

TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND
September 22, 2015

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

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Nick Strong.

Approval of the Minutes of September 8, 2015 Commissioner Capano moved to approve, Commissioner Confalone seconded. Approved 4-0.

Accounts Payable Review September, 2015—Accounts payable was presented for payment the amount of \$25,296.51. Commissioner Confalone moved to accept, Commissioner Capano seconded. Approved 4-0

Complaint Log & (Cool Springs Parking Issues – Trevor Glaros) – Trevor Glaros accompanied by neighbors addressed the issue of parking and the narrowness of the streets in Cool Springs. He and his neighbors are concerned about emergency vehicles gaining access during an emergency. Much discussion ensued. Commissioner Letts is in agreement with their concern. They are also concerned about the Homeowner's Association and its inability to enforce the by-laws and having no accountability to the residents. The Commissioner's have no authority as far as the Homeowner's Association is concerned. The Commissioner's discussed some possible solutions to the parking problem. The resident's are asking for No Parking this side of the street at some places. They are concerned about snow removal as well. The streets have not been turned over to the Town yet in Section II, so the Town has no authority to place any no parking signs at this point. The suggestion was made that these residents also contact the Fire Department to support the resident's concern. It was also suggested that we pass on from the town the resident's concerns to the developer.

A Cooper Avenue resident complained that Cooper Avenue was not being blacktopped this year. It is not on the schedule of roads for this year. Commissioner Capano asked Mr. Pumpaly to look into costs to pave both Cooper Ave and Riverview for next year if not this year's budget.

Sustainable Maryland Overview – Mr. Mike Hunninghake – Mr. Hunninghake of the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland in College Park presented a power point presentation explaining a program called Sustainable Maryland. Sustainable Maryland is a certification program for municipalities involved in programs of sustainability such as energy savings or environmental issues. This is a free and voluntary program, no strings attached. This resolution process then allows Sustainable Maryland to help with resources and grant funding to reach the goals. The Maryland Municipal League and the Town Creek Foundation and the Environmental Finance Center funded by and large the United States EPA. Examples of the programs which are point getters for Sustainability are: Tree City USA, Green Schools. They are 53 registered municipalities in the state of Maryland currently registered and 22 certified. Bel Air became certified in 2014 and Aberdeen and Perryville are registered with the program. The only thing needed to resiter is a resolution that says that a municipality is working towards certification in such programs. Two mandatory actions required are a Green Team and creating a very basic action plan. Green team members are a good way to tap into resident involvement. The program asks 2 of 6 priority action items such as an energy audit of town buildings and energy star office equipment. If a municipality reaches 150 points then they are certified as a sustainable municipality and keep that registration for three years. The Environmental Finance Center offers training online, and in person. The website also offers grant opportunities. He shared many examples of the 80

some action steps possible to gain points towards the certification. Residents who have expertise in some of these programs are excellent resources. Certification in this program gets municipalities into the loop of grant funding for sustainability projects. Once registration is completed and a Green Team has been formed, staff from the program would come and do training on how to reach certification.

Proposed Code Enforcement Officer – Commissioner Discussion – Commissioner Confalone moved to hire a Code Enforcement Officer on a part time basis to start for one day a week. Commissioner Gell seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Open House – Former Avalon Marina Property – Water, Soda, Chips and Cookies were decided on for refreshments. The arranged time is for Sunday, September 27, 2015 from Noon to 4.

Sidewalk Repairs – Grace Road – There are numerous problems in town with sidewalks sinking and creating tripping hazards not just on Grace Road. There are two ways to solve this problem. We can rent the equipment and have our guys do it. However, our guys are not experienced in this type of work. There is a company that specializes in this type of work and Mr. Pumpaly could get an estimate for this company to perform the work. Mr. Pumpaly will get an estimate as decided by consensus of the commissioners. A general discussion of sidewalks and the maintenance of them followed.

NEW BUSINESS

Long Point Project Start Date & Other Issues – This project will begin after the last scheduled wedding is completed. The project will be done by the end of the year, however, the landscaping will be completed in the spring.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

No public comment

Commissioner Gell moved to adjourn the regular meeting seconded by Commissioner Confalone.
Commissioner Confalone moved to move to Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Capano Approved 4-0 at 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Debbie Myers, Town Clerk I