

TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND

February 11, 2014

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

Pledge of Allegiance was led by: Marshall Perner

Approval of the Minutes of January 28, 2014 – Commissioner Letts motioned to approve the minutes and Commissioner Capano seconded. All were in favor, approved 4 – 0.

Accounts Payable Review: The accounts payable were presented. Commissioner Letts motioned to approve and commissioner Hechmer seconded. All were in favor, approved 4 – 0.

Miller Environmental Report – Mr. Robert Corn presented the monthly water treatment plant operations and maintenance report for January. They performed routine and requested activities as well as the semi-annual withdrawal report, in which the commissioners were given a copy. Commissioner Capano questioned if the tower was full in case of loss of power due to the impending storm. Mr. Corn stated the tower is always maintained at a 90 -95% capacity. Commissioner Hechmer asked about the performed blue poly pipe inspection. Mr. Corn explained that it is a type of pipe that was used and has been known to fail. If a leak is suspected to be caused by the poly pipe; Miller inspects it and the resident is allowed to submit for a partial credit on the sewer portion of their water bill from the county. He explained this is a one-time credit as it is recommended to replace the entire portion of the blue poly pipe, as not to cause another leak.

Ice House “Concept Planning” Discussion – Commissioner Hechmer suggested that the commissioners think about what they would like to do about finishing the Ice House. He suggests that possible the commissioners could come to the next meeting with some ideas as to how to complete the restoration and what they would like it used for. Commissioner Hechmer suggests that having a plan will help us when we request grants to fund the project.

Habitats for Humanity Up-date - Commissioner Capano updated the commissioners that the Habitat for Humanity has finally gotten the approval for the tax credit but that they are experiencing a \$32K shortfall which is holding them up in getting the house started. They hope to start in March and are looking for volunteers. Commissioner Capano asked the town clerk to put the request for volunteers on the website and share it with the town distribution e-mail list.

Cecil Co. Sheriff's Report – January – Sgt. Schmidt presented the report for January. Commissioner Letts requested that Sgt. Schmidt compile a report of cases that were handled in the last fiscal year in Charlestown and what cases open, solved or closed.

Town Administrators Report

Old Business

- Methodist Church, Lot 53 and other Church related issues. Mr. Pumpaly presented the memorandum from the Town's attorney, Dennis S. Clower. It states that the ownership of some of the parcels is not clear. The commissioners agreed that they are willing to do a quit claim deed to the United Methodist church for the land that the parsonage is built on. And that they do not want to cut the grass that is associated with the church, or parsonage; only the cemetery grass. There was some discussion concerning the other parcels. President Gell stated that they should wait for the church trustees to respond with what they are asking and then proceed.
- Duck Decoy Final Disposition Discussion- Mr. Pumpaly discussed the possibility of selling the decoys or putting them in a case to display them. He had contacted Mr. Robert Phillips to request a quote for making a display case. Mr. Phillips was present and stated that he is working on the quote and is researching what kind of glass would be appropriate. Mr. Pumpaly has also been in contact with Mr. Vincenti, who has given a quote on the decoys and he is present this evening. Mr. Vincenti said that he feels that the decoys are very valuable and would bring a "good price, as he has sold others." Mr. Vincenti stated that he has sold 6 decoys in the last six years similar to the decoys that the Town has. He stated that they (the decoys) are made in Havre de Grace in 1890 to 1900's are very rare and are in the original paint. Mr. Vincenti's advice to the Town is to sell 3 of the decoys and use the money to continue the restoration of the Ice House and to restore 2 of them to be displayed in the Ice House. Commissioner Hechmer stated that "my idea, since these are not Charlestown decoys, but just found in Charlestown" that most residents would rather they be sold and the money used for a purpose in town then to be kept in a display case. Mr. Vincenti stated that even though they are not made in Charlestown, they are tied to the Barnes family of Charlestown, which is known across the county to decoy enthusiast. Commissioner Gell says that he feels that we would be doing a disservice to our residents to sell them all, since we have lost a lot of our history already. Commissioner Letts also agreed that these decoys are tied to Charlestown.

New Business

- Mr. Pumpaly presented the commissioners with the Municipal pier waiting list for 2014, numbered, so that it is easy to see what position everyone is in. He is proposing that a letter go out to the 56 on the waitlist and let them know that there is another Town owned pier with more amenities that they may be interested in renting until they secure a slip on the Municipal Pier. Commissioner Capano questioned why it couldn't be open to all of the Marinas in Charlestown? Commissioner Hechmer agreed and it was decided to allow any and all of the marinas access to the names on the list to see if there is interest in renting a slip.
- Mr. Pumpaly stated that the previous meeting the commissioners decided to raise the municipal boat slips fees \$60 a year for 3 years and to impose a 5% slip tax not to exceed \$100 per annum, authorized by Charlestown Ordinance 2011-01, as amended August 2012 & the annotated code of Maryland Section 9-605, Article 24. The increases were

approved by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and are necessary to assure adequate revenue will be available for the future maintenance of the facility.

Additionally, the Town will need to purchase at least six new ice-eaters to protect the pier & pilings from winter ice damage and the dock is to be equipped this year with strategically placed fire extinguishers for safety of the boaters renting slips on the pier.

- January Budget Review- Mr. Pumpaly presented to the commissioners the January cash balance review, accounts receivable review. He also reviewed the building permits of which there were four but not any for new houses.

Public comment:

Debbie Fields commented that residents should remove their vehicles from the streets so that the plows have adequate space to plow and that if they cannot remove them that they should expect that they may be plowed in, since the plows cannot always help it. Commissioner Capano said she saw residents coming out and moving cars when they saw the plows coming down their street.

President Gell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm and Commissioner Letts seconded it. All were in favor, 4 – 0. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm

Respectfully submitted by: Janine Antoshak, town clerk