

**TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING  
CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND  
February 11 2020**

The February 11, 2020 meeting was called to order by President, Loucretia Wood at 7 PM in Town Hall. In attendance were Commissioners, Lou Wood, Jeff Fields, Karl Fockler and Joseph Letts. Commissioner Patricia Clements was excused.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Prosper Boudart

Approval of the Minutes – **January 28, 2020 Commissioner Fockler moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Letts the minutes of January 28, 2020. Approved 3-0-1 (Fields).**

Accounts Payable Review – Accounts payable in the amount of \$92,200.13 were presented for approval. **Commissioner Fockler moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Fields. Approved 4 -0.**

**Miller Environmental January Report** Mr. Josh Griffith was present and submitted the following in a written report. A total of 2,261,000 gallons of water was produced with an average daily production of 73,000 gallons. No submitted samples tested positive for coliform. Weekly housekeeping and weekly and monthly maintenance were performed. In addition, 19 Miss Utilities were completed nine leak checks were provided, with no leaks detected. 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 January Report** - Sgt. Mahan was in attendance and a written report was submitted showing in January 2020 21 shifts were approved for a total of 84 hours. Of that number 84 hours were covered. Six shifts operated radar. There were three calls for service and one out of town assists. There were 76 property checks made. There were 17 community contacts. They attempted no warrant services. There were no citations issued. There were 12 traffic warnings (2 radar and 10 non-radar) issued. There were no repair orders or parking citations issued. There were no traffic related arrests made. One of the deputies did do a walking patrol check down near the Wellwood and the boat ramp on one of the nicer nights and they will add the Foot Log area once the weather turns for the better and drier.

**Code Enforcement Officer January Report – Bryan Lightner** Bryan Lightner submitted a written report which addressed complaints on 7 different properties within town for various issues. On one property 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 continue to work with the Town Attorney on the overgrown detention basin in Scott Gardens on Bennie Drive. We are working ongoing on one for vegetation removal without a permit in the critical buffer. The property with the untagged vehicles received a letter from our attorney and was abated. A fire that was possibly caused by a home business was referred to the health department. A wood stove installed without a permit was referred to the County Permits & Inspections Division. We were able to download and open the shape files from the Stormwater management study so that we can begin to form a plan and prioritize some of the repairs that will be necessary. The Façade Grant is in process. 619 Bladen Street is probably one of the most egregious violations in town. Should we try to use our ordinances to get them to board it up to secure it. Or, should we try to get the county involved. Commissioner Fockler suggests that we contact the owner to try to work with them. This residence would be an ideal candidate for the Façade Grant. They would need to apply. Dan and Sam Speakman were in attendance to answer questions at 205 Conestoga Street. They are wanting to repair/replace their seawall. Some of the property belongs to the town. 18' belongs to the town. They are willing to do the Town's portion free of charge. Creating the return wall will help with the erosion and it will also protect a pin oak that is in the area. This would create the least amount of disturbance. The proposed plan brings the wall up 1' from the water line and would be even with the adjoining properties. Mr. Lightner suggests that our engineer look at the plan to make sure that the raising of the wall will not negatively impact the area. Commissioner Wood stated that we would have our engineer look at the proposal.

**Accounting Update** Mr. Gray Farquharson was in attendance to give a six-month review of the Town's finances. Although the general fund showed a loss at the end of December by the end of January this swung back to a positive position. The financial standing of the town is positive. He gave an overview of various accounts.

**Park Mobile App, Beach Tags & Parking Enforcement** – Commissioner Fockler reintroduced Park Mobile. Commissioner Fields objects to charging for parking at the parks. People won't come to visit businesses if they have to pay to park. This became a lively discussion of the pros and cons of the proposal. **Commissioner Fockler made a motion to enter into an agreement with Park Mobile to begin a parking program in town for a period of one year, provided our legal counsel looks at the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Letts. Approved 3-1.** (Commissioner Fields). Commissioner Fockler then brought up the subject of beach tags and explained the one used at Cape May. This would be a way to control our parks. This would apply to Foot Log, Avalon and Veterans Park. He feels that we need to start generating additional income for the town. He asks the Commissioners to think on this for a future meeting. Commissioner Wood and Commissioner Letts like the idea. Mr. Pumpaly stated that the campground that charges is a fenced area and more easily policed. Commissioner Wood stated that we need to keep our parks nice and this type of thing would be a way for the out of town people who utilize the parks to help support the upkeep of the parks. Commissioner Fockler asked that the Beach Tags be on the agenda for the next meeting.

**Feral Cat Population** – Donna Corcoran and Dawn Kelly from Chesapeake Feline Association were present to give an update on their trap, neuter/spay and release program. They have a spay/neuter clinic in Perryville. They are asking for financial support as they get calls from some of our citizens to help clean up the feral population in our town. They have reached their

2,000th surgery. We do budget for this. We still have money in the budget, we do ask that all areas of the town be included. Down on Edgewater Avenue there is a good population. Ms. Kelly is asking the town to consider to double the budget as little as 15 cats would blow the budget that we have.

**Town Election** Three candidates have registered to run for the three open positions on the board. They have been vetted by the Ethics board. Our Town attorney has reviewed our Charter and an election is necessary, regardless of whether it is contested.

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

#### **Old Business**

**Avalon Building Overveiw** – While we had previously voted to fix the Avalon building, the bid was withdrawn by the contractor and resubmitted to take into consideration that they would not be doing the whole job as submitted. Commissioner Wood suggests that we put this on hold at this time. She stated that if we fix this, what else will be wrong? Lewis is at \$26,490 Tamaro is a \$30,900. This is on hold at the moment.

#### **New Business**

**Granite Marker @ Long Point** – During the holiday season vandals knocked over the granite marker at Long Point. This seems an ideal time to relocate it from its' present location to one not in the middle of an open area. The Historic District would like to have it moved in one of two places: farther down the hill or parallel with the fence along the Kelly property. The Commissioners feel that moving it up by the fence line would be the best solution.

**Commissioner Letts moved to place the monument near the fence line, seconded by Commissioner Fields. Approved 4-0.**

The Colonial Fair will be the first Saturday in October, October 3, 2020. Commissioner Fockler will be placing a banner advertising the fair in the near future.

#### **Period of Public Comment**

**Sean Durgin** – What is the penalty if you do not have a parking pass at the present time? He feels that if we try the Parking App, we don't have anything to lose.

**Prosper Boudart** – We need a long-range plan and he suggests a committee be formed of citizens and commissioners for what we want to do in the future. He suggests that a new Town Hall while needed would take a lot of thought and process. Karl's idea of parking is a no brainer and it may take more than a year to work out any problems. Commissioner Wood stated that we do need to hear what you the citizens want in a Town Hall.

**Ursula Boudart** – Where would the income from this parking idea go? Parks and Rec.?

**There being no further business, Commissioner Fockler moved to adjourn at 9:06 PM, seconded by Commissioner Fields. Approved 4-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Myers, Town Clerk

Approved 2-25-2020