

**TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING  
CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND  
October 22, 2019**

The September 24<sup>th</sup> Town Commissioners Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President, Lou Wood. In attendance were Commissioners Lou Wood, Patricia Clements, Karl Fockler Jeff Fields, and Joe Letts. Town Administrator, Wib Pumpaly was also in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Dan Rubert

**Commissioner Clements moved to approve the minutes of September 24, 2019, seconded by Commissioner Letts. Approved 3-0-1 (Commissioner Fields)**

Commissioners Fockler arrived at this point of the evening.

**Commissioner Clements moved to approve the minutes of Special Work Session September 25, 2019, seconded by Commissioner Fockler Approved 3-0-2 (Commissioner Clements and Fields)**

**Commissioner Fockler moved to approve the minutes of October 8, 2019, seconded by Commissioner Fields. Approved 4-0-1 (Commissioner Clements)**

**Accounts Payable** in the amount of \$60,584.29 were presented for approval. Commissioner Clements mentioned that we need to look into the escalating cost of health care. **Commissioner Clements moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Letts. Approved 5-0.**

**P&Z Code Review** (Sect. 99, 150, 175), Review,— Commissioner Fockler has some opposition to some of the suggested code changes. Commissioner Clements feels that we should have a work session to go over the proposed changes more thoroughly. November 5<sup>th</sup> was suggested, which will not work for Commissioner Fockler. It was suggested that we invite David Dahlstrom from the State Planning Commission as well. **The date of November 19<sup>th</sup> was set at 6:00 PM.**

**“Ice House Review”** – Jeannette Armour asked Commissioner Fockler about the lease. He stated that it was ready to go. It will be put on the agenda for November 26<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Fockler stated that they need to check with Colonial Charlestown about the funding request. Ms. Armour presented a list of what they have in the Ice House. She also stated that there was a 23’ foot mast from an ice boat was found in the Ice House. It has been open on a couple of occasions and has been very well received. Ms. Armour will be making a facebook site for the Ice House Museum.

**“Wreaths Across America”** – Ms. Armour will be heading up the ceremony. It will be held at St. John’s United Methodist Church. Commissioner Wood and office staff will provide a luncheon.

**Avalon Park/Stage Activities for the 2020 Season** – Commissioner Clements updated on the use of the stage. She would like to offer the stage to the Yoga. September 12, 2020 the Brown Box Theatre will present “Much Ado About Nothing” as long as the funding for the group comes

through. She wants to invite the group Plan B back. She wants to have a group for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July and possibly a bluegrass group. She would also like to see movies shown at the park. Commissioner Fockler would like to see a mixture of genre of movies. **The Commissioners in consensus agreed for Commissioner Clements to seek to fill the calendar for the next season.**

## Town Administrator's Report

### Old Business

**Town Street Repairs Update** – Mr. Pumpaly stated that the street repairs have been underway for some time. There are areas that are not going to be done. The areas left would amount to \$110,000.00 which was the entire budget for the year.

**Avalon Park Building Proposed Refurbishment Update** – Mr. Pumpaly is having trouble finding contractors who can put another foundation under the building. He has one bid of around \$40,000.00. He has another one or two companies who may come through with bids.

**Water Tower Verizon Lease Agreement** The new offer is at \$2600.00 a month beginning in 2023 with a 2% increase annually. Right now we are on the last 5 year extension of the lease. **Commissioner Fields moved to accept this amendment, seconded by Commissioner Letts. Approved 5-0.**

### New Business

**630 Water Street Repairs update** The new lease has been in the hands of the leasee for about three weeks. We are waiting for them to return to it. There is also a problem with the fence. Some of the posts are loose and some of the fencing is also. We also need to get the Kubota in to the yard to do a repair for the storm drain. Commissioner Wood asked about the need for the larger gates. Couldn't the fencing be rolled back during the repair? Commissioner Wood showed pictures of the fencing that needs to be replaced. Commissioner Fockler said that this started at the request of the tenants who are good tenants and we desire to keep them. They wanted gates that work better, but not necessarily larger gates. The fencing near our pier is in much worse shape. Commissioner Wood stated that the steps are not to the point that they were a tremendous safety hazard. They do require some repair (repointing and a couple of new bricks). **Commissioner Fockler moved to have Mr. Larry Body repair the steps at the cost of \$500.00, seconded by Commissioner Fields. Approved 5-0.** Commissioner Fields said that he felt that the fence needed to be replaced and repaired. **Commissioner Fockler moved to have the fence repaired by Mr. Givens at a cost of \$2,055.00, seconded by Commissioner Letts. Approved 4-1.**

**Maintenance Issues** – Commissioner Fields mentioned that we might need to have some supplies at the shop (rip rap, 57 stone) so that we would have it on hand and if delivered it would save possible damage to our trucks. He would also like to opt out of the contract for lawn mowing, we have no accountability, and we spent over \$4,000.00 in September. He thinks

hiring a part time local worker who we would have more authority over might be a better way to go. At the August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting it was mentioned to have the workers alternate driving the Kubota, is that being done? **Commissioner Fields moved to go into executive session, at 8:15PM seconded by Commissioner Clements. Approved 5-0.**

**Commissioner Fields moved to exit the executive session and move back into the regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Letts. Approved 5-0.** The meeting resumed at 8:53PM.

Commissioner Fields asked if the people who have worked on the Ice House could be invited to the Christmas party. Commissioner Wood is working on it.

Commissioner Wood brought up Shop with a Cop. She asked if we could donate to the program. Last year they helped 27 kids from Charlestown. We will be receiving a formal request to act on at a future meeting.

### **Period of Public Comment**

**Dennis Taylor** – He was disappointed that the problems at the rental property were brought up and that the steps came up again tonight. We had given the OK. It turned out not to be as much of a safety issue.

**Prosper Boudart** – He understands that we will have an increase in water rates next year and that we have some issues with the Marinas and water rates. He also thinks that we might have let some maintenance issues slide and are now under the gun. Commissioner Wood stated that the Marina issue is not them not wanting to pay in the off season. We are looking at an adjustment in our policy on EDUs. There is no decision on raising the rates at this point.

**Dan Rubert** – The 630 Water Street House. There is a pipe in the ground that has a big knuckle sticking out. Can he cut it off? Yes! Thank You! There is a cement piling in the middle of the walkway, could he get rid of it? The fence between the walkway and the water only needs a couple of parts and some paint and does not need to be replaced.

There being no further business, **Commissioner Letts moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Fields at 9:27PM. Approved 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Myers, Town Clerk