

Charlestown Town Commissioners' Meeting
Minutes
December 8, 2009; 6:30 pm

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by Commissioner Gell with Commissioners Letts and Sheets also in attendance. Commission President, Steve Vandervort arrived at 6:42 pm.

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

The Accounts Payable were reviewed and discussed. Commissioner Sheets requested that invoices from the Children's Christmas Party be included in these payments. Commissioner Letts made the motion to approve the accounts payable (with the amendment as above) and this was approved 3-0.

The minutes for the November 24th meeting were reviewed and Commissioner Sheets motioned to approve them as written and all approved 3-0.

The November water report from Miller Environmental was delivered by Robert Corn. He noted that hydrants were flushed in November. He mentioned that a leaking hydrant was discovered and removed from service to be repaired. Mr. Pumpaly asked if the testing for nitrates has been done and was informed that this is in process. There was some discussion about the sewer line smoke testing which has resumed in town and continuing work on the area's manholes.

Public Comment :

Mark Plum appeared to make various comments. He mentioned that the Town Footlog Park path was often slippery and hoped something could be done to alleviate this.

He complained about the mud on the road from the construction by elementary school on Cecil Street and on the bridge and sidewalk. He knows it is a county project but Mr. Plum wanted to see if the Town could correct the situation before he went to the County. Mr. Plum feels that the County's cleaning efforts are inadequate. President Vandervort suggested Mr. Plum meet with the County personally on this issue.

Next he commented that the trailer and red silver van is now gone from Chesapeake Road but there is still an issue with vehicles and junk at 320 Tasker Lane. Commissioner Gell mentioned that this issue is on an agenda. Also, he inquired on status of the Town's revised zoning maps.

Town Administrator's Report –

- Discussed the amount of revenues vs. expenditures in "funds" with there being 5/12ths of the year to date reported.
- Discussed the Cecil Hotel expenditures and loan with regard to the percentage of the budget used. In order to see how the loan was posted in the report the Commissioners requested a full budget report.
- It was noted that because of the reduction of the Highway User Fee revenue, adjustments will have to be made before fiscal year end.
- A brief discussion about I&I activity in the Town. They are now repairing the Town's manholes and it was noted that smoke testing will be conducted in the next week or so.
- The pump station work is apparently on schedule and going to be finished by the end of December.

- Discussion about Cool Springs and the Payne property sewer revealed that they are, and will be, together in the Town system. Trinity Woods and Charlestown Manor had sewer installed before annexation which is why they are on county sewer.
- It was noted that a PNC CD was moved to the MGLIP account in December.
- Outstanding accounts receivable were discussed and showed that we are expecting funds for hose bib at the Athletic Complex once it is inspected and accepted. NorthEast Marina and the Holloway Memorial have been slow to pay.
- Fuel usage has dropped off to some degree, MPG on the two dump trucks seems to be increasing. New gas tank is installed and approved. Southern States is working on the pumping system.
- Maintenance work orders and building permits (09-67 - 09-62) for November – Wib mentioned that only items occurring during the month will be included.
- It was noted that security surveillance sign has been posted in Fairgreen Park.
- Mr. Pumpaly spoke of his letter of December 1st where he asked Joe Denunzio of Artesian Water for additional information regarding the emergency interconnect proposal . No reply has been received as yet.
- Wib expressed the concern that individual builders may not be grading according to stormwater management master plan in Cool Springs. Wib discussed this grading and stormwater management with URS asking that they oversee this project. URS replied with their proposal to undertake this project. Mr. Pumpaly presented a resolution for the Commissioners’ review, in order to accept the URS proposal. URS proposed that inspections should be conducted while houses are being built. Commissioner Letts moved that we accept the Cool Springs Resolution (2009-04). This was seconded and approved 3-0.
- 320 Tasker Lane continues to be an issue. Letters were generated starting in August 2008 and Mr. Pumpaly continued with his own letters when he was hired. Nothing in the letters has been corrected by homeowner and has not received any communication from homeowner. Additionally, it was found that sewer should have been billed in addition to water. Since this billing began we no longer receive any payments and the water has been shut off. Someone appears to be living in a small mobile home on the site. They also have placed a port-a-pot on this property. President Vandervort noted that an ordinance requires residents to be on our water and sewer. Since their water is shut off we may be able to have the County help to evict them as they cannot have an occupancy permit with no water and sewer service. Additionally the Town does not allow anyone to inhabit a trailer. Several other violations are evident on the site such as a large sea land container and multiple, unregistered vehicles and trailers. This situation was presented to Planning and Zoning who suggested taking aggressive action through our Town attorney. President Vandervort suggested contacting the County in addition to our attorney. Commissioner Letts suggested that we need to make a motion for these actions which led to a discussion of the unregistered vehicle ordinance and the ordinance concerning maintenance of property in the Historic District, where the site is located. President Vandervort stated that the Board is authorizing Mr. Pumpaly to contact to the County Health Department and the Town attorney about this issue.
- The next meeting of Cecil/Harford Chapter of MML was announced to be hosted by Rising Sun on January 7th. Although, it was revealed, this date conflicts with another meeting for the same day, it was decided to keep the date since there was no suitable alternative. This meeting will be the last before the start of the new legislative session.

Commissioner Sheets asked about the possibility of cancelling the December 23rd Commissioner's Meeting. President Vandervort felt we should plan to have that meeting.

Commissioner Gell commented about the three individuals who were interested in the two vacancies on the Planning & Zoning board. All three applicants were interviewed and the Board's recommendation is that the two incumbents be reappointed.

Commissioner Gell made two motions to approve reappointments of the incumbents as recommended: Rogers Clements (4-0) and David Jarinko (3-0 with one abstention).

Commissioner Gell suggested that we should have Certificates of Appreciation for the ladies who decorated the Town Hall window boxes.

Commissioner Letts moved to adjourn the meeting and all approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:43PM