

Town Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2012 – 7:00 pm

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by: Commissioner Letts

Approval of Minutes – Approval of the Minutes – November 27, 2012 – Commissioners Capano motioned to approve, Commissioner Durange seconded. All were in favor, 5 – 0.

Accounts Payable Review - Accounts Payable Review – Commissioner Confalone motioned to approve and Commissioner Letts seconded. All were in favor, approved 5 - 0

Miller Environmental Report - Total Monthly water production was 2,317,000 gallons. Total coliform samples positive was 0. All regular weekly and monthly maintenance was performed as well as meeting with AC Shultes for well testing on wells 1 and 3. Tests were performed on the wells but test results have not been received, but it seems that we will have enough water to supply the requested water to Seneca Point.

Discussion with Sheriff Janney

Commissioner Renee Capano thanked Sheriff Janney for coming to the meeting. She had stated that she has heard some concerns about recent break-ins in Charlestown and she wanted to know what residents could do to take a proactive approach and work with the sheriff's department. Sheriff Janney stated that he had reviewed all the incident reports of the last year for Charlestown and he believes that we live in one of the safest areas of the county. He also pulled some random reports and found that many were "Crimes of Opportunity" such as car break-ins, when a car is left unlocked, which is a county wide issue. He said it happens all over the county, that a group of people are driven to a neighborhood to walk from car to car looking for unlocked cars to steal valuables. Ninety nine percent of the time they will not break the window unless they see a laptop or something inside that they want. He urged residents to remember to lock their cars. He also suggested setting up a meeting with Sgt. Schmidt at a later time to advise residents of things they can do to protect themselves from being a victim of a crime. There are things you can buy at a hardware store, such as a dowel to place in your window that will make your window more difficult to open. "Criminals want to go undetected." When you are out of town, you need to stop your mail, newspapers, etc, tell a trusted neighbor so everyone can look out for each other.

Sheriff Janney answered a question from a woman whose house was robbed concerning the phone not being answered when she called the Sheriff's office. Sheriff Janney asked what number she called and she had not called 911. He explained that we have a new system in Cecil County and that everyone should call 911. They will ask "what is your emergency?" and it is then they will prioritize life threatening emergencies and place calls on hold if needed. He explained that calls to 911 are alternated between the state police and the local sheriff. And if one receives a call but does not have an officer to dispatch, they will call the other to respond. If you call the duty desk at 410-996-5500, the officer on duty may not be able to respond to your call. So that is why you should call 911. He also stated that there is a Criminal Investigation team that has more time than patrol officers to investigate crimes such as burglaries and drug activity. There is also communication between the Local, State and surrounding area police since crimes often happen in a region. He also stated that if you want to reach the MD State police you can by calling 410-996-7800 in a nonemergency situation. You can call direct to Sheriff Janney at 410-392-2100 with tips about criminals anonymously.

Diana Broomall, member of the Cecil County Council brought up to Sheriff about the Nuisance law that is available for charter government. It asks landlords to put a clause in the lease that allows them to evict a tenant if they have been convicted of selling drugs or convicted of other criminal activity. She also asked Sheriff Janney to tell about the HIDTA, High Intensity Drug Traffic Area. Sheriff explained that it is a national task force that Cecil County has made application for. HIDTA would make resources available to Cecil County. If we are approved it would start in July 2013. Councilwoman Broomall also spoke about the Drug awareness forums that she is sponsoring in communities and how Harford County has been very successful with a community police program.

Commissioner Capano stated that she will be organizing a meeting with Sgt. Schmidt for a later time. Also, Sheriff Janney will stay after the meeting to answer more questions

Sheriff's Report (October & November) – Sgt. Ron Schmidt

Sgt. Schmidt presented the report for October and stated the number of calls received (in Town) were 7. Sgt. Schmidt presented the report for November and stated the number of calls received (in Town) were 5.

Review Utility Billing Payment Requests –

Commissioner Capano stated that she does not think that the name and/or address should be listed on the agenda and application for a payment plan should be reviewed by the treasurer in Town Hall, not in a public meeting. Also, if the resident receives their payments every other week, the payment plan can be adjusted for them to pay double the payment every two weeks instead of every week. Commissioner Capano motioned to allow the payment plan to be approved by the treasurer outside of a public meeting and Commissioner Durange seconded it. All were in favor, 5 – 0.

Town Administrator's Report – Old Business

Seneca Point Water Service Request

Commissioner Confalone motioned to approve to charge a commercial, out of town rate to Seneca Point. Commissioner Letts seconded it. All were in favor, 5 – 0.

Boat Slip User Fees

Ordinance 2011 – 01 was passed and then amended in August 2012

Out of the 4 marinas only one is paying as the ordinance is written. Commissioner Gell asked what the legal recourse is. Mr. Pumpaly stated that the Town Attorney has sent a letter and only two of the marinas have responded. The Attorney is waiting for a response from the commissioners. Commissioner Confalone explained that the tax that should be received from the marina's, has been budgeted and is between \$30,000 and \$40,000. Commissioner Confalone stated that the tax payers must bear an equal burden of taxes, a subset of the population should not be relieved of taxes based on Maryland law and has been adopted by the commissioners through ordinance 2011-01.

Ice House Repairs – Due to Hurricane Sandy, the ice house roof has sustained some damage and needs to be replaced. Mr. Pumpaly has met with the insurance company and is waiting to hear back to see if we will receive some benefit due to the storm damage. Mr. Pumpaly has been consulting with Prosper Boudart and has a quote to get most of the material for the roof for between \$4000 and \$4500 and is hoping to get the work completed pro-bono.

Commissioner Durange motioned to move forward on the needed roof repair and Commissioner Capano seconded it. All were in favor, 5 – 0.

Amendment to Charlestown Planning & Zoning Code

Per Sect. 175-48, Part A & Part B

Commissioner Durange motioned to approve the presentation of the form Structures and Easements in a public meeting at a later date, Commissioner Capano seconded it. All were in favor, 5 – 0.

Charlestown Charter Resolutions – The changes approved by the Commissioners will be published in late December. Commissioner Capano motioned to have the Charter Resolution published on the website. All were in favor, 5 – 0.

November Budget Review – Budget was reviewed and Mr. Pumpaly stated that a budget amendment will be presented next month to bring some things back into alignment.

November Building Permit Review – 8 building permits were approved in the month of November.

November Work Orders – Completion rate is 95.5%. Twenty nine work orders were completed in the month of November.

Chamber of Commerce Sponsorship Partner – it was approved to become a partner with Cecil County Chamber of Commerce.

Cecil Night in Annapolis- January 10, 2013, 6pm – 8pm, Mr. Pumpaly presented the invitation for the commissioners to attend the Cecil Night in Annapolis.

Period of Public Comment:

It was stated by a resident that concerning the utility payment plan; the agreement should only be made with the property owner not a tenant as it is the owner that is responsible for the bill.

A resident stated that she was thankful that the owner of a neglected property has cleaned up as much as has been done, but she would like to see more. Commissioner Capano addressed the resident of Holloway Beach stating that the commissioners met with the owner and that the owner has completed all that was agreed upon at this time. Commissioner Letts stated that he was happy with the progress and stated that they have another meeting scheduled for March to move forward.

President Gell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:55pm and Commissioner Letts seconded it. All were in favor, 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted by Janine Antoshak, Town Clerk