

TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND

August 27, 2013

The Town Meeting was called to order by President Robert Gell at 7:00pm. Commissioners present were Renee Capano, Ken Confalone, Joseph Letts and Bruce Hechmer.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by: Dakota Strong, BSA Troop 367

Approval of the Minutes of July 23, 2013 – Commissioner Letts motioned to approve the minutes and Commissioner Confalone seconded. Commissioner Capano abstained as she was not present for the meeting of July 23. All were in favor, approved 4 – 0.

Approval of the Minutes of August 13, 2013 – Commissioner Confalone motioned to approve the minutes and Commissioner Capano seconded. All were in favor, approved 5 – 0.

Accounts Payable Review: Commissioner Letts motioned to approve and Commissioner Confalone seconded. All were in favor, approved 5 – 0. Commissioner Confalone stated that every year in July and August there is a “run-down” of the cash because of the way the cash comes into the town. We have already gotten our real estate tax and all that is left is the income tax. “Just a word of warning” the cash is considerably lower than it was at the beginning of the calendar year. Also, we planned for a mild winter with only about \$2400, when in other years we have used between \$5000 and \$6000.

Commissioner Hechmer wanted to discuss the condition of the sidewalks in the Cool Springs Development. He said that Mr. Pumpaly stated that they should have been part of the final plan review that was inspected by URS. Commissioner Hechmer said that they are “broken up”. Commissioner Hechmer stated that URS should be called and be made to repair the sidewalks if they are responsible for signing off on them.

Request Sewer Service – John Cochran who is a resident of 83 Long Beach Road and is buying lot 92 which is next to his current property is requesting sewer service. Mr. Pumpaly stated that he would pay the \$7000 hook-up fee and the out of town rates for sewer service. He also would agree to annexation if the Town requested. After much discussion, Commissioner Hechmer motioned to approve sewer service for lot 92 & 83 as long as the County agrees and to sign an agreement for future annexation and future sewer system with the county if offered. Commissioner Capano seconded. All were in favor, approved 5 – 0.

Inmate Public Works Program – Mr. John A. Rowley explained the Public Safety Works program. It is a program that allows inmates with the lowest security to work in the community. He said that the inmates that are selected for this program have worked very hard to participate in it and they have also learned a skill to use. President Gell asked where the inmates would go back to at night and Mr. Rowley stated that they go to a pre-release facility. Commissioner Hechmer asked if the facility is locked and he stated “no”. The cost to the town is just the daily

fee of \$2.60 per worker and a transportation fee, but it can be lowered if SHA trucks are coming to Cecil County. Commissioner Letts questioned who would be supervising the inmates while they were working and Mr. Rowley said that we could pay a warden \$300 a day or as most do, is have the job supervisor, supervise them. He stated that if they have even a sassy mouth; they will come and pick them up.

The Town has to tell him what kind of work they want and he can check if he has men to do it. In other places they have picked up litter, built homes with habitat for humanity, and worked alongside of construction crews laying sidewalks, as well as planting trees. There is no minimum commitment. Mr. Rowley suggested checking references such as Port Deposit, where they have utilized the program. Commissioner Capano asked Mr. Rowley for a reference list.

Propose Citizen Advisory Group (Parks, Beaches, Parking) – Commissioner Capano has been hearing from residents about various issues in the town. She suggested forming a citizen advisory group to determine what the issues were and ways to address them. Commissioner Hechmer noted that a committee presented a list of ideas in March 2011 and that doesn't think another group is needed. He suggested that the Board of Commissioners have a work session to discuss the issues and ways that they can be implemented. He believes that we need to be able to enforce the standards that we come up with. After much discussion, it was decided that the commissioners would discuss this further during a work session at the next commissioners' meeting.

Young at Heart- Commissioner Capano reported that the group is up to 25 members and they are paying dues and are self sustaining. They also collected school supplies that were given to the teachers at Charlestown Elementary School to be given to the children that needed them.

Town Administrator's Report:

Old Business

- Water Street Fence Request- Mr. Pumpaly discussed having the town staff install the fence for the tenants at 630 Water Street. The price for the material would be approximately \$900. Commissioner Letts motioned to approve 95 linear feet of fence with gates and Commissioner Confalone seconded it. All were in favor, approved 5 – 0.
- Transformer Replacement Project – Mr. Pumpaly advised the commissioners that the Charlestown Marina Proposal was signed and is moving forward. It should be underway in late September and should take 2 – 4 days.

New Business

- Avalon Park (Lot "B") Soft Launch (Canoes and Kayaks) Up-date Mr. Pumpaly stated that Lisa Gutierrez from the MD Department of Natural Resources proposed a soft launch from the fireman's pier. The commissioners that had met with the MDNR initially had stated that the launch could not be on the fireman's pier. It was proposed to be located at lot B.
- MML Fall Conference Oct 17 – 19 Mr. Pumpaly presented the commissioners with the information for the conference at Solomon's Island.

- N.E.R.M. Lease has a lease from the Town and has not been paid. Mr. Pumpaly stated that Google earth shows more than 10 slips as contacted. Mr. Pumpaly said that the lease expired on July 31, 2013. Commissioner Confalone said a new lease should not even be considered until the \$1000 is paid and then we can start with negotiating a new lease, not renewing this old lease.
- MML Cecil-Harford Quarterly Meeting Oct 24th – Mr. Pumpaly stated that the quarterly meeting will be held at the fire hall and catered by the Market Street Café. The menu has not been set yet but the token of appreciation from town needs to be decided on and ordered.
- Scott Gardens has a new developer and may start building again. Mr. Pumpaly said that there are approximately 45 home-sites in Phase II to build. He also stated that Charlestown issued the most building permits in this calendar year for Cecil County.
- Water Tower update, Mr. Pumpaly stated that T & Z painting was here today and will complete a report on the substance on the tower but said he does not think it is rust. He thinks it is mold.
- Commissioner Confalone asked Mr. Pumpaly the status of the water supply generators. Mr. Pumpaly said he has been speaking to companies concerning this but he said the county is still questioning the inability of the sewer system to handle the load if we are processing water due to having a generator. Cool Springs development has a generator on their sewer pumping station.

Period of Public Comment

- Dennis Taylor asked how many people go to MML meetings. Commissioner Capano and President Gell stated that they were attending the Fall Conference.
- Jamie Thompson – no comment
- Rosie Bott asked if her meter had been replaced and Ms. Antoshak had stated that she was unsure but would check in the morning and call her.
- Prosper Boudart- asked about the collection of the slip tax fees and Mr. Pumpaly stating that we are very close.
- Mr. Wankel asked if there could be speed limit signs on Market Street. He also said that there is a dog waste problem, from dog owners not picking up after their dogs.

President Gell adjourned the meeting at 8:39pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Janine Antoshak, town clerk