

**TOWN COMMISSIONER MEETING
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 24, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by President Vandervort at 6:35. The Pledge of Allegiance was once again led by Ryleigh Johnson. In attendance were Commissioners Sheets, Gell, Price and Durange.

Accounts payable were reviewed and the Andrews Miller dredging related expenditure was explained. The Wm. Saddler audit expense was also clarified. The motion to pay the bills was forwarded by Commissioner Sheets; Commissioner Price seconded and there was unanimous agreement.

Commissioner Sheets made the motion to approve the minutes from November 12, 2008, as written. Commissioner Price seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Commissioner Durange abstaining.

Stan Hearne commented on left over monies from various grants. It was noted that some grant money could be used to install a hydrant at the athletic complex. Money left from the Fairgreen Park grant could be used to replace ground mats under the swings. He proposed reverting the remaining lighting grant money so as not to endanger the Trinity Woods playground grant. It was suggested to perhaps allocate the remainder of the lighting grant to the athletic complex parking lot lighting. After discussion and some clarification it was decided to table this one particular issue.

Town Administrator's interviews were held and President Vandervort recommended the appointment of Wib Pumpaly with benefits to begin on his hire date which will be December 8, 2008. Commissioner Price made the motion to approve the recommendation with Commissioner Sheets seconding. Approval was unanimous 5-0.

After a brief discussion it was agreed to mail each unsuccessful applicant a "regrets" note.

President Vandervort reported on progress with the dredging of the Town Pier, Boat Launch and Fire Boat Pier. It was noted that one bidder was disqualified for not attending the mandatory pre-bid meeting. A modification to the contract would make it possible for the winning bidder to not have to empty the spoils site at this time in order to get the project completed more quickly. It was indicated that grants could be available to empty the spoils site at a later date. Charlestown will now be responsible for tree and brush removal from the site. Mention was made that the project must be under contract in order to secure grant money and which may be affected by the present economic climate.

BayLand Consultants & Designers, Inc. is the company that has won the inspection contract. Commissioner Price moved to proceed with the proposed, modified contract.

proposal for the dredging project. Commissioner Sheets offered the second. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion occurred concerning Christmas whether to have holiday lights on Town Hall or traditional decorations. An idea was presented about perhaps having colonial Christmas decorating contest. It was mentioned to encourage colonial-style Christmas decorations in the Historic District.

Public Comments: Ursula Boudart commented that the chain has to be reattached at the end of Baltimore Street. Prosper Boudart questioned when the aquatic grass problem will be solved. It was explained that the aquatic grass “problem” should be solved by relocating the growth area.

Commissioner Sheets moved to approve the reappointment of Suzann Barker and Nancy Bowles to the Historic District Commission. Commissioner Durange provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.

The vacancy of the Planning & Zoning Commission was proposed to appoint the one interested party, David Jarinko. Commissioner Price made the motion to approve the appointment with Commissioner Sheets seconding and all approving.

A solicitation from the Historical Society of Cecil County was tabled for lack of interest.

A billing error for a Tasker Lane cottage which has never received a sewer bill was brought up for discussion. It was, of course, questioned as to why it has only been billed for water. There was no answer readily available but a suggestion for more investigation being done on the situation and then perhaps just sending the resident a regular, combined water and sewer bill to determine, by the reaction, if this has been an ongoing oversight.

The annual, full-page add for Perryville High yearbook was discussed. Commissioner Price motioned to approve the expenditure and Commissioner Sheets seconded this motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

It was explained that a commercial loan must be obtained to purchase the Cecil Hotel and then a refinance loan can be acquired from the Maryland Historic Trust. The local bank requires a resolution authorizing President Vandervort to sign the loan documents. Commissioner Gell made the motion to approve Resolution 2008-06. Commissioner Price supplied the second and all approved.

Commissioner Gell discussed forming a charter and charge for a committee to plan and supervise the renovations of the Cecil Hotel. Commissioner Gell will present the details at a future meeting. It was noted that the renovations will be a long-term project spanning about five years.

Discussion to purchase winter outerwear for maintenance personnel occurred. Commissioner Gell motioned to approve the expenditure for the winter wear. Commissioner Price seconded and all approved. The incoming Town Administrator, Wib Pumpaly, will handle the details.

A short discussion concerning the publication of the “Welcome to Charlestown” booklet was held and it was noted that any changes and additions should be directed to the Clerk.

The completed “pet ordinance” 2008-02 was presented for review and approval. Commissioner Price motioned to approve sending the resolution to Planning & Zoning and to hold public hearings as required in order to finalize the Resolution. Commissioner Sheets seconded the motion and all concurred.

Commissioner Gell reported on the National League conference that CVS will give people in town a 20% discount on prescriptions. It was noted that the 2009 conference will be held in San Antonio, Texas.

The placement of radar speed signs along Baltimore Street was discussed. This will be further investigated.

It was decided to reorder more Charlestown pins. Commissioner Sheets reported on the recent visit from the Geocache organization to decide on a proper site. The cache will be placed some time after Thanksgiving in the approved location.

Commissioner Gell motioned to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Sheets seconded. All approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.