

**TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING  
CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND  
December 10, 2019**

The December 10, 2019 meeting was called to order by President, Loucretia Wood at 7:00 PM in Town Hall. . In attendance were Commissioners, Patricia Clements, Lou Wood, Karl Fockler and Joseph Letts. Commissioner Jeff Fields was excused.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Dan Rubert.

Approval of the Minutes – **November 26, 2019 Commissioner Clements moved to approved, seconded by Commissioner Letts the minutes of November 26, 2019. Approved 3-0.**

Accounts Payable Review – Accounts payable in the amount of \$28,298.56 were presented for approval. Commissioner Clements asked if the trial period of doing bulk twice a month, has it been effective? **Commissioner Clements moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Fockler. Approved 4 -0. Commissioner Fockler moved that we do bulk pick up once a month beginning with this month, seconded by Commissioner Letts. Approved 4-0.**

**Code Enforcement Officer October Report – Bryan Lightner** Bryan Lightner . He was in attendance and a written report was submitted showing his monthly review. He addressed complaints on 11 different properties within town for various issues. On five properties he is coordinating with the County Permits & Inspection Division. One property is being taken to District Court coordinating with the State's Attorney's office. We are working ongoing on one for vegetation removal without a permit in the critical buffer. The property with the untagged vehicle will receive a second letter from the town attorney in the near future. We are continuing to coordinate with the county on the retention pond in Scott Gardens and attempting to contact the builder LENNAR. The County Permits and Inspections Division has sent a violation notice, to the Beachcomber. An unpermitted roof repair was sent a letter and they later applied for the necessary permit. Some of those homes that are in disrepair need to be boarded up. Mr. Pumpaly and Mr. Lightner will look into town codes to see if we could get these homes boarded up as they are unsafe.

**Miller Environmental November Report** Mr. Josh Griffith submitted the following in a written report. A total of 2,158,000 gallons of water was produced with an average daily production of 72,000 gallons. No submitted samples tested positive for coliform. Weekly housekeeping and weekly and monthly maintenance were performed. In addition, 23 Miss Utilities were completed two leak checks were provided and one meter readings were performed. The meter was replaced at 311 Manor Avenue. Daily pH and chlorine tests were performed and chemical feed pumps were adjusted as necessary to maintain optimal pH and chlorine parameters. Chemicals were mixed daily to maintain adequate levels for chemical feed with buffer time for fire safety. The chemical inventory was maintained. Daily tests were recorded in the WTF logbook. Monthly samples were collected and sent to certified lab for testing per state requirements. All data sheets for chemical usage, equipment runtime, pH calibration, and routine checklists were utilized and filed. The WTF Maintenance schedule was followed.

**Cecil Co. Sheriff's November Report** - Sgt. Mahan was in attendance and a written report was submitted showing in November 2019 23 shifts were approved for a total of 92 hours. Of that number 92 hours were covered. Five shifts operated radar. There were three calls for service and three out of town assists. There were 103 property checks made. There were nine community contacts. They attempted three warrant services. There was seventeen traffic citations (1 radar and 16 non-radar) and 9 warnings (8 radar and 1 non-radar) issued. There were no repair orders or parking citations issued. There were two traffic related arrests made. Sgt. Mahan also thanked the town for communication that helped to solve an ongoing case.

**LB Water Sensus Flexnet Presentation** Mr. David Wilson of LB Water was present to give an overview of the smart metering solution that his company provides. LB is our current meter and radio read supplier. The proposal is to change out many of our outdated meters, some of which no longer are metering water, and at the same time set up a system wide radio reading usage system. **Commissioner Clements moved to approve the installation of the Smart Meter system from LB Water Service in the amount of 314,542.20, seconded by Commissioner Fockler. Approved 4-0.** Mr. Pumpaly will explore options on financing or whether the town will pay in a lump sum from reserved funds earmarked for this purpose.

Mr. Kane gave an update on the Opioid Class Action Law Suit. Johnson & Johnson and Purdue Pharma have contributed funds for settlement. They expect to reach settlements in the early part of next year. They are not sure if there will be ties attached to the monies, that will be decided by the judge administering the case.

**Perfluorinated Alkyl Sulfonates (Class Action Suit)** Mr. John Kane of the John Kane Law Group and Mr. Joseph Snee were in attendance to introduce to the Commissioners the possibility of joining a class action law suit concerning perfluorinated alkyl sulfonates in drinking water. The Susquehanna area is a hot spot for this chemical in drinking water. This lawsuit will address upgrades that will be needed to remove this chemical from our water sources and the costs of treatment if or when the federal government mandates the removal of this chemical. They expect that within the next two years or so they will begin to pay out settlements. Somewhere in the process our water would need to be tested to see what the level is in our water if at all, but given that we are in a "hot spot" it is expected that we will have some level in our water. This lawsuit would work in the same manner as the opioid suit we are currently involved in as there would be no upfront costs to the town and not costs at all if no settlement is reached. The Commissioners will discuss this further at a future meeting.

### **Town Administrator's Report**

#### **Old Business**

**Avalon Bldg. Update** Mr. Pumpaly presented four quotes for the stabilization of the building ranging from 24,000 to 130,000. The addition of the decks and ADA ramps would add more to the costs. Commissioner Clements stated that the Tamarro quote was in the ballpark and she would like to have him come in and ask some further questions. Mr. Tamarro will be asked to come to the next meeting to explain the process further. We would also like to see Lewis

Construction come up with steel beams. Commissioner Letts is not in favor of repairing the building at all.

### **New Business**

**Tree Service Bids** Two bids for the trees to be removed at Lees Marina, 620 Water Street and at 140 Salvation Circle are Cecil Tree Service at 3520.00 and 3600.00 from Bob the Tree Guy. We need to get the bids itemized.

The formation a committee to discuss the water issues. Commissioner Wood named Commissioner Clements, Janine Antoshak, Commissioner Wood, Debbie Myers, Wib Pumpaly and a Charlestown Marina representative.

Commissioner Wood announced that we are supporting Shop with A Cop. Charlestown Elementary sent 30 kids to the event.

Commissioner Wood thanked Commissioner Letts, the staff for the party, tree lighting and the decorations.

### **Period of Public Comment**

**Rosie Bott** – She expressed condolences to Commissioner Wood. She also apologized for the mixup at the Fire Hall on Saturday. She thinks that the town should not spend a dime on the building at Avalon. We need to have the fire boat pier dredging done. They had a call and could not get the boat out. The current spoils site is unusable and the cost is very high. Ms. Bott says that the boat needs to be moved to a new spot if the dredging can't be done. It's a lot of money sitting there wasted if they can't get out. Can the pier be extended? Not sure. We need help to find a place to put the spoils at the current site. Could we just move the dirt? No, the testing proves that we cannot.

**Prosper Boudart** – He thinks that the Avalon building should be torn down.

**Pauline Bryant** – She thinks that the building should be torn down. This building (Town Hall) needs a PA system.

Commissioner Wood liked the rendition of Town Hall that was suggested by Commissioner Fockler, but that will take a couple of years, so the moving of the playground at this time was a moot point. The mulch is creating a hazard for the ladder truck. How much longer will it be there? Hopefully it will be moved soon.

There being no further business, Commissioner Wood moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Letts at 9:28PM. Approved 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Myers, Town Clerk