Maintenance crew which would cost approximately \$500 for six shirts for each worker and hats as needed. Commissioner Price motioned to approve the expenditure with Commissioner Sheets as the second. This was approved unanimously.

The contract for the new park sliding board was presented for President Vandervort's signature.

A concept plan received from Mr. Terry Stancill picturing a development and a possible small annexation was presented for study and perhaps a future, detailed presentation. It was noted that this project would require a zoning change and was before the Commissioners only because of the issue concerning annexation.

The public hearing for the Comprehensive Plan was proposed for the 27 May Town Meeting. More copies of the "Plan" will have to be made and the Commissioners agreed on how to get this accomplished.

The possibility of placing a display table to represent Charlestown at a BRAC Bus tour ending at Elk Station was agreed upon.

Public comment was solicited and none occurred.

Christine Hargrove appeared concerning a Town Pier slip offering. The problem being that the slip was wait-listed in only the husband's, John Hargrove's, name and could it now go to the wife, Christine Hargrove. Commissioner Price moved to approve the slip going to the wife and Commissioner Sheets seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A proclamation to declare May to be Charlestown Tourism Month was presented. After amending the second paragraph as suggested by Commissioner Price; Commissioner Price moved to approve the issuance of the Proclamation with Commissioner Sheets seconding and all Commissioners approving.

A completed budget was not ready but a draft will be ready for study by May 1 so discussion can be held at the May 13, 2008, Commissioner Meeting. Commissioner Price commented on Public Safety section of the budget regarding the value for coverage in the Town. The 2008 Budget hearing was suggested for 27 May to be held along with the Comprehensive Plan hearing.

Commissioner Price presented an idea to investigate a direction, or style, for Charlestown in general and Market Street in particular. The possibility of a "Streetscape" style project to run in conjunction with the storm water/drainage projects within the Town should be taken under consideration. It was mentioned that much input from the residents and the Historic District Commission would be needed. As Market Street appears to be Charlestown's "Main Street" this was thought to be an ideal starting point. It was mentioned that a call for input from interested citizens could be published in the "Chatter". Commissioner Price motioned to create a committee to investigate Market Street revitalization which Commissioner Sheets seconded and all concurred.

The Ferrell Fuel maintenance contract was presented for discussion and approval. Commissioner Sheets moved to contract for Plan 1 Maintenance Agreement for both the Town Hall and The Boys & Girls Club for 2008. Commissioner Gell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The fike net located off the boating pier at the stone wharf was determined to be owned by an Essex, Maryland, resident. The harbor master has deemed it to be a hazard to navigation. The Commissioners approved sending a communication to the resident asking him to remove the net.

Commissioner Gell introduced Mr. John Peach to explain his desire to construct a 1,700 sq. ft. maritime museum in Charlestown to house his model boat collection. It was noted that the lot required is now in the Maryland Environmental Trust program. It is hoped this project would fit in with the Trust program. Mr. Peach expressed a desire to work with the town but stressed that he needs cooperation from all of the Town's commissions and committees. Mr. Peach is anxious to explore what he can do help move this project forward. He was directed to confer with the Town Administrator to begin the investigations required for this project.

At 8:00 pm President Vandervort read the published public hearing notice concerning the changing of the Charlestown Growth Allocation for approximately 42 acres of land from LDA to IDA to open the public hearing. There were no comments forthcoming.

Commissioner Sheets moved to close the public hearing with Commissioner Durange as the second. It was unanimously approved to officially close the public hearing on this issue.

Commissioner Price moved to approve the change in the Charlestown Growth Allocation as noted with Commissioner Sheets seconding the motion and all Commissioners approving.

Commissioner Price motioned to go into a closed, executive session which was seconded by Commissioner Sheets. At 8:05 pm it was unanimously approved by all Commissioners to adjourn the regular meeting and proceed to the executive session.