

Town Commissioners' Meeting Minutes April 23, 2013, 7:00 pm

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Robert Gell. Commissioners Gell, Capano, Letts, Confalone and Hechmer were in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes from the April 9, 2013 meeting were presented for approval. Commissioner Letts motioned to approve the minutes and Commissioner Capano seconded it. All were in favor, approved 5-0.

Accounts Payable Review - The Accounts Payable report provided to the Commissioners was reviewed. Commissioner Letts motioned to accept the Accounts Payable report, Commissioner Hechmer seconded it. Commissioner Confalone noted that included in the Accounts Payable is the \$32,592K semi-annual payment for the note on the money that we borrowed for the water system. All were in favor, approved 5-0.

Charlestown Tourism Month - Commissioner Gell

Commissioner Gell presented the Proclamation of the Town of Charlestown, Maryland, 2013 Tourism and History Month. He noted that we are having the history walking tour on May 5th. Commissioner Letts motioned to approve the Proclamation and Commissioner Confalone seconded it. All were in favor, approved 5-0.

Destination Imagination- Commissioner Hechmer

Commissioner Hechmer requested on behalf of Scott Delloso (Destination Imagination, faculty sponsor) that the Board of Commissioners contribute \$1500 in support of the Perryville Middle and High School Destination Imagination teams. It is to help with room and board to go to the Global (World Championship) Competition in Knoxville, Tennessee. They have won on the local and State level to earn the privilege to compete at this Global competition. Every State and over 30 countries will be represented. Commissioner Letts asked how many Charlestown children were involved in this activity and Commissioner Hechmer answered that most of the children in Charlestown go to Perryville Middle and High School and that on the teams, about 30% are Charlestown children. Mr. Pete Williams asked where the money would be residents. Commissioner Hechmer also stated that the Perryville Team will be sponsoring an international team and will have the benefit of working with them and exchanging ideas. Mr. Pete Williams asked where the money for this would come from if it is approved. Commissioner Capano answered that there is enough money in the Children's activity fund for it to be used for this activity. Commissioner Hechmer recuses himself from the vote. Commissioner Letts motioned to approve and Commissioner Capano seconded it. All were in favor, approved 4 – 0.

Town Administrator's Report

Old Business

- **Ice House Roof Up-date:**

Mr. Pumpaly addressed the updates to the Ice House roof. Boudart Construction has put on the metal roof shingle on the main part of the Ice House. But they discovered that the support of the shed portion of the roof is rotted and termite infested. It is deteriorated to the point that Mr. Boudart of Boudart Construction Company does not recommend just covering it with the roofing but to repair what is rotten underneath, Commissioner Hechmer suggested that a termite inspection is also warranted to see if it is past or active termite damage. Mr. Pumpaly summarized that a tarp will be placed on the Ice House to protect it from further rain damage. And that all work will be stopped until it is determined if the shed portion is part of the original building or if it had been added at a later time and how the work should proceed. Mr. Steven Vandervort spoke out and suggested the Maryland Historic Trust could be a good

resource for information.

"C Dock" Transformer Repairs Up-date

Mr. Pumpaly showed the commissioners two quotes to do the repair of the C-dock Marina. He stated that Mr. Clower is waiting on the release forms to be signed in conjunction with the repairs to the Ice House. Commissioner Hechmer stated that we should not do any repairs until the releases are signed. Commissioner Letts motioned to approve for the repairs and Commissioner Confalone seconds it. All in favor, approved 5 – 0

- **Appointments to Board & Commissions**

Commissioner Letts motioned to reappoint the incumbent Rogers Clements to the Planning and Zoning board and to waive the interview. Commissioner Hechmer seconded it. All were in favor, approved 5 – 0.

Commissioner Letts motioned to reappoint the incumbents, Ron Edwards and Charles Murphy to the Historic District Commission and to waive the interview, Commissioner Hechmer seconded it.

All were in favor, approved 5 – 0.

Commissioner Letts motioned to reappoint Virginia Slater and Deborah Kurtz to the Election Board and to waive the interview. Commissioner Hechmer seconded it. All were in favor, approved 5 – 0.

Commissioner Letts motioned to appoint Rosie Botts to the Board of Elections and to waive the interview. All were in favor, approved 5 – 0.

Commissioner Letts motioned to appoint James Dar Ward to the Board of Appeals and to waive the interview. Commissioner Hechmer seconded it. All were in favor, approved 5 – 0.

There were two candidates (Mr. Richard Price & Mr. Mark Hudson) for one position on the Ethics Board, It was determined that the board would interview them before the next commissioners meeting.

- **Ordinance 2013-01 - Floodplain Management (Amended)**

Mr. Pumpaly explained that some time ago the commissioners signed the Charlestown Floodplain Ordinance 2013-03. While the Maryland Department of the Environment was reviewing the Ordinance they noticed "a minor inconsistency in the way substantial improvements to historic structures are handled." The change requires that paragraph in section 4.6 be deleted and replaced with the new paragraph included with the information given to the commissioners.

Commissioner Capano made a motion to accept this change and Commissioner Hechmer seconded it. All were in favor, approved 5 – 0.

New Business

- **Damage to 630 Water Street Property**

Mr. Pumpaly stated that he has an appointment with the insurance adjuster to discuss the claim concerning the damage to the roof of the house at 630 Water Street. The contractor has estimated about \$6200 to repair the roof and Mr. Pumpaly expects that will be covered by the insurance claim. While examining the damaged portion of the roof, the contractor, Steven Lewis noticed that the rear roof needs to be replaced as the current shingles crumbled when touched. Also, it needs ridge vents as it has not ever had them which attributed to the deterioration. The quote of \$6200 includes the plywood replacement as needed, 30 year shingles and the ridge vent. Commissioner Capano motioned to repair the roof that was damaged in the storm and to repair the rear roof as described. Commissioner Capano seconded it. All were in favor, approved 5 – 0.

- **Commissioner Capano Report**

Young at Heart 50+ plus group has started meeting at the Methodist Church in Town on Tuesdays from 11 – 1. Commissioner Capano stated that it is going well. The seniors are coming and playing cards and eating lunch and have spoken about other activities that they would like to do in the future. The elementary school has requested that the seniors come to the school to have children read to them.

Spring into summer was held last Thursday at the elementary school and at the athletic field once school let out. At the school, Delmarva power brought a trailer that demonstrated safety by showing what would happen if anyone touched a downed power line. At the athletic field, 40 children participated. One of the popular activities was the Bike Maryland, bike rodeo demonstration that taught bicycle safety and also

had a course to practice the new learned safety skills.

Commissioner Capano also attended a community policing event held at Cecil Community College. At the event were Sheriff Janney of Cecil County and Sheriff Bain of Harford County. Commissioner Capano learned about what community policing and how the community can report to the sheriff when they see suspicious activity and how the police can come into the community and ask the resident what they know concerning a certain activity in their area. Commissioner Capano also learned that the National average of police officers as compared to residents is 2.7 police officers per 1000 residents. Here in Cecil County we have 0.8 officers per 1000 residents. Our budget is also much smaller at \$8 million with a largest portion of \$7 million going toward the detention center and only \$1million to our police officers.

Period of Public Comment

Dennis Taylor declined to speak.

Mr. Prosper Boudart commented that since he had been working down on Water Street Ice House that he has noticed that there is a lot of usage of the boat ramp and that he feels that maybe the Town should be receiving some revenue from that.

Richard Richardson wanted to comment on the water and sewer rate increases. He stated we are providing a service of water and sewer to our residents at a "very attractive price" and if you raise it you are raising the rates on your friends and neighbors. Mr. Richardson said that he doesn't feel it has to be done. The Town should have some reserve but in many areas they are debating how much reserve is necessary. He stated that the town has \$1 million in reserve and are doing well.

Steven Vandervort stated that he is a former commissioner and he would like to thank the current commissioners for their "good job". He wanted everyone to know that it is a volunteer position. He stated concerning the boat ramp; that each Maryland boater has paid through their Maryland Boat registration and that the ramp was not built with Town money or improved with Town money. Second thing is that if we did charge it would not net any profit, it is not worth it.

Dr. Gell adjoined the meeting at 7:51pm.

Respectfully submitted by Janine Antoshak, Town Clerk