

Town Commissioner's Meeting Charlestown, Maryland August 26, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Commissioner Gell with Commissioners Sheets and Price in attendance. President Vandervort arrived at 6:43 Ryleigh Johnson led all the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Accounts Payable were moved for approval by Commissioner Price, seconded by Commissioner Sheets and unanimously approved. 3-0

The minutes from 8-12-08 were reviewed and Commissioner Sheets motioned to accept after the correction of a typing error Commissioner Price seconded and all approved. 3-0

The Town Administrator's reported that the new pick-up truck has finally arrived and we are moving on getting the Town decals installed on the doors.

Public Comment - Jim Miller, City Councilman from Havre de Grace in Harford County and President of Harford/Cecil County MML was in to discuss Geocaching in Maryland and specifically the Charlestown area. Apparently there are several "caches" located nearby at this time. This program encourages tourism and hiking in the area. Mr. Miller distributed MML Geocache Trail information with the hope that Charlestown will adopt the "Geocache Participant Resolution" which would commit Charlestown to maintaining the local caches. It was noted that the first two participants from each district would get start-up supplies from MML. The first enrollment period will end on October 30, 2008. It was decided to study the idea and vote on it at the next meeting.

The Vector Ordinance 08-01 was presented for approval with the revision made as requested. Commissioner Sheets made the motion to accept with Commissioner Price offering the second. Vector Ordinance (08-01) was unanimously approved 4-0 and will go into effect twenty days from 8/26/08.

Commissioner Price summarized the 8-19 meeting of the Vision Committee which Dawn Holden, a playground equipment representative, attended to provide an assessment of the lot utilization. Her suggestion of two separate clusters for different age groups was agreed upon. The committee would like the playground surface to be rubber composite solid, and this cost has been added to the grant total. It was suggested, that since it may take a year for the grant money to arrive, perhaps the Town would consider financing this project in order to have use of the area sooner.

A short discussion concerning the durability of the rubber composite surface ensued and it was noted that safety and appearance were important points.

Also, a subcommittee has been established to investigate possible linear park paths. Commissioner Price has encouraged committee members to avail themselves of the catalogs in Town Hall and to submit photos or renderings of their ideas. A tree planting program is being investigated as a Town beautification project. It was also suggested that perhaps a mural on the public toilets would be a nice idea. It was noted that enthusiasm is great for all these projects. The Vision Committee's next meeting will be September 16.

Commissioner Price mentioned that the rash of daylight break-ins and other mischief shows up the lack of police patrols. Mr. Hall in discussing recent events mentioned that people should call the police for each incident. It was mentioned that the Sheriff's patrols cannot always show up to fill the requested shifts. One idea put forward was to ask that a Sheriff's car do random routes through the Town whenever they happen to be in the area. It was thought to involve the State Police and ask if their Route 40 Barracks patrol could also possibly make swings into the Town. Instituting a "Neighborhood Watch" program was briefly discussed as was a meeting with the Sheriff's Department and State Police to discuss possible solutions. An idea to institute a co-op among a few towns to allow the hiring of more police personnel especially to cover municipalities was put forward for investigation.

Employee benefits vacation and sick leave accrual were briefly discussed. It was suggested that full-time hourly personnel accrue 1 day per month for first 5 years. Full-time salaried employees would accrue 1.75 days per month during the first 5 years. Discussion revealed that these suggested accruals may be customized as needed. The issue was tabled for more study and will be on next agenda.

Monthly, updated lists of building permit were requested to be shared with the Commissioners. A question was asked if new structures on leased, Town owned land require permits. The apparent answer is that a permit is required from the Town Commissioners and, if required, this would be used to obtain a County permit.

A discussion occurred concerning access to the Charlestown Marina during RiverFest. The proprietor of the business is very concerned about the street closings needing to be imposed during RiverFest affecting his potential customers. It was suggested that an access way be clearly marked through the streets for this particular business.

Commissioner Gell announced a committee being formed to celebrate this area's participation in the War of 1812. The first meeting will be held in Havre de Grace on September 10, at 10 am at the Lock House. Anyone interested in participating in the planning of the 200th anniversary celebration should attend. He further announced that the Cecil Hotel of Charlestown has been offered for sale. There is State and Federal money available for restoration of this site. The Commissioners were asked to consider possibly purchasing the property in conjunction with the Historic Commission. A inspection tour of the property will be arranged.

Commissioner Sheets moved to adjourn to go to Executive Session. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The Town Commissioner's meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.