

TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND
December 13, 2016

The Town Meeting was called to order by President Renee Capano at 7:00 PM. Present were Commissioners Mary Carol Durange, Joseph Letts, Bruce Hechmer, Renee Capano and Mr. Wib Pumpaly, Town Administrator. Commissioner Andy Thompson was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Prosper Boudart

Approval of the Minutes of November 22, 2016 Commissioner Durange moved to approve, Commissioner Hechmer seconded. Approved 4-0.

Accounts Payable Review December 13, 2016—Accounts payable in the amount of \$35,870.69 was presented. Commissioner Durange moved to accept, seconded by Commissioner Hechmer. Approved 4-0.

Credit Card Payments Update – Nick Trionfo, Janine Antoshak Tabled until January

Miller Environmental September Report – Josh Griffith was present. A total of 2,584,000 gallons were produced for the month, with an average daily production of 86,000. No coliform samples tested positive. Weekly housekeeping and monthly maintenance was performed. Five Miss Utilities were provided, no leak was detected a 464 Frederick Street, training took place with Town Maintenance Staff to install radio read sensors, assistance with a water main leak took place on November 11th.

Cecil County Sheriff's November Report – A written report was submitted that reported the following: A total of 38 shifts were approved for a total of 152 hours. Of those 18 shifts were filled for a total of 72 hours with an additional 6 hours of overtime for a total of 78 hours of coverage. There were two calls for service; a domestic assault resulting in an arrest, and a burglary. 103 Property/Patrol checks were performed. Eight traffic citations were issued (3 radar, 5 non radar); Six warnings (2 radar, 4 non radar); 1 safety repair order and no parking tickets were issued. No warrants or summons were issued. One arrest was made for a suspended license. Twelve community contacts were made, no business contacts made. Ten shifts used radar and eight did not. One vehicle was removed to storage at the owner's request.

Proposed Charter Change Discussion

Absenteeism of Elected Officials – Commissioner Letts asked if our charter already covers it, yes six consecutive meetings. Perryville has three consecutive meetings and another town has if you miss over half of the meetings in a year. Commissioner Capano thinks that unexcused needs to remain in the wording. Commissioner Letts feels that since we are all volunteers missing meetings for reasonable excuse should not preclude someone from serving. Commissioner Hechmer feels we do not need to change the charter that it is fine the way it is and we have far more important things to address.

Mayor to be Elected by Residents Commissioner Letts feels strongly that we do need to have the President or Mayor elected by the residents and not by the Board. It was discussed at the last meeting to have it put to a question on the next ballot for next year's election. Commissioner Durange is fine with having it on the ballot for next year. Commissioner Hechmer asked the question on whether we are going to change the structure of government, or just bestow a label change. To elect a mayor every year you might get someone elected who has no experience. Commissioner Letts moved to put a question on the ballot to see if residents wish to elect a mayor or President of the Board. Tabled until the next meeting.

Remote Attendance at Meetings – Perryville has a policy for remote attendance at meetings. Commissioners Letts and Hechmer are against having such a policy. MML is asking for towns to move forward and have a policy. Commissioner Capano does think it is necessary in today’s changing work environments. Commissioner Durange agrees. Commissioner Hechmer feels that we are wasting time on stuff that means nothing and have things that need to be done.

Proposed Town Meeting Change (per section 25-304 Municipal Charter) Mary Carol and Renee are planning to attend a meeting in Perryville to see how it works.

Old Business

Park (Lot “B”) Mr. Pumpaly has contacted several companies that do soil testing in regards to testing the soil where the stage is to be placed. Geo-Technology Associates feels that a soil boring is unnecessary and could be handled at the time of construction. Hillis-Carnes did a bid of 4,585.00. Commissioner Capano has done some further investigation and agrees with the Geo Tech stance. Commissioner Hechmer moved that we put the job out for bid, seconded by Commissioner Letts. Approved 4-0. Mr. Pumpaly asked if the bid package was the final plan that he is to seek bids on. Mrs. Confalone stated that this would be a starting point and that contractors could and would make suggestions on possible materials. Commissioner Hechmer asked if the board has approved any plan of the construction. The answer is that the only thing approved is the location of the stage and that the stage will be raised and covered. Commissioner Hechmer proposes that Mr. Pumpaly put together a bid package to be approved at the next meeting. Approved by consensus.

New Business

Long Point Restoration Project The remaining \$16,703.23 needs to be spent and cannot be returned to the Department of Housing. It could be moved to another approved project but the estimated costs of that are around \$4,000.00. The remaining funds could be used at Long Point without the \$4,000 costs. Mr. Pumpaly is suggesting some lighting, rain garden, some new picnic tables, some benches. The suggestion of lights, do we need them there? Commissioner Hechmer says no lights, but to make the area more enjoyable for those using the area during the day. Solar powered might work and if the lights are focused down. Commissioner Durange moved to use the money at Long Point for picnic tables, benches, rain garden, solar lighting, seconded by Commissioner Capano. Approved 4-0.

Proposed Rate Increase (Town Municipal Pier) Mr. Pumpaly proposes an increase of 10% a year for the next three years. We would need the approval of the DNR for this to be in effect. The additional monies would be used for upkeep on the pier, ice eaters. Commissioner Hechmer is against this and so is Commissioner Capano. Commissioner Letts feels that sometime soon the costs would have to go up. Commissioner Durange also agrees that we will need to raise the rates in the near future. No action taken.

P & Z Board Proposal – The Planning and Zoning Board is asking for the Boards approval on three different things, in-house staff approval of solar panels, in-house staff approval of inside building permits. Commissioner Durange moved to approve in-house staff approval of solar panels and inside building permits, seconded by Commissioner Letts. Commissioner Hechmer is against it as there are many things that need to be changed in the code. Approved 3-1. The third point is that they would like different representation on the board. The current representative has spotty attendance and the board feels they need more consistency. They would like either a new representative or to have five members appointed to the Planning and Zoning

Commission and allow one of them to be a liaison to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Capano will fill in for the next while.

Commissioner Capano brought to the board that Perryville High School's band will be asking to donate in support of their Disneyworld trip.

Period of Public Comment

Jack Kroner wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Prosper Boudart seconds wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year but does ask the commissioners to think about ways to make revenue for the town and that he is not giving up on the boat ramp. You need to be thinking of raising revenue for the town.

Ursula Boudart has a question on the Mayor system, would we have to change our whole system of government. Commissioner Durange said not necessarily although it could.

There being no other further business for the evening, President Capano called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Letts moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 PM, Commissioner Durange seconded. Approved 4-0

Respectfully submitted by: Debbie Myers, Town Clerk I