

TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND
May 26, 2015

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

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Nick Strong.

Savannah Bennett read her essay "If I Were Mayor". Savannah was the District 10 winner in the MML State sponsored contest. Savannah was presented with a certificate and a gift card from the town. Savannah was invited to remain at the table and co-conduct the meeting with President Letts.

Approval of the Minutes of May 12, 2015 Commissioner Hechmer moved to approve, Commissioner Capano seconded. Approved 5-0.

Accounts Payable Review May 26, 2015—Accounts payable in the amount of \$14,792.11 was presented for payment. Commissioner Gell moved to accept, Commissioner Hechmer seconded. Approved 5-0

Presentation of the 2015-2016 Town Budget – Commissioner Confalone pointed out that aged accounts receivable are paid and done with the exception of the boat user and storage fees. There is no tax increase necessary for the coming year. This Budget does not have in it any monies for the Boat user and storage fees as the amount owed is in litigation. Commissioner Confalone thanked Tom Jones, Janine Antoshak and Wib Pumpaly for their work on the budget to bring it to fruition. Commissioner Confalone moved to adopt by ordinance 15-02 the budget for the coming year. Approved 5-0. Commissioner Capano mentioned the new Supreme Court ruling disallowing the "piggy back" tax. We may in the future be impacted by this.

Water Meter Replacement (Residential and Commercial) During the budget process this year took into consideration the current meters in our water system are aging and will begin to fail. We have set aside \$80,000.00 for the coming year to begin the process of replacing meters systematically. Commissioner Hechmer is in favor of this program. The first of the meters to be looked at will be the commercial meters.

Preliminary Review – Long Point Project –Ron Carpenter from Carpenter Engineering gave an update on the work to date on the Long Point Revetment project. The scope of the project encompasses 2,750 square feet. We need to stay above the mean high tide line. It also has been suggested that storm water runoff from Conestoga Street may be causing a portion of the damage. This seems to actually be a very small portion of the damage to the bank. Mr. Carpenter presented two options. Either one would need a buffer management plan because it is located in the buffer zone. Underneath the stone would be a lining that would be non-degradable. The first concept puts stone all the way to the top, the second would be partially up the slope and then backfilled with topsoil which would reclaim some of the lost soil. The existing soils are highly erodible, sloughing down as the earth below is washed out. Mr. Carpenter answered questions of the commissioners. He is seeking feedback on which plan to go with before developing the final renderings. The decision will be made at the next meeting after some further thought and discussion.

Cat Crusaders Trap/ Neuter/ Return We have done 30 cats 17 female 13 males 3 were not returned 4 kittens (and another 5) were also not returned. They will continue to work until they have captured all the feral cats. They hope to have the program under control in the next couple of months. The beginning estimate was

for 60 cats and we are about half way there. The costs will be reduced in future years as the population is contained. The consensus is that the program should continue going forward.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

Extension of a Town Street Planning and Zoning wrestled with this issue. There are some residents who would like to park in front of their house on land belonging to the town. During the winter this creates ruts and makes the property look unsightly. A number of residents have asked if they might be able to pave the side of the road (town property) or put down pavers. Two properties on Conestoga Street have already done this. The consensus is that if the town needs to “dig up” the property it would be on the homeowners burden to repair or replace. Commissioner Capano said that this issue was brought up before and the consensus was that the surface would need to be pavers. The town would not accept the maintenance of this surfacing. Ursula Boudart suggested that sidewalks and gutters might help this. Many comments from the gallery were not necessarily in favor of this allowance. Mr. Carpenter cautioned that the surface should be up to the standard of the road it adjoined. The consensus is that this would be allowed and that Planning and Zoning would be responsible for the makeup of the surfaces and the configuration.

Repairs to Town Streets Mr. Pumpaly introduced the street projects he intends to do this summer. Two streets and 14 potholes. Mr. Pumpaly was advised to advertise for bids for the project.

Holloway Beach Sewer Project Mr. Pumpaly has been contacted by the county and they are seriously considering installing sewer lines. A meeting is set for tomorrow with the county to discuss this. Mr. Carpenter will be attendance to represent our interests.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Mr. Niles Garrison, a worker for the town, asked for a third man to be added to the maintenance crew. Mr. Garrison also asked for a copy of maintenance budget. There is no such thing. The maintenance budget is divided between salaries, streets, parks and such.

Ms. Rosalyn Bott asked about the 80,000 earmarked for meters. The money will be taken from the sewer account.

Ms. Mary Carol Durange thanked the town for the ad included in the Perryville yearbook.

Ms. Pauline Bryant thanked the Commissioners for the Foot Log path. It is fabulous. The next issue is that there were many cars this weekend without parking permits. Conestoga Street is loaded with fireworks. Some of these are legal. Also we have too many ducks, is there a law to prohibit feeding them? Not that we know of.

Ms. Joanne Peterson The rain tax was repealed will that affect our water bills? No we pay a flush tax not a rain tax. Will the new meters help address this issue? Yes. 723 Calvert got a permit to pave their driveway and now the street has ice every winter. She desires a speed limit sign or can we keep our potholes to slow them down. Policing showed not a very big problem. A speeding problem was not detected during a police presence.

Commissioner Confalone moved to adjourn, Commissioner Gell seconded. Approved 5-0

Respectfully submitted by: Debbie Myers, Town Clerk I

Approved June 9, 2015