

**TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING  
CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND  
February 25, 2020**

The February 25, 2020 Charlestown Town Commissioners meeting was called to order by President Loucretia Wood at 7:00 PM. Those in attendance were Commissioners Jeff, Fields, Karl Fockler, Joseph Letts and Loucretia Wood. Commissioner Clements was excused. Mr. Wib Pumpaly, Town Administrator was also in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Letts.

**Commissioner Fockler moved to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2020 Town Commissioners meeting, seconded by Commissioner Fields. Approved 4-0.**

**Commissioner Fockler moved to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2020 Work Session, seconded by Commissioner Letts. Approved 4-0.**

**Accounts Payable in the amount of \$46,312.19 were presented for payment. Commissioner Letts moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Fields. Approved 4-0.**

**Proposal of Initiating Beach Tags** – Commissioner Fockler brought the idea of beach tags for our beaches. \$25.00 for a season and \$5.00 per day. He is in favor but feels it will need to be rolled out with an enforcement officer. He would like to know how the rest of the board feels. Commissioner Fields is for all garnering revenue for the town, but if we lose money on it, he is not in favor. Commissioner Letts is not in favor and does not think we have a problem at our beaches. Commissioner Fields asked what if we lose money or people stop coming to the beach? Commissioner Fockler stated that he feels that a person hired should enforce all of the things: parking, beach tags, and the boat launch. This might be a part time job at peak hours of use. Commissioner Fields brought up the number of parking places we have, if we sell 50 passes for the beach for the year, where are they going to park? From the audience: we have no problems at the beaches. Commissioner Fockler stated that we need to start utilizing Avalon more for parking. Commissioner Fields stated that would passes be free for residents? We are already paying town taxes to keep the beaches clean. He feels that some of our problems are caused at the Fishing Pier. He stated that the parking where he crabs is right at the boat ramp, where as here our free parking is at Avalon. We have a very small beach here and no parking. Commissioner Wood stated that if you are by yourself you would park your boat out towards the end. We do provide parking, you just have to walk to it. We need to be creative here. Commissioner Fields stated that we started a parking pass system a couple of years ago. In this fiscal year, we have sold one. He also stated that these beaches and parks are public, not private, so how can we charge for public parks. Commissioner Fields stated that he is not against donating money for the fireworks, but does not want to charge anyone to watch them. Commissioner Fockler does not think that charging people to park is unreasonable. Commissioner Wood stated that the town of North East is making money hand over fist by having vendors. The money we would garner might be used to pay for the band. Commissioner Letts stated when we opened our beaches to the public people flocked to our beaches. It was the idea of two commissioners and a third one went along with it. According to Ms Bott they opened the beach in response to the money that the Martin campground was making. She was one of the commissioners who voted for opening the beaches and feels it was a mistake. Commissioner Fockler has tabled it for a future discussion.

**Park Mobile App** – Commissioner Fockler brought the contract from Park Mobile with the amendment of provision of termination with 30 days written notice. Commissioner Fockler would like to implement

this. A question was asked if we have a way to track. Yes, through a portal available on a phone or an i-pad or a computer. **Commissioner Fockler moved to enter into an agreement with Park Mobile for an upfront fee of \$250.00 with a clause for termination at any time without cause with a written notice of 30 days, seconded by Commissioner Letts. Approved 3-1.**

#### **P & Z Code Chapters 99 & 150 Ordinance Review – Commissioners Discussion**

**Commissioner Letts moved to approve. 2020-01 to accept the changes in 150, seconded by Commissioner Fields. Approved 4-0.**

**Commissioner Fields moved and Commissioner Letts seconded to approve 2020-02 to accept Chapter 99 which if in conflict with Chapter 175 will supersede the current 175 while Chapter 175 is in the progress of the current update. Approved 4-0.**

**Town Attorney** – President Wood stated that our current town attorney is out of town quite a bit and transitioning to a new home in North Carolina. It was recommended to talk to our attorney to see if he would like to move on. Commissioner Fockler would like to think about who we might engage as our attorney should our present Town Attorney retire.

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

##### **Old Business**

**Appeals Hearings Reminder** – There will be a Board of Appeals hearing at 6:00 PM in the Charlestown Fire Hall. Three cases will be heard that night. The Eagle Point LLC is seeking a parking variance, Debra Moulton is seeking a variance on rear set back and Chad Burchette is seeking a variance on road frontage. The public is invited to attend and must register upon entrance. A court stenographer has been engaged.

##### **New Business**

**Propose Trailer Space User Fee – Trailers located within the Incorporated Town limits of Charlestown** We have been talking about revenue. A number of years ago we instigated a boat slip user fee and we are receiving monies from this fee. Mr. Pumpaly is suggesting a similar fee on recreational trailers in the Holloway Beach Campground and a portion of the Charlestown Campground where the trailers are parked in town limit land. Mr. Pumpaly suggested that other municipalities charge similar fees. Commissioner Letts stated that the campground has been there forever. He is not disagreeing with the thought of a fee. Some years ago, we had talked with the previous owner and he (the owner) was against it and it was dropped. Commissioner Wood stated that we ask our boaters to pay and the trailers probably use more of our resources. It is zoned R3. We are not talking about a lot of money, maybe \$6,000 or \$7,000 a year. The fee can be passed onto the campers. It would be a modest increase to the campers. It was suggested that a discussion be held with the owners of the campgrounds. **Commissioner Fields moved that we meet with the owners of the campgrounds to discuss, seconded by Commissioner Letts. Approved 4-0.**

**Constant Yield Tax Rate F/Y 2021** This is the time of year where we set the constant yield rate .3334 to .3249 to keep our money the same. We are exempt if we keep the tax rate at .3334 where we will be below the threshold of \$25,000 in increase of income. **Commissioner Fields moved that we keep the constant yield tax at .3334, seconded by Commissioner Letts. Approved 4-0.**

**Bats & Beavers – A continuing problem** The beavers are continuing to build near foot log park. There is a bat colony in the attic of Town Hall. We have contacted some companies that do not treat the animals humanely. Ecotone a company in Maryland treats them humanely and can control beavers without killing them. Ms. Antoshak explained how Ecotone works. Commissioner Wood suggested that we contact North Bay. We will have Ecotone come out and give us a quote.

Commissioner Fields asked for the board's approval to get with the maintenance crew to get a pad put in for salt with the next budget. The consensus was yes.

### **Public Comment**

**Rosie Bott** – Last year around March she had left a request for a pay raise for the Election Board. Has anything been decided? The current rate is \$150 and \$125.

**Pauline Bryant** During the work session the subject came up with the Code Enforcer. 414 Water Street. Why is the homeowner being fined because she trimmed something on her property. It was trimmed no roots were taken out. Ms. Bryant said that this is a hardship. The homeowner will be putting a garage in soon and retiring here. Ms. Bott stated that a port a potty should have been placed there. Commissioner Wood will contact the State Critical Area coordinator to see if the fine can be mitigated.

**Prosper Boudart** – What about the issue of a water tower in Cool Springs? They have low water pressure. What about penalties and fines for building violations? We are still working on Chapter 175 which will have fines and consequences for building violations.

**There being no further business, Commissioner Letts moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Fields at 8:54 PM. Approved 4-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Myers, Town Clerk