

Town Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2011 - 6:30 pm

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Commission President Robert Gell. Also in attendance were Commissioners Michael Doss, Joseph Letts and Donna Sheets. Commissioner Mary Carol Durange was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was once again led by Ryleigh Johnson.

The Accounts Payable report was reviewed and Commissioner Sheets making the motion to approve. The motion passed 4-0.

The minutes of April 12, 2011 were reviewed and Commissioner Doss motioned to accept them as written. This was approved 3-0 with 1 abstention.

Mr. Brian Lockhart of Signature Waste Services was present to discuss innovations in trash service for Charlestown. He answered some questions about their recycling program and the cost involved. He stated that there is no option to not recycle (to save the cost per household) as they have collections at each house anyway and County regulations will require recycling by all towns in the County. Commissioner Sheets expressed her concern that perhaps only 105 out of 545 homes recycle. Further, she asked about collecting recyclables only every other week. It was noted that this can be done and would save on costs as well but the resultant mess in the resident's garage often ends up in trash. Signature would be willing to do recycling education for the Town and recommended local newspaper and web site information. Mr. Pumpaly noted his desire to revamp Charlestown's collection practices for yard waste, bulk and recyclables. It was recommended by Signature that trash and recycling be collected on the same day was informed that this was already being done. Mr. Lockhart asked about a time frame for implementation and was informed that the goal is July 1st. Discussion ensued concerning a roll-off for collecting bulk trash but it was determined that it could create a mess in that area.

Charlestown Tourism Month (1 May thru 31 May) Proclamation was read by President Gell and presented to Sandy Turner of Cecil County Tourism. May has been declared Tourism Month in Charlestown.

Municipal Clerks Week (1 May thru 7 May) Proclamation was read by President Gell.

President Gell opened discussion concerning the Constant Yield Tax Rate vs. Actual Local Rate. Commissioner Letts questioned the effect of eliminating the constant yield tax rate. It was explained that if we keep the tax rate the same as it is now, (\$0.28/\$100) we will get slightly higher revenue since property assessments have increased. With the constant yield rate, the cost per \$100 would lower (\$0.2691) so Charlestown would receive the same amount as in previous years. Commissioner Sheets moved to keep rate at \$0.28 per \$100 (Actual Local Rate) which was approved 4-0.

The Ordinance 2011-01 to enact a Charlestown Boat Slip/Storage User Fee was brought up for discussion. Commissioner Sheets motioned to table this issue until all Commissioners are present in order to ensure full representation. This was unanimously approved 4-0.

Town Administrator's Report
Old Business

- Mr. Pumpaly reviewed the proposal to hold a public meeting to discuss water and sewer rate increases in Charlestown. He mentioned that he would like to increase rates on July 1st for all in-town and out-of-town residents. This would not affect commercial or marina accounts. The proposed water increase would be 5% and the proposed sewer increase would be 15%. He explained that the sewer increase is larger because the County has increased their rates to Charlestown three times since 2005. The Commissioners need to approve moving forward with the public hearing. Commissioner Letts made the motion to have the public hearing on May 12th at 7 pm at the Fire Hall. This was approved 4-0.

- Dave Gordon was present to discuss the softball field infield refurbishment with Diamondtex sand. The supplier gave a quote for 40 tons of Diamondtex Original at \$1073.85, delivered. The premium grade that Dave Gordon is suggesting is \$250.00 more. North East Little League will be doing the grading and spreading of the material. Commissioner Sheets motioned to approve the purchase of Diamondtex Premium in order that the softball field may be used for practice and also games. This was approved 4-0.

Mr. Pumpaly noted an Eagle Scout project performed by Ben Walker, Troop 348, at Veteran's Park. He, with help of others, has painted the pavilion, comfort station and park benches. It was decided to send a thank you note from the Town Commissioners to Ben.

New Business

- A color chart was presented to select colors for the water tower refurbishment. Commissioner Sheets asked about using two colors which S&T Contracting had indicated would be no problem. It was noted that "CHARLESTOWN" would be on both sides; one of which could be seen from the river. It was decided to have dark blue on the pillar, light blue on the bowl portion and the lettering in the dark blue.

Period of Public Comment

Any resident who wishes to comment on this proceeding, or who may have comments for the good of the Town of Charlestown, may offer their comments to the Commissioners for a period of not to exceed (5) five minutes. All residents offering comments must first sign the "Public Comment Speaker" roster.

Steve Kraemer of 306 Baltimore Street, a brick house, one of five that border the Town Footlog Park, noticed in the March minutes that decisions were made concerning this park and feels that these homeowners should be involved in decisions concerning this park. Mr. Kraemer feels that benches close to the water's edge, such as those at Long Point, would be good. He is not a fan of "keep out" signs as he hasn't had any trouble with trespassing, but perhaps a sign with park rules should be posted at the entrances. He suggested a trash receptacle as he feels the main issue is the trash being left. His main point was having the five residents involved in these decisions. It was explained that a committee was formed to make recommendations and it was suggested that these homeowners contact this committee and specifically, Ursula Boudart, with recommendations.

Robert Phillips, Baltimore Street, asked when the contractor is scheduled to begin painting the water tower. He was informed that a meeting with the contractor is scheduled for 2 May, Monday. After the two cell phone companies complete their work to replace and relocate their antennae, the painting should start mid-June and be completed by mid-August (weather permitting).

Commissioner Doss motioned to adjourn and this was approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm