

**TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING**  
**CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND**  
*October 14, 2014*

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

Pledge of Allegiance was led by a young boy scout

**Approval of the Minutes of September 23, 2014** Commissioner Joe Letts moved to approve the minutes of September 23, 2014, Commissioner Capano seconded the motion. Approved 4-0

**Accounts Payable Review** Commissioner Joe Letts moved to approve the accounts payable presented, Commissioner Robert Gell seconded the motion. Approved 4-0

**Miller Environmental September Report** Robert Corn was in attendance and presented the report. In the month of September 3, 107,000 gallons of water were produced with no samples taken testing positive for coliform. Two routine Bacti samples were taken, two leak checks were performed detecting no leaks, completed one turn on, completed three settlement readings , marked water lines at two locations, tested water for a "blue water" complaint, and determined it to be a malfunctioning water heater, collected lead and copper samples and sent to them to the lab for analysis. Weekly and monthly maintenance of the water plant was performed. Commissioner Capano asked if the telemetry was working. The telemetry is working. Both wells are working as well and the alarm system is also working. The contractor needs to do some cleanup wire work and provide us with software.

**Cecil County Sheriff's September Report** Commissioner Letts gave the report in Sgt. Schmidt's stead. 136 hours were scheduled, 25 were not covered for a total of 111 hours of coverage. Eleven complaints were handled, the most serious of which was the report of the display of a handgun, which turned out to be unfounded. They assisted with one out of town call. They performed 167 patrol/property checks. The number of shifts operating radar was 17 and non radar was 10. One vehicle was placed in police storage. They issued seven (radar assisted) traffic enforcement citations and eleven (non radar assisted) traffic enforcement citations. Five radar assisted warnings were issued along with eight non radar assisted warnings. Two Safety repair orders were issued. No parking tickets were issued during the period. No criminal or civil warrants or summons were issued during the time period, no civil papers were served. One arrest was made due to a suspended/revoked license. In Civil Citation statistics two field contact reports were completed. They made eleven residential community contacts and three business contacts.

In response to a complaint about speeding in the Cool Springs development, the Sheriff's department set up radar to monitor and enforce the speed situation. The specific complaint was that construction workers were speeding through the neighborhood. Radar control was performed on 9/23 with 6 vehicles were observed 2 being construction company management

workers, and 4 residents. On 9/24, 7 vehicles were radar observed with 5 resident passenger vehicles and 2 construction workers (the same gentlemen from September 23). Speeds were between 22 and 25. The speed limit is 20mph. On Oct 2, 13 vehicles were observed with 11 being passenger vehicles and two school buses. Two of these vehicles were issued etix warnings with speeds of 34 and 32 mph respectively. Oct 3, nine vehicles were observed by radar. Eight of these were passenger vehicles and 1 was a school bus. One etix warning was issued at 28mph. Oct 5<sup>th</sup> 4 vehicles were observed with no stops and minimal speeding observed. Oct 6, four vehicles were radar observed, two passenger vehicles, one construction vehicle and one school bus. One etix citation was issued for 10mph over the speed limit. The goal of the event was to slow drivers down and seems to have been successful. Commissioner Letts feels that the department did a good job and that this exercise was successful.

A question was asked from the audience what creates the speed limit. A residential area is what creates the speed limit of 20mph. The question was asked what the speed limit is in Charlestown and was informed that it is some places 20 and 25mph. Some streets are marked and some are not.

Commissioner Hechmer asked if the generator theft had been solved. The answer is no.

**Waste Industries Recycling Techniques** Greg Adolph Director of Residential Recycling. Wib informed the Commissioners that only 15 to 17% of the residents are actually recycling. Mr. Adolph distributed flyers on the Waste Industries Recycling program. He said that his company has a program available that would provide a 96 gallon container that was very easy for the customer to handle and for the company to use as well. At this time our contract does not include these containers. He estimates that the containers could cost between 75 cents to a \$1.00. The containers seem to increase recycling to about 60 to 65%. Wib asked where the "win" is for the town as it would not seem to decrease our rates. Mr. Adolph pointed out that the landfill charges the town \$69.00 a ton for garbage as opposed to + or - \$7 a ton for recycling. Down the road it may well impact the cost of our contract. He was asked if there were any incentive programs that work successfully. Right now there does not seem to be one, but Mr. Adolph will research this. Commissioner Gell pointed out that when the recycling program started Charlestown won an award, and since we have not. Mr. Adolph replied that the state does have some kind of plaque system to recognize those municipalities that participate at higher degrees.

Sgt Schmidt arrived and revisited the speed problem monitoring in the Cool Springs development. They had been told that most of the infractions were construction vehicles. Their goal was to try to get everyone to slow down. They played no favorites. It was discovered that the observed speeding vehicles were mostly resident's cars and not construction vehicles. Sgt. Schmidt said that if there are other problems in town to let him know and they will address it. He has heard of similar speeding issues in Trinity Woods along with rolling stops. They will be addressing these issues in the future. The sheriff's department is utilizing a new system which is a car computer based etickets. Each deputy must write 50 "practice" etickets before they can begin to use only this system.

A question was asked about the animal complaint at the school. The Sgt. was not sure what the actual animal was, but did know that it was not a wild animal, but domestic. Another question was asked about the lockout of the vehicle? The answer to that is that the officers will make entry any way possible if it is a life threatening situation. If it is a simple lockout and the officer has a lockout kit, they will help, but owners are also advised to call a locksmith. This particular incident involved an inadvertent locking of kittens in the car.

## **Town Administrators Report**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Sink Hole #2** A new sinkhole has developed at 132 - 134 Cool Springs Road 2 ½ feet in diameter and 2 feet deep. It has been covered. URS has also been contacted and Mr. Katzmire will come and try to ascertain the cause. Commissioner Letts asked if these sinkholes could cause problems with our roads? It could, depending on where the sinkhole is. Is there a flaw in the installation of infrastructure? The commissioners had stated that in the future URS needs to be more involved in the inspection of the infrastructure. There are at least 17 manholes in the Cool Springs development. The last sinkhole was by a storm water grate and sanitary sewer. This new one is near a sanitary sewer manhole. We need to make sure that the road is not undermined. We will wait to hear from URS representative, Mr. Katzmire, for further discussion.

**Chesapeake Utilities franchise agreement.** The franchise agreement offered by Chesapeake Utilities is far less comprehensive than the one offered to the town of Northeast and to Cecil County. Mr. Pumpaly asked if the Commissioners are even interested in an arrangement for Natural Gas or Propane or is he wasting his time in pursuing this agreement? Commissioner Gell feels that when Natural Gas is available we should be able to offer it. He remembers that Cool Springs was designed to utilize natural gas. Commissioner Letts remembers that the gas line will remain on the Rte. 40 corridor. Commissioner Capano stated that from previous discussions on this topic the company is not really interested in running gas lines to Charlestown and they are going to stay on 40. Commissioner Hechmer stated that we should put this on a future agenda because we have had in-depth discussions on this item before. He remembers that they will not branch off of 40 unless there is enough interest to generate a good customer base and so we may be used as a bypass route and not an actual distribution area leaving a lot of torn up streets and yards needing to be put back together. Commissioner Capano also stated that they seemed to only want to hookup to new housing and not to existing housing leaving the majority of homeowners in Charlestown sorry out of luck. Commissioner Hechmer suggests that we put this on the next agenda to make a decision on this topic.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Long Point Rehabilitation Project Preliminary Review** – Mr. Pumpaly presented preliminary plans to do a revetment project of the Long Point shoreline. We have received a commitment of funds from the Department of Housing and Community Development. It was suggested by the Department of the Environment to cover the embankment using riprap instead of a living

shoreline. They said this after we found out that a living shoreline would not be permitted at this location. He presented 3 proposals from 3 different contractors. He seeks guidance from the Commissioners as to what they would like to see on this shoreline

1. King Fisher Environmental Services located in Elkton - He likes this proposal, but it only comes up 4 to 5 feet above mean high tide line. That is somewhat troubling. The proposed cost of this project is \$89,600.
2. B& B Pile driving – Somewhat the same in their proposal as King Fisher at a proposed cost of \$72,725. Starting at the mean high tide line coming up about 10 to 12 feet.
3. Disson & Juhn’s estimate appears to be more substantial and covering a distance of over 15 feet up the embankment. It would be flat on the top and we could grade what’s left of the embankment to the top of the seawall. The estimated cost is \$91,500.

We’re looking for a job that will hold the embankment for 50 to 75 years. Mr. Pumpaly feels that number 3 is the most impressive. All of the work will be done above the mean high tide and will leave a beach. This concept covers far more of the hillside than the other two of the proposals.

Commissioner Letts feels that Disson & Juhn’s rendition is the one to go with.

Commissioner Hechmer asked if URS could be utilized? Mr. Pumpaly stated that we used URS at the Trinity Woods playground at a cost of \$22,000. The contracting company could have done this work and saved us the engineering work cost of \$22,000. So he would not recommend using URS at an additional cost of \$15,000+.

Commissioner Gell asked about the erosion coming from the top? Will this fix this? The devastation on the lower part came from the last hurricane. When we get heavy rains there is some erosion as the water runs down the embankment to the shore. We will grade to the top of the seawall and then we will put plants with a major root system to hold the bank. Some of the estimates included planting, the third one did not. The estimate of the planting is an additional \$9,000 – \$12,000. Commissioner remembers that the last time the state came in with summer student workers who planted and it only cost us lunch. Commissioner Hechmer suggested that we go back to Disson and Juhn and ask them if they can include plants. Commissioner Capano wants to make sure that we get 3 similar estimates comparing apples to apples. Mr. Pumpaly want to go to all three of the companies and say this is the concept we want. We want you to do a proposal that is this one. The consensus is that we go back to these three companies and ask them to do a proposal more in line with the estimate of Disson and Juhn. Commissioner Hechmer asked if there would be any grant money available. Commissioner Capano also mentioned that Lowe’s has programs that might be able to help with the planting.

Commissioner Capano reminded the board that the 24<sup>th</sup> is the Halloween Parade.

**PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT** None

No further comments

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A motion by Commissioner Gell to adjourn was seconded by Commissioner Letts. Approved 4-0

*Respectfully submitted by: Debbie Myers, town clerk*

Approved 10-28-2014