

TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND
October 25, 2016

The Town Meeting was called to order by Vice President Mary Carol Durange at 7:00 pm. Commissioners present were Joseph Letts, Andy Thompson, Bruce Hechmer. and Mary Carol Durange. President Capano was excused.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ursula Boudart

Approval of the Minutes of October 11, 2016 Commissioner Letts moved to approve with one correction, Commissioner Thompson seconded. Approved 4-0.

Accounts Payable Review of September 27, 2016 – Accounts payable was presented for payment in the amount of \$48,390.50. Commissioner Letts asked about the URS billing. 40% of the bill was for the storm water management plan of 420 Charlestown Place. The rest of the bill was for a study on the water tower in anticipation of AT&T and Verizon work on the tower. Commissioner Letts moved to accept, Commissioner Thompson seconded. Approved 4-0.

Avalon Park Update Mary Clark Confalone was present to explain the costs of the different scenarios. The costs of a raised stage with a roof that would be around \$27,000.00. She feels that the ground is sufficiently stable to place the stage where it is placed on the proposed site plan. The only thing that changed is up around the parking lot and turning radius area might be put off until Phase II when plans are more fleshed out for the upper park property to see how they might best mesh. She suggests that the committee would like to be involved with the meeting with the engineers and contractors as we move forward. She also suggests that if we want to have the project done in the next year, we need to get moving on it and tie down some of the numbers with local contractors.

Speeding on Town Streets – Commissioner Thompson has received complaints of speeding cars. Is there something that can be done about it? Maybe removable speed bumps? They could be removed in the winter so that they do not impact our snowplows. There was a complaint about 10 wheelers, 16 wheelers parking in the town. Do we have an ordinance enforcing not parking those types of vehicles? The residents in Cool Springs are also experiencing speeding. Commissioner Hechmer said that we cannot have officers on every corner so we need to get residents to apply peer pressure needs to be applied. We don't have the ability to have police here 24/7. Speed cameras might also be a possibility but are very expensive. Many residents in attendance expressed the fact that we have speeders and stop sign runners all over town. Right now according to Commissioner Letts stated that the off duty officers are going to other places that pay a higher hourly rate, so we are experiencing a shortage of officers. It was suggested that when the officers are in town they need to be enforcing our laws and not just sitting in their cars. Commissioner Letts suggested to look into the speed bumps. We will put something in the next newsletter asking people to slow down. The question was asked how much it would take to start our own police force. Over a million. Mr. Pumpaly will look into the cost of portable speed bumps.

Proposed Charter Change Discussion
Absenteeism of Elected Officials

Mayor to be Elected by Residents
Election Issues and the Charter
(1) Legislative Meeting and (1) Work Meeting each month
Remote Attendance at Meetings

The Commissioners are asked to take the information home and come back to the next meeting with questions and comments.

Memorandum of Understanding Mutual Aid Agreement with other Towns – Charlestown Commissioners Commissioner Durange stated that we need these types of memorandums in place in the case of an isolated incident to receive mutual aid. This would be for local incidents only. An example of one between Perryville and Port Deposit was presented in the book. Commissioner Hechmer suggests that we could enter into a year-long agreement or some other time frame.

Town Administrator’s Report

OLD BUSINESS

Sidewalk Project Update The project is continuing and will be extended to Route 7. The existing sidewalk that goes over the bridge will be removed and replaced with an ADA approved sidewalk. The last area to be done with be in the Louisa Land and Bladen Street area where there will be a rather high retaining wall installed. The contractors have removed the debris from the former Avalon property, graded and seeded it. They are also in the process of removing the stuff from the shop area. It was our understanding that we would be only a staging area and not a dump site. They will also be repairing the fence at the shop that one of their trucks hit early on in the project.

NEW BUSINESS

Additional STOP signs @ Caroline and Cecil Streets Mr. Pumpaly was asked to make this a three way stop. The signs are installed.

Ms. Antoshak shared that LB Water representative, Dave Wilson, came into town and did some training of our Maintenance Forman in the change out of meters.

Period of Public Comment

Ursula Boudart made comment that the flaggers on the sidewalk project need may need to be informed that they need more flaggers. She encountered a truck in an almost head on situation when a truck came out of the Manor in between the flaggers. She also wanted to express her satisfaction of the planting and rocks at Long Point.

Prosper Boudart asked if we lost money on the meters that were reversed? The answer is no. Simple math enables us to bill properly. Mr. Boudart also mentioned that Perryville is going to a lockbox system at their boat ramp. He wants to know how we are coming along with the boat ramp issue.

Shirley Doss thanked the Commissioners for cutting the trees in front of her house.

Jack Kronner had no comments. He was asked if he still wanted to help with the Halloween party. He answered in the affirmative.

Rosie Bott – asked how much money there was available for Lot B and what do we expect to do with it? The answer is 100,000 total. We can apply for art grants and have music in the park and art classes. Children’s camps and nature talks are also thoughts. Movies in the park will also be moved to there. She also asked about the issue of election and the charter. This is mostly in response to an error in the last issue of the chatter which has been corrected. She would also like to see an update the lower part of the Long Point.

Ken Confalone made comment that procedurally a Charter Committee needs to be formed to make any changes to the charter. Proposed changes to the charter need to come from the Committee and not from the Board. No matter how the changes come about there would need to be a public time to comment on the proposed changes.

Amos Harlan asked about the parking passes and how they came to be. They came about because people are parking where they need to not be. He feels that the towing is unjust. We need day passes that might be paid for at Town Hall at a kiosk.

There being no further business, Commissioner Letts moved to adjourn the regular meeting seconded by Commissioner Thompson. Approved 5-0 @ 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Debbie Myers, Town Clerk I