

Town Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
November 27, 2012 – 7:00 pm

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Vice President Mary Carol Durange. Commissioners Capano and Confalone were in attendance. President Robert Gell and Commissioner Joe Letts were absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by: Commissioner Durange

Approval of Minutes – Approval of the Minutes – November 13, 2012 – Charlestown Commissioners Confalone motioned to approve, Renee seconded. All were in favor, 3 – 0.

Accounts Payable Review - Accounts Payable Review – Commissioner Confalone motioned to approve, all were in favor, approved 3 - 0

Old Business

Emergency Repairs to Cecil Inn

Mr. Pumpaly stated that there has been some damage to the Cecil Inn from Super-storm Sandy. He believes repairs will be between \$500 & \$700. He has submitted it into insurance and there is a \$250 deductible. He doesn't see any reason why it won't be approved.

Also, Mr. Pumpaly has become aware of some funds that will become available in December from the Maryland Historic Trust for repairs on the Cecil House. It is thought that we may receive \$2500. Since it is already registered in the MD Historic Trust we have a better than average chance of securing these funds.

In addition Mr. Pumpaly is inquiring about grants from the Department of Housing and Community Development. It seems that there may be a "Preservation MD grant" that will become available in the first quarter of the year. He will look into that when it becomes available.

Commissioner Capano stated that she remembers that there should be some money available on the federal level based on the 2010 census and we would qualify for it. Mr. Pumpaly said that we are going to "take a run" at getting some money to do what we can on the Cecil House.

630 Water Street - Refurbishment

- Mr. Pumpaly showed some pictures of work completed at the River House. The storage area is enclosed, more roof shingles than expected were needed but replaced, gutted pantry & kitchen. The new bathroom on first floor is framed, bathroom on second floor also being worked on. The current workers found that whoever did work previously put new wood over bad wood. Currently, it being made "structurally sound" and insulating where we can as there is little or no insulation now. Thru yesterday we have spent \$18,257.15 and Mr. Pumpaly is meeting with the electrician next week.

New Business

- Holiday Lighting Installation lights going up on Friday and Perryville is sending one person with bucket truck to help us. All lights have been checked and are ready to go.
- Water Payment Plan Request – 423 Chesapeake Road
He had a major leak that they were unaware of until they received a water bill upwards of \$800. He is asking for a payment plan for the next six weeks. Commissioner Capano asked why the Board has to approve these water plans. Mr. Pumpaly said that in the past there had been problems because one commissioner was making the decisions to grant permission for the water payment plan so then Mr. Pumpaly was advised to always bring it to the Board for approval. Commissioner Capano asked if it could be put on agenda for next meeting so that the entire Commissioner could decide on it.
There is also a payment plan request from 109 Cecil Street
Commissioner Confalone motioned to approve both water payment plans and Commissioner Capano seconded it.
Commissioner Confalone stated that he felt the Treasurer could review the payment plans instead of the entire Board, unless it becomes a problem.

- Tourism in Charlestown – Commissioner Confalone fulfilled the request to write a description of Charlestown in a publication to promote Tourism in Cecil County.
- Mr. Pumpaly stated that there are positions on various committees that are up for re-appointment. Many of the current members have sent letters to continue in their positions. Mr. Pumpaly asked how the Commissioners want him to proceed in seeking new members and continuing current members. After some discussion, it was stated that they wanted to advertise in the newspaper and on the bulletin board for new members. Commissioner Capano motioned to advertise the availability of positions on the Committees, Commissioner Confalone seconded. All were in favor, 3 – 0.

Open Letter to the Commissioners from Father Roy Pollard

Father Pollard states about the situation at the Post Office and how he would like information made public on the candidates that run for office.

Ice Splash 2013

- Ice Splash requests to hold the event on March 2, 2013 to benefit the Special Olympics. Mr. Pumpaly stated that the cost to the Town is only to open and warm the bathrooms at Veterans Park for the day. Commissioner Capano motioned to approve and Commissioner Confalone seconded.

If I were a Mayor Essay Contest

Commissioner Capano stated that she received approval from the Board to have the fourth graders participate in the “If I were a mayor” essay contest.

Period of Public Comment:

Commissioner Confalone asked Mr. Boudart if we got anywhere on the Ice House. Mr. Pumpaly stated that Rich Richardson suggested turning it into insurance for emergency repairs. Commissioner Confalone suggested that maybe we can put on same deductible as the Cecil House. Mr. Pumpaly stated he would look into that.

Prosper suggested to “blow” insulation into the structure to get some insulation but it is a problem if you need a repair with pipes or wires as it makes it harder to get to them. Mr. Taylor stated that his concerns were addressed during the meeting.

Mrs. Boudart agreed that the water payment plan should come to the Treasurer not the whole board.

Mr. Prosper Boudart stated that there is a problem with Sprinkler systems. If the bill is not paid for many various reasons and the water is turned off, if there is a fire, the sprinkler system will not work. During open discussion, many scenarios were brought up that may make the sprinkler system not as effective, such as some sprinkler heads that are very “touchy” thus having families with children turn them off in fear that they would react to being hit by an object. Or the fact that the water goes thru the meter and the resident is paying for sewer if there is a fire in their house and the sprinkler system turns on. On a side issue, it was brought up that in some counties there is a separate meter for an outdoor sprinkler to water landscaping. That way, the resident only pays for water not sewer to maintain their grass or landscaping.

Commissioner Durange adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Janine Antoshak, Town Clerk