

**TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND
January 28, 2014**

The Town meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM opened by President Robert Gell. Commissioners present were Renee Capano, Kenneth Confalone, Joseph Letts, and Bruce Hechmer.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dakota Strong, BSA 367

Approval of the Minutes – January 14, 2014 –Commissioner Confalone motioned to approve the minutes, Commissioner Letts seconded. All were in favor, approved 5 – 0.

Accounts Payable Review – Commissioner Letts motioned to approve, Commissioner Confalone seconded. All were in favor, approved 5 – 0.

2014 Municipal Pier Boat Slip Selection Process and Rental Fees- Commissioner Hechmer motioned to approve an increase in the fees for the municipal pier from \$400 to \$700 over 3 years with a \$100 increase each year. He also suggested that there be a public meeting including all the current slip holders and the ones that are on the waiting list and discuss the possible change in the procedure of how a slip holder is selected for the 2015 season. Commissioner Letts had stated that we had been raising the fee by about \$50 a year. Commissioner Capano stated that she researched the history and found out that \$100K from the pier account was taken out for the C-dock. She asked how much money is really needed in that account for any improvements. Commissioner Capano said that based on the ordinance the money raised can only be used for improvements for the pier. Mr. Pumpaly said that ice heaters are approximately \$700 each. Commissioner Confalone stated that the additional money is needed to upgrade the pier with a fire suppression system and stand pipes. He feels that we need to make that pier as safe as possible and that he is not sure that the money in that account cannot be used for fire suppression system and safety such as police patrol. Commissioner Capano asked Mr. Pumpaly if he could check what the money can be used for. After much discussion among the commissioners; commissioner Hechmer motioned to increase the fee to \$580.00 or \$60 more for the next 3 years. Commissioner Confalone seconded. Mr. Pumpaly stated that most boat slip fees at municipal piers in Maryland range from \$650 to \$800. Motioned was approved 4 – 1. Commissioner Capano opposed.

Disposition of Duck Decoys – Commissioner Confalone started a discussion concerning the decoys. He stated that we have had the decoys for a while and it should be decided what to do with them. During the discussion, the commissioner decided that another appraiser is needed. Commissioner Letts said that he would take them for the appraisal to a reliable appraisal that is known to him. It was also suggested that Mr. Pumpaly ask Mr. Bob Phillips what would be the cost for him to make a display case for the decoys that would attach to the wall.

Church Property Review & Up-date –Commissioner Gell stated that it is unclear who owns the church building. Commissioner Confalone said that he feels it is clear that the church building was left to the “Presbyterian Congregation and their successors and assigns.” If church has an issue, it is not with the Town but with the Presbyterian Church. After much discussion, Commissioner Hechmer stated he would review all the documents again and let the other commissioners know what he finds.

Maintenance Observations – Commissioner Capano said that she spent 1 ½ hours with each of the maintenance staff and made some observations. She asked if Mr. Pumpaly would look into getting rubber baffles to aid in keeping the snow off of the windshield while plowing snow and having extra wiper blades at the shop.

Town Administrator's Report

Old Business

- Charlestown Parking Permit Up-date. All signage has been ordered and signs for Chesapeake service are complete. The parking permits for resident and non-resident have also been received. Mr. Pumpaly stated that once the weather is better the signs can be placed.
- Mr. Pumpaly compared the franchise agreement from Chesapeake Utilities for the county to what we might ask for the town. Commissioner Confalone said that the agreement with the county is only for \$20K and he does not feel that there is enough economic benefit to the Town to spend much money creating an agreement with the Town attorney. It was decided that Commissioner Hechmer was going to work the agreement with Mr. Pumpaly and allow the commissioners to review it at a later time.
- Town Election 2014 Mr. Pumpaly stated that the last day to register to vote or to become a candidate is on Friday, January 31st. Election Day is March 4th, 7am to 7pm.
- Request for Proposals (RFP) – for the Electronic Slide Gate. Mr. Pumpaly stated that he is working on the notice and will have it completed shortly.

New Business

- Columbaria Options; Mr. Pumpaly defined a columbaria as a chamber or wall in which urns containing the ashes of the dead are stored. He presented many different options of styles and sizes and prices. Commissioner Confalone said that he thinks that this is where the future is going. Commissioner Hechmer feels that most people he knows that wish to be cremated, are being cremated to have their ashes spread, not put in an urn. Commissioner Hechmer said that he thinks we should expand the cemetery first. Commissioner Letts stated that if there is money to be spent, that something should be done at Long Point Park with the shore erosion. Commissioner Capano said the state was here and it is not erosion but a run off problem. Discussion followed as to how to best handle this situation.

Period of Public Comment:

- Dennis Taylor asked what was going to happen in bad weather when you are parking cars in the lot. "It is going to chew up the lot".
- Prosper Boudart asked if Chesapeake Utilities stated how many interested residents it would need to bring the gas down a street. Commissioner Confalone said, during their meeting with them, they were not able to pin them down on that. Chesapeake utilities are interested in new development, not necessarily converting customers.
- Chris Capano asked what happens to the weekend traveler since they will not be able to buy a parking pass on the weekend. "How will someone that hasn't been here before, know where the parking is?" Commissioner Hechmer stated that there will be signs to direct them to the lots. Commissioner Hechmer stated that he is not that concerned with tourist but his concerns are our residents.

President Gell motioned to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Letts seconded it. Meeting adjourned.