

## **TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING**

CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND

MAY 27, 2014

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

Pledge of Allegiance was led by: Nick Strong of BSA troop 367

Approval of the Minutes - Commissioner Letts motioned to approve the minutes of May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and Commissioner Gell seconded and all were in favor. Approved 5 – 0.

Accounts Payable – Commissioner Confalone adjusted the amount by adding a check for \$4731.20 paid to McGuirk Construction for black top paving. The total of accounts payable is \$11, 6060.01. Commissioner Confalone motioned to approve the accounts payable and Commissioner Gell seconded. All were in favor, approved 5 – 0.

Charlestown Cemetery Memorial Flags – Commissioner Hechmer stated that Mr. Pete Williams arranged for the US Army 29<sup>th</sup> Division Association to have a 21 gun salute and the playing of taps for Memorial Day at the Cemetery. All of the commissioners and some residents were in attendance. He wanted to thank Mr. Williams for that and also for the purchase of the flags for the graves. Mr. Nelson McCall and his children Shannon and Heisler placed the flags on the graves.

Open Discussion – President Hechmer stated that he became aware that over the holiday weekend, one of the commissioners asked one of the maintenance men to turn on water that had been shut off due to lack of payment. President Hechmer stated that it should not happen as the commissioners do not have authority to ask an employee to come in. It could put the town at risk and liability if the worker gets hurt since only the president and the town administrator can ask an employee to do something. Commissioner Capano stated that she had called Mr. Pumpaly and Mrs. Fletcher and received no answer. She stated that she did not try to call President Hechmer. She stated that the residents do not usually pay late but it was an oversight and that is why she pursued getting the water back on for them after their payment was received. Mr. Pumpaly stated that he was available via his home phone. Regardless, President Hechmer said it would be avoided by not having water shut off on a Friday, especially of a holiday weekend. Mr. Pumpaly stated that if he would have been aware of the situation he would have instructed the town employee to turn the water back on also.

President Hechmer shared his observations concerning the effectiveness of the parking passes this past weekend. He said he saw cars parked illegally including a 20 person van with a large cargo trailer with California tags. He called Chesapeake towing who came and warned people on

the beach to move their cars if they were not displaying a parking tag. Many did but a few didn't and Chesapeake Towing towed a vehicle. President Hechmer thought the parking pass program was working and said that some residents that were present when Chesapeake Towing was there thanked the driver for being there. Commissioner Confalone stated that he saw "pretty much" the same thing and that he thought the presence of the towing company was freeing up spaces for the residents. The only thing Commissioner Confalone thought could be added is a directional sign to parking lot B. Commissioner Gell asked if we open the town to exposure by allowing the tow truck driver to determine who gets towed and who doesn't. President Hechmer answered "no". Commissioner Capano advised the board that she is asking for permission to show the movie "Goonies" on July 12<sup>th</sup> and "The Lego movie" on August 9 at the athletic complex. She also is getting a donation of material from Gore to use on the back stop for the screen. That way she does not need to rent a blow up screen. This will also be a drug awareness event. She also said that she is going to allow some non-profit organizations to sell items as a fundraiser. Commissioner Capano asked what the Town's policy on a house is without electricity, but power being run by a generator. President Hechmer stated that he does not think the Town has "any right to do anything about it."

## **Town Administrators Report**

### **Old Business**

- Slip tax Case – Scheduling Order; Mr. Pumpaly presented a document from Dennis Clower, Esq, concerning the litigation and the civil track of the case.
- Commissioner Capano asked about NERM and their lease. Mr. Pumpaly said that they have been given the lease to review. President Hechmer said that he is handling the negotiations and that he has given them until the end of the month. Commissioner Gell stated that "doesn't it need to come here for discussion?" President Hechmer said "no". Commissioner Capano stated that that it "should be brought up in front of the Board" that it states in the charter that "no commissioner is allowed to act on behalf of the town by himself". President Hechmer said that if he "gets the lease back, we will have a discussion, if we don't get the lease back we will have to decide whether we go to court or whether we let them not pay and use the slips".
- Draft Ordinance 2014-01 Mr. Pumpaly referenced the draft ordinance and advised the commissioners that is the same as the one two years ago. It allows the town to seek bonds from the department of housing for the repayment of "C" dock to the utility fund and for the restoration of the shore line at Long Point Park. It is not to exceed three hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$380,000). Mr. Pumpaly asked that all the commissioners review it and specifically President Hechmer and Commissioner Confalone consider it as they are the signers.
- Notice of Public Hearing to consider Authorizing Public Debt – Mr. Pumpaly stated that a notice of the public hearing will need to be decided at least 10 days before the proposed date. Commissioner Confalone stated that we need to wait until we know if we are getting the money and the interest rate so that it can be presented correctly at the public hearing. Commissioner Gell stated that the public hearing comes first and then the Ordinance is considered by the commissioners.

## **New Business**

- Use of Fireworks within Town Limits – Mr. Pumpaly stated that there were some resident complaints about fireworks. He referenced an ordinance 1975-03 concerning disturbances of the peace. There was discussion and it was decided to put information in the chatter concerning the State law and the fire marshal consideration. Commissioner Letts questioned what kind of fireworks were legal.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Maryland Regiment, Hats, and uniforms, 10 guns – Mr. Pumpaly stated that he has been made aware that there are uniforms and guns from the Colonial 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment for sale. Pauline Bryant, owner of the uniforms and guns, distributed pictures of them to the commissioners. She stated that she is selling the guns for \$650 apiece and she would give the uniforms with the purchase of the guns. She has approximately 8 to 10 of them. President Hechmer asked if she would consider donating them to the Town and she answered “no”. She stated that they did not have to decide this evening. There was discussion among the commissioners.

## **Period of Public Comment**

Rens Swan – Mr. Swan stated that he was put on the waitlist for a boat slip in 2002 and has come in various years and has found his name removed from the list several times. President Hechmer, after stating that he was not a commissioner then and did not know why that would happen, suggested that things are done differently now and that he wishes to revamp how the boat slips are distributed. Mr. Pumpaly stated that when he was aware of the situation, he had the clerk add Mr. Swan to the waitlist, which he is now on.

Dennis Taylor – Mr. Taylor stated that after the first holiday weekend it seems that the parking permits are doing what they intended but he feels it can be tweaked. First, he asked if someone launches and goes out for overnight, where might they park. Commissioner Gell asked why it was determined that parking lot B did not allow overnight parking.

Commissioner Letts said it is because of liability to the Town. Commissioner Gell suggested if it was listed as “park at your own risk”? Mr. Taylor asked about handicap parking and if it “trumps” the town parking pass, it was answered “no”, a town parking pass is always required.

Mr. Taylor also asked about the no parking signs at Frederick and Caroline Streets. Mr. Pumpaly said they have been there for 20 years.

Rosalyn Bott- no comment

Lori Wankel – Asked why the slips that the Wellwood leases, can’t be used as the town slips and, why does he have 52 and the town only has 34? Commissioner Gell stated that it is all the money that the State gave us to build the marina for the town. Commissioner Confalone explained that they are two different entities and because they were built with the money from the State, we can only raise them by low incremental standards, while the other slips are priced at market value. That is why our Town slips are filled quickly and have a long waitlist, as opposed to the slips that are allowed to charge the price the market can bear.

President Hechmer addressed Mrs. Wankel concerning an e-mail that she sent to him. He explained what he had found out from a former commissioner concerning the naming of Veterans Park. It seems all the commissioners, at the time, came up with names for the Park and one was Veterans Park. It was decided to name the Park "Veterans Park" to honor all veterans. Mrs. Wankel questioned Commissioner Capano about the resident that was working on the website? Commissioner Capano stated that the resident is a volunteer but she hoped that she would know more in the next few weeks.

Pauline Bryant – Questioned if the town would consider putting in a dog park? Commissioner Confalone said he thought it is a good idea as it would socialize the dogs and they would be less yippy.

President asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Letts motioned and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm, all were in favor.

*Respectfully submitted by: Janine Antoshak, town clerk*