

**TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
MINUTES
JUNE 10, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Commission Vice President Gell, also in attendance were Richard Price and Mary Carol Durange. Ryleigh Johnson led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. President Vandervort arrived at 6:45. Commissioner Sheets arrived at 7:05 pm.

Accounts Payable were reviewed. After a short discussion of fuel charges, Aged Accounts and hook-up fees, Commissioner Price moved to accept the Accounts Payable as presented. Commissioner Durange seconded the motion and all approved 3-0.

The minutes from the May 27th meeting were presented. Commissioner Price moved to approve the minutes as distributed with Commissioner Durange seconding. With all in favor, the motion passed 3-0.

Robert Corn presented the Miller Environmental report for May 2008. He noted two meters that had to be replaced because they literally fell apart. The observation was made that almost all of the water meters in Town were near the end of their useful life and would have to be replaced. Comment was made that if these meters were replaced only upon failure, revenue could be lost since defective meters run slower and slower until they stop entirely. The Town Administrator suggested that this expenditure be given consideration because it will be necessary and it will be formidable.

Since Sgt. Campbell was not present, there was no Sheriff's Report given for May 2008.

The Town Administrator's report began with the notation that grass cutting cycle has finally been completed. It was noted that during the shut-down of the Boy's and Girl's Club, tree cutting and various other tasks are being scheduled and hopefully completed during this time. The water and lighting project for the Town Pier has begun to move forward. The issue of trash, garbage, yard waste, recyclables and bulk waste mixes was brought forward as an issue that complicates the pick-up process. It was noted that letters to recurrent offenders are being considered. Delivery of the new pick-up truck should be occurring this month. A situation with foreclosure houses that are neglected and are turning into "hang-outs" was mentioned as this problem must be resolved soon.

There was no public comment offered.

The sewer agreement between Cecil County and Charlestown was presented for approval by the Commissioners. Commissioner Price made the motion to accept the agreement with Commissioner Durange voicing the second. The motion was approved by all present 4-0.

Resolution 2008-04 to approve the fiscal 2008-09 budget was brought forward. A error was noted on the first page, second paragraph for correction. With the correction having been made and some changes in the budget format being noted, Commissioner Gell moved to accept the

Resolution to approve the budget. Commissioner Price seconded and all present voted in favor 4-0.

North East Salute to Cecil County Veterans flyer was presented to request a contribution to their fireworks display. No action.

Permission to apply for a Waterway Improvement Grant to finance the redecking of the boat ramp pier was requested. The Commissioners agreed to this request.

A program that allows a 2% discount for Town residents who pay their real estate taxes promptly was brought forth and discussed. This program has been in effect for several years and a letter would have to be forwarded to the County Treasurer's Office in order to continue with this year's tax bills. Commissioner Gell moved that Charlestown continue to participate in this program. Commissioner Durange voiced the second and all present approved 4-0.

Permission was requested to release a Letter of Credit for Franklin H. Lee and return it to the bank. With the Town Administrator's recommendation to release this "letter," Commissioner Price made the motion to released this Letter of Credit, Commissioner Durange made the second and the motion was approved by all present 4-0.

A discussion pertaining to renewal of the IWIF policy ensued. (At this point 7:00pm +/- a power outage occurred; so there is no audio tape backup) It was decided to continue with this company as we have done in the past. Commissioner Gell moved to continue with IWIF and Commissioner Durange seconded. It was approved unanimously by all present 4-0.

Charlestown Boy's and Girl's Club lease was discussed regarding renewal of the \$1 per year and \$0 rent arrangement now in place. It was decided to take no action to change this agreement. Ferrell Fuel has informed the Town that they will not agree to a maintenance contract on the present furnace. President Vandervort suggested the Town seek other providers for this service.

An estimate for the removal of two trees on the grounds of the Boy's and Girl's Club was presented.

A recommendation was made to obtain another opinion regarding the number of trees needing removal. It was noted that this work would have to be done quickly, during the Club's two-week shutdown which ends on June 23rd.

A maintenance agreement from Horizon Services, Inc. for the heat pump system at the Town Hall was the next topic of discussion. It was recommended that no action be taken and to thus decline the service.

A communication from a resident concerning a vacant property which is in disrepair and continuing to be vandalized, was aired. The Town Administrator is pursuing corrective action for this issue.

Recently having noted an infestation of ants in the Town Hall building, Terminix Pest Control was contacted to develop an estimate to eradicate the little devils. After considering the cost of

their contract for this service, it was recommended to explore other, perhaps less expensive, providers of this service.

A text amendment to the Cecil County Zoning Ordinance concerning Wellhead Protection was presented for comment. This ordinance refers to protection from contaminants. It was suggested that Maryland Rural Water Association be contacted to gain their input. The reference to well contamination instigated a discussion of the proposed coal fly ash dumping proposal being considered for Mountain Hill Road. It was hoped that various citizens and Commission members express their concern over this proposal in order to prevent its implementation.

Invoice 55020-9 from the County Treasurer for repairs to the sewer connection at 204 Louisa Lane was presented for discussion. The \$1,250.00 reimbursement is requested for a repair of a defective section and tap in that had been inspected by the County. Due to a lack of a motion to approve the clearing of this account, this invoice will remain unpaid.

The bond release for Trinity Woods IIB was brought up at the behest of Barry Andrews and David Dodge. They would relinquish Lot 63 to the Town in exchange for the bond release. Commissioner Gell made the motion to release the bond, Commissioner Price made the second and it was unanimously approved 5-0.

Discussion concerning tennis court repairs began with a proposal reflecting the variety of services and the associated costs. It was suggested to review "Project Open Space" with Ed Slicer for funds that may be available for this purpose.

The findings from a recent bay grass inspection by MDE were presented. The findings were not encouraging as there was no marsh grass evident since what had been planted was destroyed by storms. The Town has until the end of June '08 to meet the requirements of the Wetlands License which states that either 14,400 square feet of marsh must be established on site or 28,800 square feet be established off site or fines will be incurred.

Earlier in the month Dave Wilson and Len Casanova met at the Town Hall for discussions on grants. They mentioned that there is no grant money available for planning and/or engineering, but that grants for about \$150,000 may be available. Also included was the Stone Wharf revetment project and Long Point refurbishment. It was noted that the Department of Natural Resources has available monies (\$28,000) to loan at 0% interest for a 15-year term - this may be used for planning and/or engineering functions. Commissioner Sheets moved to investigate and/or apply for this loan with Commissioner Durange voicing a second. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Resolution 2008-03, Main Street Maryland Program, for two blocks of Market Street starting from the boat ramp. Stan Hearne explained the \$10,000 would be for plans and construction and must be matched by the Town. Since this area of Market Street will soon be requiring storm water management work, which is financed separately, it was hoped to combine the two projects to result in a finished, scenic "Main Street" look. It was further noted that this is not "Street Scape" money since that project is only for state roads.

The Board members opined that this project is scheduled too soon, since the Main Street Committee, which is in the process of being formed, has yet to even meet to begin to develop ideas for the Town's ultimate style, and that the \$20,000 total would not be enough to do an adequately fund this project. Mr. Hearne noted that the grant money from Main Street Maryland Program could be used to help finance the "Committee's" operating expenses. President Vandervort explained that some of the "President's Discretionary Fund" could be allocated for this future committee's expenses instead of this grant/matching funds resolution.

There being no motion brought forward on this Resolution, there will be no further action taken..

The Town Administrator will file the "Anticipated Debt Report" with the Maryland State Treasurer for a \$28,000, 0%, 15-year loan from the Department of Natural Resources.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded and unanimously approved at 8:15 pm.