

TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND

June 10, 2014

The Town Meeting was called to order by President Bruce Hechmer at 7:00pm. Commissioners present were Ken Confalone, and Joseph Letts, Renee Capano and Robert Gell were absent due the Maryland Municipal League Convention in Ocean City, Maryland.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by: Ursula Boudart

Approval of the Minutes of May 27, 2014 – Commissioner Confalone motioned to approve the minutes and Commissioner Letts seconded. All were in favor, approved 3 – 0.

Miller Environmental May Report – Robert Corn was not available as he was requested to work in Western Maryland. Mr. Pumpaly presented the report for the month of May. Mr. Pumpaly also noted that there will not be anymore sewer credits for pool fills as per the county.

Cecil County Sheriff's Report – Sgt. Ron Schmidt presented the report for May. Commissioner Letts reported on his requested study on speeders in Charlestown. He said the Officers started with radar in Cool Springs, since that is where complaints were reported. They reported 1 out of 7 cars speeding. Mr. Letts stated that the officers will be continuing to monitor speeds through June. Sgt. Schmidt stated that they have changed and will continue to change locations and times frequently, as to avoid drivers being tipped off by neighbors. Commissioner Letts wanted to remind everyone that anyone that is speeding can get a ticket no matter who they are or who they know, even commissioners. President Hechmer stated that he thinks the dumpster that is sitting on a straight away in the Cool Springs development is slowing drivers down, but when it is removed, cars will begin to speed again. Sgt. Schmidt said he also was on Water Street and he felt the stop signs are slowing cars down. Commissioner Letts said “the goal is not to write a bunch of tickets but to slow them down and protect the kids...”

North East River Marina Lease – President Hechmer presented to the Commissioners' a copy of the lease between the town and the North East River Marina. He stated that it is the same lease as before except he “tweaked it” and added some “legal teeth” in case they would break their promise. Also a 30% increase over the previously lease. The lease is from January 01, 2014 to December 31, 2015. Commissioner Confalone stated that he feels the Town should be happy with the new lease as it is shorter and is increased 30%. He also made a motion to adopt the lease as written and Commissioner Letts seconded. All were in favor, motion approved 3 -0.

Electronic Boat Ramp Gate Discussion – President Hechmer stated that he needs to delay discussion on the electronic boat ramp as he has just received some information and has not had enough time to review it.

Town Administrator's Report

Old Business

Repairs to 630 Water Street – Mr. Pumpaly showed some pictures of 630 Water Street of some repairs that are necessary due to the installation of the new heating and air conditioning system last September. He stated that he had thought that he would have the town maintenance workers do the repairs but they don't have the time. He asked if an outside contractor could be hired to come in and complete the work. Commissioner Letts stated that he thought this should have been done before now. He made a motion to have the work done by an outside source and Commissioner Confalone seconded. All were in favor, approved 3 – 0. There was discussion between the commissioners and it was decided that the tenant should not have to wait any longer for repairs. President Hechmer motioned to hire Steve Lewis and Company for the job, since he has done most of the work in that house. Commissioner Letts seconded, and all were in favor, approved , 3 – 0.

Ordinance 2014-01 & notice of public hearing – Mr. Pumpaly stated that this proposed Ordinance 2014-01 will enable the town to borrow from the Department of Housing and Community Housing. This money will go towards repairs to the shore line at Long Point and be used to repay for the asset for C-dock. This ordinance has been reviewed by DHCD and Mr. Pumpaly and Commissioner Confalone (treasurer) and tweaked back and forth. It requires a public hearing before it can be signed. After discussion, it was decided that the public hearing will be on Wednesday, June 25th at 7:00pm at the fire hall.

New Business

May Budget Review – Mr. Pumpaly presented the May Budget Review.

May building permits – Mr. Pumpaly stated that we had 20 building permits, of which 3 were new homes in Cool Springs.

Pool Fill Credits – Mr. Pumpaly stated that the commissioner had a copy of an e-mail stating that the county will no longer give a sewer credit for pool fills.

Post Office Meeting – Mr. Pumpaly stated that he just received notice today that there will be a meeting at the post office on Tuesday, August 12 at 12:00noon. Every address in the 21914 zip code should receive a survey by mail and if they do not they can pick one up at the post office after July 22.

URS report for generators – Mr. Pumpaly reviewed the results of a study that URS completed concerning generators for the Town's water and/or sewer system. He went on the state that the cost for water system generators and sewer system generators is \$269,650. If we would interconnect with Artesian and have the generator for the sewer system, the total would be \$246,480. Mr. Pumpaly also said that it should be kept in mind that the estimate of water needed when all the annexed areas of town are built out will be a projected 16,400 gpd deficit. He suggested that for the future we look into well #3. Mr. Pumpaly stated that URS would like to

come to a meeting to present their findings and explain what they found. President Hechmer suggested that the entire board take some time to review it and at a later time, “we can have a meaningful discussion”.

Public Comment:

Prosper Boudart stated that he is concerned about all the “ratty looking properties on Market Street.” They have high grass and trash all around. He stated that this issue needs to be addressed.

Ursula Boudart agreed and cited Ordinance 02-75 and it talks about the same issue and as to what will happen. She feels that this ordinance needs to be upgraded, needs to address it seriously, “put teeth into it”. This may require a code enforcement officer.

Mr. Pumpaly stated that he has been working on this property for years. It has been difficult contacting the owners or someone to do anything about it. Many people were joining in on the discussion. It was said that there are bales of hay in the front yard. It was also stated that they are putting furniture under the front porch and there is an open pool in the back yard. It was also stated that at times, there are dogs and animals in the house. Commissioner Letts questioned as to what authorities had been called. President Hechmer stated that he will have Mr. Pumpaly continue to work on this house and all the other houses that are unkempt.

Mrs. Wankel inquired why there is not any restricted parking at athletic field. Mr. Hechmer stated that there is not a problem there.

Mrs. Lilly stated that it is very tough for people with wheel chairs and special needs children on the sidewalks.

Someone asked how often it the town being sprayed for mosquitoes? She was answered that we weren’t completely sure of the schedule but that we adhere to the schedule set forth by the county.

Rosalyn Bott asked what is happening with the decoys. President Hechmer stated that two of them are going to auction this summer/fall and that the others are in the safe. Ms. Bott asked about the guns from last meeting? President answered that there was not more discussion about the guns or uniforms. He stated that the money from the auction, as long as the reserve is met, will go to the restoration of the Ice House.

Commissioner Letts stated that this is “an opportunity to do something with history for history.” A woman asked if we are seeing an influx of heroin in this area. President Hechmer stated that he attended a forum concerning drug abuse in Cecil County and that the problem is being addressed.

It was suggested that we have a community and beach clean-up day.

Commissioner Confalone added that the town trash bill is going up 10%. If we could get more residents to recycle the cost would not go up. In our town only 17% of residents recycle. We have single stream recycling that allows you to put glass and paper and everything together in the same container. He thinks we need to encourage more residents to recycle.

President Hechmer motioned to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Letts seconded it. All were in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Janine Antoshak, town clerk