

**TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING**  
**CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND**  
*February 27, 2018*

The Town Meeting was called to order by President Andy Thompson at 7:00 PM. Present were Commissioners Renee Capano, Mary Carol Durange, Karl Fockler, and Andy Thompson, Mr. Wib Pumpaly, Town Administrator was also present. Commissioner Joe Letts was absent due to illness.

**The Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Prosper Boudart

**Approval of the Minutes of January of February 13, 2018** An addition was made to add under the Fairgreen Park topic a question about where the boat slip monies are allocated fund wise. Commissioner Durange moved and Commissioner Capano seconded to approve. Vote 3-0 with one abstention.

**Accounts Payable Review February 27, 2018**—Accounts payable in the amount of \$20,978.48 was presented. Commissioner Durange moved to accept, seconded by Commissioner Fockler. Approved 4 -0.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Green Fair** Friday March 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30. We have around 19 exhibitors lined up to participate. We hope to have this become an annual event.

**Fair Green Park Playground Review** Mr. Pumpaly has talked to Columbia Cascade for a the total 14,135.00. The monies will come from the capital expense account with 36,000 remaining.

**Avalon Park (Lot “B”) Review** Mr. Pumpaly stated that the bids are due tomorrow at 3PM.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Town Walking Tour w/APG Representatives – Jeanette Armour** Ms. Armour watched the candidate forum and came up with the idea of a miniature golf course incorporating our history. If you don't want a golf course it could be incorporated into the Avalon Park development. Another suggestion is at the town wharf. She presented a picture that she wishes that could be placed at the wharf. During the Wreaths Across America she got so many compliments that she is going to do it again. They served 150 lunches. She talked to Rick Scovetta about a walking tour of the town. Ms. Armour has volunteered to lead the tour. She would like to see the Tory House open and the involvement of the Edwards. Commissioner Thompson suggested that the town would be interested and asked to be kept in the loop.

**Constant Yield Tax Rate** The projected numbers keep us very close to the same income as last year. Raising it to the suggested rate would bring in 2900 more. Commissioner Thompson voiced his opinion that the rate should be left as it is and not raise it as he does not see the need to increase it. Commissioner Fockler understands that the constant yield would generate only a very modest increase and he is not in general in favor of raising taxes. Commissioner Capano is in agreement and moved to keep the property tax at .3334, seconded by Commissioner Durange. Approved 4-0.

**Louisa Lane Extension** Commissioner Thompson noted that there are two houses on a paper street that extends near the wall. The driveway is a mess. What if we connect the street and connect it to near the railroad tracks. This street would then have about 5 developmental lots. How do we handle driveways that are paper

streets. Commissioner Capano stated that the town has gone back and forth on this issue and we need a consistent policy on this issue. Commissioner Thompson would like to see it completed. Commissioner Capano asked Mr. Pumpaly to contact our town attorney or Mr. Peck from MML on the position of paving paper streets being used as driveways. Commissioner Fockler agrees that we need to talk to our attorney on this issue. We will talk to MML and then to our lawyer. We will tell the homeowner that we are working on it and that there is a process. Mr. Pumpaly suggests ripping it up and throwing gravel on it. Commissioner Thompson suggests that this project not go to the front of the line, but that the maintenance staff keep working on their list.

**Sheriff's Agreement** Commissioner Thompson says that we need more oversight over this service. Our agreement will be running out in the future. He suggests that the Commissioners look into options. Commissioner Capano suggested that we might work with the North East Police Department. Commissioner Fockler asked do we have adequate protection? Commissioner Capano says that this is likely. When they first started they would get out of their vehicles and talk to people. Now they seem to park along the main drag and not pay as much attention is paid to what we might like to see happen. Commissioner Fockler asked what we would like to see them doing? Resources are stretched thin in the department at times when we do not have coverage assigned here in extra duty situations.

**Town Grass Cutting Contract** FYI the contract is coming to an end. It will need to be rebid as it is over 10,000.00. Commissioner Thompson cautioned that we not go with the lowest bid only.

Commisisoner Thompson thanked Renee and Mary Carol for their work as Board members.

## **PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Prosper Boudart** - He thinks that we are being laze faire with the Sheriff's Department. He also is concerned about the Avalon Park Project. He is worried about losing the grant. Bids are due tomorrow and we are moving in a slow but timely manner.

**Jack Kronner** – He thanks everyone for all their hard work.

**Tom Kenny** -About the Sheriff's patrol. He suggested a Neighborhood Watch program be reinstated.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn Commissioner Renee Capano moved to close the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Durange at 7:54 PM. Approved 4-0.

*Respectfully submitted by: Debbie Myers, Town Clerk I*