

TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND

April 8, 2014

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

Pledge of Allegiance was led by the commissioners

Approval of the Minutes of March 25, 2014: Commissioner Gell motioned to approve the minutes and Commissioner Confalone seconded it. All were in favor, approved 4 – 0.

Accounts payable: Commissioner Confalone motioned to approve the accounts payable report in the amount of \$30,699.20, last updated at 5:01pm this evening. Commissioner Gell seconded, all were in favor, approved 4 – 0.

Miller Environmental March Report- Robert Corn presented the March water report.

Cecil County Sheriff's Report was reviewed by the commissioners for February.

Ice House Renovations/Proposed use - President Hechmer stated that he has given each commissioner his thoughts and had asked them for their input on how the town should proceed with the proposed renovations of the Ice House. Commissioner Confalone said that he thinks they should move forward with getting an estimate on the cost of renovation. He stated that this project started as a preservation project and the roof that was put on is not consistent with the historic character of the building. He also suggested that we get our Historic Commission involved and also seek citizen involvement. Commissioner Capano state that she agrees with getting the estimate but is not sure that this is the time to move forward based on other projects, such as street repair that is needed due to the damage sustained over this winter.

Commissioner Gell stated that Delegate Rudolph would like to meet next Tuesday to discuss the Ice House as well as other topics “and maybe there would be funds available”.

President Hechmer stated that the purpose of the estimate is to know what is needed so when pursuing grants we can present a plan of why we want the grant.

President Hechmer advised the commissioners of the hearing on Tuesday at 9:00am at the Court house.

Proposed 107 House Information Sign- President Hechmer stated that there will be a sign placed at the 107 House to allow people who pass by to know that it is a historic house that can be visited during certain hours or by appointment. Commissions Confalone and Capano stated that there had been a sandwich board sign that they would put out when the house was open.

Fannie Mae Backed Securities/Proposed change- Commissioner Confalone explained that this provides us with additional protection and additional 2% interest. Commissioner Confalone motioned to change our terms of security pledge with Cecil Bank as stated. Commissioner Gell seconded and all were in favor, approved 4-0.

Town Administrator's Report

Old Business:

Water appropriation & use permit Artesian Water Maryland – Mr. Pumpaly stated that the Maryland Department of the Environment approved the well #3 with Artesian as they found it to meet the criteria for use and appropriation.

Boat Ramp gate bid Review – Mr. Pumpaly presented the bids received for a gate system. He stated that it seems that the barrier arm system is most appropriate for our boat ramp area as a sliding gate take up an extensive amount of space. It also appears that the difference in bids is based on the access system used to operate the gate. Commissioner Confalone stated that this should be discussed on Thursday, when we are at the budget work session. Commissioner Gell stated that he doesn't think "this is money well spent." President Hechmer feels it is too late to implement this program this year anyway.

Long Point Shore Restoration up-date – Mr. Pumpaly updated the commissioners on the project at Long Point Shore Restoration; He advised that he has received two out of the four bids that he is expecting. The amounts are \$89K to \$92K. He would like to wait for the other bids to come in to decide what to do. Also, Commissioner Confalone and Mr. Pumpaly have applied for a bond from the department of housing and community development for \$125K. "We may not hear an answer until late June."

At 7:25 Sgt. Schmidt arrived and presented the Sheriff's report for March. There were 26 shifts covered for the month of March with various offenses and community contact. Sgt. Schmidt said that with the weather breaking that they will be do more speed checks. Commissioner Capano asked Sgt. Schmidt about pursuing juveniles as she had addressed before, Sgt. Schmidt said that it would have to be for enforcement of a town ordinance, not the County's. Commissioner Capano said there is a town ordinance about juveniles and curfews.

Tennis Court Refurbishment Up-date- Mr. Pumpaly reminded the commissioners of a grant that the town received from the DNR, Parks and Community grants for playgrounds for \$78K. He reviewed the quote and feels that we will be able to refurbish the tennis/pickle ball courts and the basketball courts and possible the gates around them. The time frame for the work is to begin in late spring.

For the record, President Hechmer read a text from Joe Letts that stated that he was not able to attend due to a hospital emergency for his grandson.

March budget/cash/accounts receivable review- Mrs. Fletcher reviewed the general fund and stated that a budget amendment is needed to put it in balance. She will work on that for the next meeting. The utility fund is negative but we just received some building permits that have brought it up, so hopefully we will get a few more. Some of the accounts that are over and may need budget amendment are parking area, parks, snow removal and streets. The commissioners did not have any additional questions. Mrs. Fletcher inquired to the commissioners concerning any additions for her to add for the budget meeting on Thursday, no one replied.

Mr. Pumpaly stated that there were 4 building permits for the month of March, two were from Ryan Homes.

Mr. Pumpaly asked the commissioner to complete a vote for the LGIT ballot. They completed it.

Public comment:

Although this issue was resolved in town hall today, Ms. Capano wanted to make the commissioners aware of this and asked if it could be put in writing. She stated that two slips on the Town Pier became available and the Gordon's and the Capano's received a phone call that they came up on the list. When she received the call she was told that she needed to pay the fee right away and she feels that the time restraint was unacceptable. President Hechmer stated that each slip holder will have 30 days from the date they are notified to pay for their slip and that it will be noted on the paper work they receive when they accept the slip.

Resident Joe would like to thank the commissioners for the additional doggie waste stations around town. And he advised the commissioners that the old waste station was out of bags. The town clerk replied that it would be taken care of immediately.

At 7:45pm Commissioner Capano motioned to go into executive session for the discussion of litigation. All were in favor, motion carried and commissioners entered into a closed executive session.

Respectfully submitted by: Janine Antoshak, town clerk