

TOWN COMMISSIONER'S  
MEETING  
May 13, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 by President Vandervort. Commissioners Gell and Price were in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ryleigh Johnson. Commissioner Durange arrived at 6:36

Accounts Payable was moved for acceptance by Commissioner Price with Commissioner Gell as the second. Approval of the accounts payable was unanimous. A brief discussion and explanation of the monthly budget, aged accounts and balance reports ensued. It was noted that Stewart Associates owes the Town \$140,000 and that a dialog with this company is ongoing in an effort to resolve the issue. Also, two companies, Champion and Flex-One, within the Principio Industrial Estate, have been contacted concerning their monetary obligations.

Commissioner Gell motioned to approve the minutes from April 22 as written. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved with no discussion.

Miller Environmental, Robert Corn, presented the company's report on the Town's water system. He noted that a meter's life expectancy is around 17 years which means that many were nearing this anniversary and they may have to be replaced within the next two years. Meters and sensors are now being replaced as they fail but this can be expected to increase.

Sgt. Campbell presented the Sheriff's report. Again discussion occurred about the illegal motor bikes and scooters. Sgt. Campbell added that a disorderly adult was detained after a chase and an altercation within the Town limits.

Administrator's Report - The Lot 63, Trinity Woods, problem appears to be nearing a resolution. The street lights in Trinity Woods, 2B, have been turned off for non-payment by Barry Andrews & Associates.

The BRAC tour was held on this day and Mr. Burden deemed it a success. A Town booth was set in Elkton Station with literature available for distribution. It was noted that more, fine-tuned literature will be prepared for the next tour, next week.

A handout explained the movement of budgeted monies (\$3,000) from the a surplus account (truck repair) to others that are lacking (such as fuel and street repair) in order to complete the fiscal year. It was noted that this is legal since the money simply moves within the same account. Commissioner Price made the motion to implement this move, Commissioner Durange seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Burden discussed a \$1,250 bill from the County to repair an uninspected, improperly connected, sewer line caused, road damage on Louisa Lane. President Vandervort noted that County inspections of water and sewer connections is not automatic and does not infer responsibility. It was asked; should the Town pay the charge? It was decided to perhaps discuss this charge with the County Commissioners at the meeting to be held in Charlestown and to contact County Administration for clarification before ultimately paying the account.

A Growth Allocation meeting this day in Elkton (for the County) was attended by Mr Burden. His attendance at this meeting and subsequent questioning by the Commissioners clarified that Charlestown fits the "Smart Growth" guidelines. The Town meets the criteria and the paperwork was all in order. This proposal will be introduced next Tuesday (5/20) and voted upon on the third of June meeting. It is hoped that MaryAnn Skilling will be able to attend this meeting next week to present remarks in support of this proposal. Further, the Commissioners were asked to contact Virginia Barnhart to encourage her to

complete her duties with regard to this matter and possibly advise the County Commissioners as to the source of the delay.

The official Charter Amendment raising the bid rate for contracts from \$2,000 to \$10,000 was presented for signature and final approval. The amendment change (Resolution 2008-01) will be advertised as required in the Cecil Whig. Commissioner Price made the motion for acceptance with Commissioner Durange as the second. The motion passed unanimously with those present.

Mr. Burden would like to attend a one week Flood Management Training in July in Salisbury, MD. The Commissioners agreed with this idea.

It was noted that Maintenance is fully staffed with grass cutting lagging because of the weather.

Public Discussion began with the Street Light Problem in Trinity Woods. It was pointed out that ownership of Lot 63 caused the situation and it was hopeful that this will be resolved soon. Discussion ensued concerning Cool Springs annexation and future building there. It was asked if an interim solution to the street lighting problem could be reached. A motion was forwarded by Commissioner Price to open a new electrical account for street lights. This was seconded by Commissioner Durange and passed by all. (4-0)

Document retention guidelines and cataloging is in progress. It was asked that a decision be reached regarding old and retired documents. President Vandervort noted that all documents should be scanned and nothing be destroyed before scanning. Guidance was requested from the Commissioners. A lively discussion ensued with no clear decision being made.

A list of costs for improving the Town Pier was submitted. These improvements are deemed needed to bring the pier "up to code". It was noted that there is sufficient money in the Pier Account to cover these costs. It was determined that the bid process has been fulfilled since there was only one contractor from electrical and one from plumbing who responded to any request to quote the project. Commissioner Price moved to improve the water and electricity, Commissioner Durange made the second. The motion passed unanimously. (4-0) President Vandervort noted that these improvements will considerably deplete this account and Mr. Burden advised that MD DNR has grant money available for deck and ramp repairs.

George Smith from Miller Environmental was not in attendance concerning his letter of recommendation.

Howard Hall was present to discuss the issue of Public Safety. As noted in the Cecil Whig, patrols may have to cease from the Sheriff's department. He has been investigating the Resident Trooper program in the event the Sheriff's Patrol program became unavailable. Mr. Hall offered to make up a presentation about the Resident Trooper program for a future decision. It was noted that the Town is now helping to pay the County's Sheriff Patrol's payroll.

David Beck was not present to argue for fike net placement so fike nets will no longer be allowed in Charlestown Harbor.

A quote was presented from Wm. A. Saddler & Co. was presented for the 2007/2008 fiscal year audit. Commissioner Price moved to accept Wm. A. Sadler as the 2007/2008 auditor with Commissioner Durange as the second. All approved (4-0)

Gary Bott was present to request \$10,000 for the Charlestown Fire Department and for the Town to consider annual increases to coincide with increased expenses. President Vandervort asked to delay this decision until after the annual budget hearing. Mr. Bott pointed out that home sprinklers are only for living spaces since this has been an issue which has created much discussion in the Town. The Town now refers citizens to the fire department for recommendations for sprinkler installers.

Rebecca Phillips and Nancy Bowles from the Historic Commission were present to request \$5,000 for the 107 House upkeep. Mrs. Phillips was informed that the budget will be voted on during the June 10<sup>th</sup> Commissioner's Meeting and a decision can be made at that time. It was suggested that they combine with the Town contract in the purchase of heating oil.

The LGIT Insurance renewal contract was presented. Commissioner Gell moved to renew this contract with Commissioner Price seconding. It was voted in unanimously. (4-0)

The Stone Wharf Erosion Project must have design work done in advance. It was noted that money is available as a loan for the design and then an application for a grant can be moved forward. This grant may pay for the design costs. After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Durango to proceed with the design bids. Commissioner Gell seconded and all voted approval.

MML Legislative Action Request Form was distributed to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Gell solicited thoughts from the Commissioners concerning Mr. John Peach's Boat Museum. President Vandervort is concerned that Mr. Peach wants to change the timbre of the town to suit his idea. It was suggested that Mr. Peach return with more information.

President Vandervort distributed the draft of the 2008/2009 budget to the Commissioners.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03