

TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND

July 23, 2013

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

Pledge of Allegiance was led by: Ursula Boudart

Approval of the Minutes of July 9, 2013- Commissioner Hechmer motioned to approve the minutes, Commissioner Confalone seconded it. All were in favor, approved 4 – 0.

Accounts Payable Review – Commissioner Confalone motioned to approve the accounts payables and Commissioner Letts seconded it. All were in favor, approved 4 – 0.

Executive Sessions – Commissioner Hechmer defined what the Open Meeting law is and what an executive session is. Open meetings law in Maryland is that government entities be held open because they want the public to know what is being talked about. There is an exception to that and it is called an executive session. There are certain items (about 14) that do not need to be discussed in public sessions. For example, personnel issues, litigation pending or possible litigation, etc. “Sometimes you just shouldn’t know what is going on with personnel or other issues”. The reason we have executive session is that it is not in the best interest of the town for everyone to know what is being discussed. “The people elected us to do what is best for the town”.

Town Owned Pier (“C Dock”) – Current Lease Discussion – Commissioner Hechmer said that one of the executive sessions was used to discuss C-dock to consult with an attorney from Baltimore. Soon after the session, the partners of C-dock caught up their bills and made arrangements to correct their fire suppression lines.

Open Discussion Relating to the Use of Public Parks & Beaches – Mr. Pumpaly discussed how people are using our beach and boat ramp. We are incurring the cost of maintaining the boat ramp and beach and people from many different areas are using it. Mr. Pumpaly stated “We cannot continue to support people coming from everywhere to use our facilities for free.”

There was much discussion as to how to control the amount of people in the parks and the parking around the parks. The consensus was that something needed to change for next year’s summer season to control the public on the beach and the parking on the roads, to make it safer and more enjoyable for our residents.

Town Administrator's report

Old business

- Sidewalks to Charlestown Up-date – Mr. Pumpaly said that he and a few of the commissioners had met with the State Highway Administration to discuss the extension of the sidewalk from Caroline Street to Rt. 7. The town would be responsible to contribute 25% of this project. The SHA has done the feasibility study and Mr. Pumpaly has just received the information and is reviewing it.
- Athletic Complex Grant Up-date – Mr. Pumpaly wanted to update the commissioner and advise them that the Town has been approved for the grant to resurface the tennis, the basketball courts and possibly create a pickle ball court. The grant is for \$78K and the Town would have to contribute \$8700 towards it.
- Construction Agreement – Charlestown Marina and the Town of Charlestown has come to an agreement concerning the transformers on the covered portion of c-dock. Commission Hechmer made a motion to accept the agreement between Charlestown Marina and the Town of Charlestown and Commissioner Letts seconded it. All in favor, approved 4 – 0.

Public Comment:

Pete Williams (past president of the Board) wanted to know why there is not a sign for Veterans Memorial Park. He feels that it would better respected if people knew it was a Veterans Memorial park. Mr. Williams thanked the Commissioner for running and for taking their time to work on town issues. He also thanked them for writing the post office letters to save the post office. In the Chatter there are 5 subtitles pertaining to planning and zoning and when a permit is required. He does not feel it is necessary to have that "\$20 tax" and that it is also impossible to enforce it. He feels that it is not necessary to require a permit for cutting down trees and many other items that are listed in the Chatter. He thinks that it should be reviewed and changed.

Dennis Taylor – no comment

Rosalyn Botts – no comment

Mary Clark Confalone- no comment

Mark Hudson- Thank you for explaining the executive session I want to know that the commissioners are conservative like I am.

Prosper Boudart- no comment

Ursula Boudart – no comment

Pauline Bryant- When special permission is given to someone to park cars in the grass, please give them a colored card to put in their windshield, so that others will know they have permission.

Mr. Flocker – no comment

Commissioner Letts motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Confalone seconded it.

All in favor, approved 4 – 0.

Respectfully submitted by: Janine Antoshak, town clerk

Approved August 27, 2013