

**TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING**  
**CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND**  
*January 13, 2015*

The Town Meeting was called to order by Vice President Joe Letts at 7:00pm. Commissioners present were Ken Confalone, Robert Gell, Joseph Letts. Absent were Commissioners Renee Capano and Bruce Hechmer.

**Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Nick Strong.

**Approval of the Minutes of December 9, 2014** Commissioner Gell moved to approve, Commissioner Confalone seconded. Approved 3-0.

**Accounts Payable Review December 23, 2014 and January 13, 2015**—Accounts payable in the amount of \$35,515.20 were presented for December 23, 2014 and \$22,915.37 for January 13, 2015. Commissioner Confalone moved to accept, Commissioner Gell seconded. Approved 3-0

**Miller Environmental December Report** – Doug Connell – The December monthly water production was 2,558,000 gallons ranging from 45,000 per day to 143,000 per day with an average production volume of 83,000. Routine maintenance and testing was performed. In addition one leak checks was performed, one water line was marked, replaced one water meter and one water service was shut off.

**Cecil County Sheriff's December Report** – A total of 34 shifts were approved for a total of 136 hours. A total of 116 hours of patrol were utilized. Two calls were performed in town and two minor calls were assists for the State Police. In addition they have received calls of speeding and running stop signs in Trinity Woods which they are addressing.

**All Paws Clinic/Cat Crusaders** – Mr. Pumpaly discussed the problem that we have in the town at Cecil Street and Chesapeake Roads. Mr. Lewis and Dr. Carletti were contacted and agreed to present their program to the Commissioners. At the last meeting the Commissioners voted to approve the expenditure of \$1000.00 to try to reduce the cat problem. Cat Crusaders and Dr. Carletti of All Paws will work together to solve the feral cat problem. They trap the cats, take them to their facility where they are spayed/neutered, given rabies vaccinations, de-wormed, ear docked, and tattooed and then returned to the colony where volunteers feed them. Those volunteers also keep track of any new additions to the colony and trap them for the same treatment. Kittens are taken from the colony for adoption if their age makes this feasible. The cost of the services is \$40.00 per male and \$50.00 per female. History has shown that this reduces the cat populations in the areas where they have active programs. Dr. Carletti asks that the Commissioners allow for publicity of the program to let residents know of the program and issue a press release. The group uses a variety of sources for funding of the program. It was suggested that the Chatter might be used to solicit donations for the clinic. Mr. Lewis or Dr. Carletti will send draft publicity to Mr. Pumpaly. Commissioner Gell asked that if the group needs anything from the town to let us know so that we can be of help. All Commissioners present are in consensus with this program.

**Cecil County Public Schools** – Use of Facilities –Tabled

**Financial Review & Update** – Tom Jones - We are currently working on all the accounts so that the audit for next year will run very smoothly. He is now able to work remotely. Last year's financial audit is on the website.

## **Town Administrators Report**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Flood Plain Ordinance 2013-01 Mandated Revision** We have received from the Maryland Department of the Environment mandated updates for our 2013-01 Flood Plain Ordinance. Mr. Pumpaly asks that the Commissioners review the marked up copy from the MDE and make comments or changes as soon as possible. Their changes are marked in red. Anything marked out will be omitted from the new ordinance. The only thing that seems to have changed is with the level of the water which seems to reduce the amount of flood plain in Charlestown. We must have it in place by May 15, 2015. Mr. Pumpaly asks that the Commissioners look over the proposed changes to our ordinance that are marked up in red.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Election 2015, Registration, Candidates for Commissioners** A public notice of the March 3, 2015 election is to run in the Cecil Whig on January 14 and 16 announcing the election, and seeking candidates to run. At this time we have one candidate who has filed for the two open spots on the Board. If you wish to vote in the town election you must register by January 30, 2015. If you wish to vote by absentee ballot you must request one from the Election Board or the Town Clerk. Any candidates must file by January 30. Voting is held in Town Hall. Any ballots that are cast will be kept for six months or longer.

**Municipal Boat Slip Rental Program** – On January 2, current boat slip renters were sent the 2015 registration information and forms to their address of record. This year the fee is 520.00 with a \$26.00 slip tax for a total of 546.00. As of this time we have had two respondents who paid for the slip for 2015. The deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**2015 Boat Slip User Fees** – On January 2, the Marinas in the Town of Charlestown were sent letters and forms to submit their slip tax for the year 2015.

**MML Convention Up-date** Calm Yields Civility is the theme for this year's Maryland Municipal League Convention, June 28- July 1 in Ocean City, Maryland. Lists of the slated workshops and forums were distributed.

**Sensus AutoGun/Probe Extension** – Our current meter reader gun is not functioning. We need to replace it. 1535.00 Janine Antoshak mentioned that in the budgeting process a line item needs to be established to do maintenance on the new gun. A motion was made by Commissioner Confalone to purchase the equipment, seconded by Commissioner Gell. Approved 3-0

**Ryan Homes Water & Sewer Hookups** Ryan Homes has ceased to build in Cool Springs. They applied for and received building permits for three lots in Cool Springs which are now not going to be built on. They have paid for water and sewer hookups for these lots. They are seeking a refund from Charlestown in the amount of \$42,000.00. Commissioner Gell asked if the lots would be sold to a new builder would they pay the hook up fee? Yes. Commissioner Gell moved that we refund the connection fees for the three lots, Commissioner Confalone seconded, approved 3-0.

**Decoy Auction Proceeds** – Guyette and Deeter, Inc. sold the second of our decoys for a gross price of \$8,000. After commission and insurance payments we netted \$7,100.00

**Memorial Marker** - Commissioner Gell brought up the fact that Mr. McMullen passed away this past week. He suggests that we place a marker at the location of two white oak trees near the cemetery. The consensus was to agree.

**Slip Tax Court Case** - Commissioner Confalone announced that there is a settlement conference on January 28<sup>th</sup> for the ongoing court case. The Commissioners are to be in attendance or give someone authority to speak for the town. We have one more meeting before the settlement conference.

**Period of Public Comment**

Jeff Fields – The stop sign that is being run in Trinity Woods is at a bus stop for children. Cars are running the stop sign and moving at a high rate of speed as well. Commissioner Letts said that the Sherriff's Department is aware and they will deal with the problem.

No further comments

Commissioner Confalone moved to adjourn the meeting with a second by Commissioner Gell. Approved 3-0.

*Respectfully submitted by: Debbie Myers, town clerk*