

TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND

July 9, 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: Samuel Mistler

President Gell explained that the fourth graders of Charlestown Elementary School participated in the "If I were a Mayor Essay contest". Samuel Mistler won first place in the essay contest and recited his essay.

Approval of the Minutes of June 11, 2013 – Commissioner Letts motioned to approve and Commissioner Confalone seconded. All were in favor, approved, 5 – 0.

Accounts Payable Review: Commissioner Confalone asked to table the Accounts Payable until the donation requests are approved.

Miller Environmental Report (June) - Mr. Robert Corn introduced Mike Poyner, who is the CEO of Miller Environmental. Mr. Corn reported that the monthly water production was 2532,000 gallons. All weekly and monthly maintenance was performed. They also worked with Cecil Construction to repair a hydrant.

Sheriff's Report (June) – Sgt. Ron Schmidt – was present but said the report will not be available until the end of the week.

2013 – 2014 Contributions (Fire Co., Tory House, Riverfest Scholarship) – Commissioner Letts made a motion to approve the donations, Commissioner Confalone seconded it. All were in favor, approved 5 – 0.

Commissioner Hechmer commented on how important it is to support the fire company. He referenced a boat fire in which the Charlestown Fire Boat sustained \$3500 in damage. The ambulance responded along with the Sheriff Deputy to a cardio arrest and revived a person for transport to Christiana Hospital. The town's donation will help replace needed equipment. Commissioner Confalone motioned to approve the accounts payable as presented earlier as the donations were included in the accounts payable. Commissioner Capano seconded it. All were in favor, approved 5 – 0.

Shoreline Erosion at Flag Pole Park – Commissioner Letts presented some pictures of the area of Long Point Park and how the shoreline is eroding. Commissioner Letts stated that if nothing is done, we are going to lose this area completely.

Commissioner Capano asked Mr. Pumpaly if it is possible for him to find out what they would allow us to do in that area. Mr. Pumpaly explained that this project was evaluated by an Engineering firm and the Town had incurred a \$16K expense for a plan for a living shore but it was turned down by the Maryland Department of the Environment fisheries department, due to the fact that it was a nesting place for endangered fish species. The Commissioners at that time decided not to spend anymore and halt the project and the Town has been paying back the loan,

interests free, for the last 3 ½ years. Mr. Pumpaly also stated that he had found another company that was sure they could complete the project without disturbing the fisheries, so he sought a grant to do the project but was denied and requested to resubmit for the grant again. At that time the project was going to cost approximately \$40K- \$50K but that was some years ago. Commissioner Hechmer motioned to request Mr. Pumpaly to seek quotes to use rip rap above mean high tide, and to reapply for a grant to fund it. Commissioner Confalone seconded it. All were in favor, approved 5 – 0.

Use of prison labor for Town Maintenance – Commissioner Capano explained a program with the State Prison systems to utilize inmates that are soon to be released from prison and have gained a trade, and are eligible to work in Towns. Commissioner Capano asked if the commissioners would like to have someone from this program, come to give a presentation. She gave Mr. Pumpaly the information to plan a time at a future meeting.

Ice House Shed Rebuild. Mr. Pumpaly presented the revised quotation.

Sub-meter discussion with Cecil County Public Works – Mr. Pumpaly met with officials of the county and presented a letter concerning Charlestown allowing sub-meters.

Commissioner Hechmer summed up the letter by saying; the county doesn't say yes or no, they just state this is the beginning of the discussion. Commissioner Hechmer stated that the commissioners agreed to allow sub-meters as long as the county did not oppose it and they haven't opposed it yet. According to Mr. Hechmer, there is nothing in the sewer services agreement that give the County any legal authority to keep our residents from having sub-meters, but they use paragraph 4 to address a previous issue with the Town.

Commissioner Confalone disagrees and feels that paragraph 4 is a threat from the County that they believe we have non-functioning meters or no meters at all for some locations and to be prepared for a “firestorm” when we start the sub-metering. Dr. Gell stated that it is just some people that are using “creative plumbing” and not paying for their water usage.

Up-date on 630 Water Street rental house- Mr. Pumpaly explained that the air conditioning system at the house is not working effectively. The downstairs is about 10 degrees cooler than the upstairs. The house does not have adequate duct work. He presented a proposal explaining what is needed to correct the problem. For a quick solution, we are going to place a dehumidifier in the basement and a stand-alone air conditioner unit on the second floor.

Athletic Complex grant up-date - Mr. Pumpaly said that the grant process for the athletic field is moving along. He expects that we will be approved for the grant shortly. Commissioner Confalone asked if the grant will allow us enough money to complete the proposed improvements. Commissioner Confalone stressed that we need to not spend more money than is budgeted, as we have done in the past with the 630 water street project for example. Dr. Gell stated that this is not a matching grant.

Who owns Parcel 178- Parsonage of St. John's Methodist Church?

Mr. Pumpaly stated that from the summary of the Abstractor that the parsonage is owned by the Presbyterian Church. There was further discussion, that this is not new or complete information.

Sidewalks for Charlestown – SHA feasibility Study

Mr. Pumpaly is going to meet with SHA next week and find out in detail what SHA is willing to do.

June Budget Review: Mr. Pumpaly presented the reviewed the current financials for the Town,

June Building Permit Review: Mr. Pumpaly stated we approved 6 or 7 building permits but none were for new homes.

June Work Order Review: Mr. Pumpaly stated that the completion rate for June is 100%.

President Gell wanted everyone's attention brought to the petition to save the post office. Signatures are being collected to keep the Post Office from having reduced hours or closing.

Public Comment:

Rosalyn Botts had asked about the status C-dock and Larry Metz. President Gell stated that he is not able to comment as it is being negotiated.

Mark Hudson wants to know if the dock is securing the mortgage. He also questioned when the Town citizens are going to be informed. If the rumors are not true, present it to us residents and inform us.

Craig De Simon from North East River Marina wants it to be considered the impact to the other businesses based on what happens with C-dock and boat pier.

Dennis Mistler was not present when he was called for comment.

Phil Price can you tell me what is going on with the C-dock transformer project? President Gell said that also cannot be talked about since it is being worked out through attorneys.

Mr. Price also said that he heard that Water Street Properties is 5 months behind on payments. He stated that he and his fellow marinas work very hard for no reward as we are about 50 -60% (capacity) but over in "Metzland" he gives the slips away. "My least expensive slip is \$2000 a season and we give a lot of amenities."

Traffic and parking is out of control on the weekends, there are fist fits and there is swimming all night long. Commissioner Letts stated that he has spoken to Sgt. Schmidt and parking tickets are being issued and that the persons, it seems to him, that are in violation, are not from the town but other neighboring towns or states.

Prosper Boudart stated that our Town Commissioners are bound by legal requirements to not make a comment and I respect them for that. Ursula Boudart stated, while she is supportive of the fire department, she thinks that the approach for donations to the fire department should be a matching donation. If we give \$10,000K, they should raise \$10,000K. Rosalyn Botts commented that they fire department has raised close to \$10K and that they are all volunteer and take all the training to make sure that they are ready when an emergency occurs.

Pauline Bryant wants to thank Commissioner Capano and the Board for their support to the Young at Heart 50+ group. "We are having a ball". She also wanted it to be known that Gerri Barr goes around every day and picks up trash that gets left behind by sunbathers in the Parks. Cars are also parking on the grass and it makes it difficult to drive around Town. She doesn't think a fire truck could get through the streets in an emergency.

Mark Hudson commented that he understands that maybe the board is bound by legal restrictions on some issues but he wants to know when the Board is going to advise the residents what is going on with the Town.

Commissioner Confalone explained that an executive session is for consultation with attorney on certain issues, decisions are made at public meetings.

Dr. Gell motioned to close the meeting at 8:42pm and Commissioner Letts seconded it. All were in favor, approved 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted by: Janine Antoshak, town clerk

Approved July 23, 2013