

TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND

June 24, 2014

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

Pledge of Allegiance was led by: Dan Ruppert

Approval of the Minutes of June 10, 2014 – were not approved due to Joe Letts absence.

Accounts Payable Review: Commissioner Confalone motioned to approve the accounts payable and Commissioner Capano seconded it. All were in favor, approved 4 – 0.

Cool Springs Sinkhole Discussion – Mr. Pumpaly discussed the sink hole that has developed in front of 126 Cool Springs Road. He had it filled approximately 6 weeks ago but after a heavy rain it came back and is becoming larger. Mr. Pumpaly requested URS, the town engineering firm, to inspect it. They executed at “confined space entry” with a video camera and discovered that the storm water pipe and the concrete basin seal is not water tight, and it is pulling fines in from the surrounding dirt, thus making the sink hole. Mr. Pumpaly stated that we have taken ownership of Phase I approximately 1 ½ years ago. Although we are not seeing any other sink holes at this time, he is concerned that there are many of these connections and if they fail we will have many sink holes to repair. The cost of the repair is approximately \$3000 a day and he stated that it should be able to be repaired in one day. Commissioner Confalone stated that all five of the commissioners were present when the URS video of the exploration was shown. Commissioner Confalone motioned to approve the repair of this sink hole and Commissioner Gell seconded it. All were in favor, approved 4-0.

President Hechmer stated that Mr. Pumpaly is also consulting with Maryland Rural Water to explore what may have caused the problem. President Hechmer determined that we should just move forward with our investigation to determine the cause of this sink hole.

Phase II Storm drain evaluation/inspections in Cool Springs –Mr. Pumpaly spoke briefly about the consideration of different evaluations/inspections by URS moving forward in the next phase of the development. Commissioner Capano questioned Mr. Pumpaly on sidewalks at 138 to 140 Cool Springs Road. Mr. Pumpaly stated that there are many reasons why that may happen. Commissioner Capano asked who was responsible to fix the sidewalks. President Hechmer stated that URS is coming to look at various sidewalks and it will have to be determined what is causing it.

Parking/Traffic Citations in Charlestown- Mr. Pumpaly wanted to discuss some of the things that we are doing/not doing concerning the sheriff writing tickets. He suggests that the deputies that are on patrol in our town could write parking citations. Mr. Pumpaly suggested that the fines that are on the ticket books we already have, are low and he was uncertain of the mechanism and procedure of the process of writing a ticket to collecting the fines. Commissioner Confalone

stated that the deputies responding to a dispute on Sunday were willing to enforce whatever we requested based on our ordinances. Commissioner Confalone stated that we do have an ordinance to back up writing tickets for a parking violation and if we have 7 or 8 ticket books, he thinks that we can use what we have. President Hechmer stated that he and Commissioner Letts are continuing to work on the best way to handle this.

Darla Ward explained what happened on Sunday when she had rented the Veterans Park Pavilion, and when she arrived, a family was using the pavilion and the tables and grill resulting in the party that had rented it to cook their food at their residence and bring chairs to sit on. Ms. Ward called Commissioner Capano who was unable to come to the park quickly but asked Commissioner Confalone, who came to Veterans Park immediately. The Cecil County Sheriff deputies responded as well. A compromise was reached but it was apparent that some changes need to be made concerning the park pavilion rental. Ms. Ward thanked the commissioner and Mr. Pumpaly for their help in the situation.

Town Administrator's Report

Old Business:

- Refurbishment of tennis/basketball courts update – the project is “moving along” and the color of the courts needs to be selected. Mr. Pumpaly displayed some color suggestions to the commissioners. It was decided to go with light green for the pickle ball/tennis court and maroon for the basketball court. Commissioner Capano shared what she had learned from the MML convention class concerning new ADA regulations. She stated that to comply with ADA standards for wheel chair accessible, there must be a pathway and it may not “touch” any grass. Mr. Pumpaly stated that we need to have the money to continue the path. Commissioner Hechmer stated that “there’s more to it” and he will look into it as there is parts of the path that is “too steep” and not suitable for a wheel chair.
- Review of parking permit distribution. Mr. Pumpaly stated that we have sold 24 non-resident passes (\$1200) and given 4 non-resident passes to office staff and water contractor. And we have given out 935 resident passes of which 24 to the Charlestown fire company. The passes cost \$775, so we have easily paid for them.
- Review of road work by McGuirk. Mr. Pumpaly gave the commissioners a list of the areas that remain to be completed yet. He also advised the commissioners that for what has been done; \$28,108 has been paid to McGuirk construction and \$4564 for black top, totaling \$32,672. Mr. Pumpaly feels that we should be staying on budget of \$58,000 for the streets project. He said there is a problem area at Calvert and Frederick Streets, where approximately 25’ of pipe will need to be replaced. Mr. Pumpaly stated that that may cost a bit more but that it needs to be done.

Commissioner Capano advised the commissioners that a former co-worker, who is the volunteer coordinator for the county, has a grant that she would like to see used in Charlestown. The amount is \$2500 and the county will match the grant. It needs to be for environmental stewardship and must take place in September. It was agreed upon to suggest projects that fit that criteria and the ideas would be given to the county volunteer coordinator so she can complete the grant application. Commissioner Capano and Mr. Pumpaly planned a meeting on Wednesday afternoon to complete the necessary information since it was due on Thursday.

Commissioner Capano stated the movie nights are July 12th and August 9th and are going to include drug awareness and the church and boy scouts are selling food as a fundraising project.

Public Comment:

Jeanetta Garrett stated that she loved the new signs that say “slow down, save a life”.

Darla Ward stated that she “loves” the commissioners.

Lori Wankel asked what the signs in Cool Springs were for. President Hechmer explained about the speeding problem in cool springs. She asked what was done on this side of town and President Hechmer replied that new stops signs were added on Water Street. Mrs. Wankel asked if anything can be done about the noise from the boaters coming thru town late and the people coming from the Wellwood parking lot late. She also brought up the issue that can't “college kids” be hired to give out the tickets. Commissioner Confalone said that only a “sworn officer” can write tickets.

President Hechmer said that he always invites residents to come to the meetings and give their input.

Mrs. Curry referred back to a previous meeting that mentioned that in the future the town will need to increase its water in the future. She asked why some of the money that she paid Ryan for could come to the town to support water. Mrs. Curry asked why recycling cans cannot be supplied by the town or the waste company Commissioner Confalone stated that it would be the town that would have to pay for the cans and that the budget has already been approved for the next year. Commissioner Capano said that she got her cans from free-cycle and that since she has started recycling she finds her family putting more in the recycle can than the trash can. She also stated that the cans that can be picked up by the arms on the truck are quicker than a man picking them up.

President Hechmer motioned to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Confalone seconded it. All were in favor, approved 4 – 0.

Respectfully submitted by: Janine Antoshak, town clerk