

**TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING  
CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND  
March 24, 2020  
7:00 PM**

The March 24, 2020 meeting of the Town Commissioners of Charlestown was held virtually via Zoom. The meeting was broadcast over Facebook Live. Those in attendance were President Karl Fockler, Vice President Jeff Fields, Treasurer Jack Kronner and Commissioners Joe Letts and Lou Wood. Mr. Wib Pumpaly was in attendance by conference call. Ms. Antoshak and Ms. Myers were physically present as well to facilitate the meeting. The meeting was called to order by President Karl Fockler at 7:03 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Fields.

Approval of the Minutes – **March 10, 2020 Commissioner Letts moved to approve the minutes of March 10, 2020, seconded by Commissioner Wood. Approved 5-0.**

Accounts Payable Review – **Charlestown Commissioners** – Accounts payable in the amount of \$19,033.61 were presented for payment. A question was asked of one of the payments and an explanation was given to the satisfaction of the Commissioners. **Commissioner Kronner moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Wood . Approved 5-0.**

**Topics of Discussion**

- Sheriff Patrol Issues – Sgt. Shawn Mahan was available to answer our concerns. President Fockler stated that once the Maryland closures of businesses came through we suspended the patrols. Since the patrols are mostly partnered with businesses being open and while they are closed we thought that we could limit the patrols. Sgt. Mahan stated that this was instigated by Sgt. Mahan. At this time there is no significant strain on the Sheriff's department, nor an uptick in crime. Right now, the Sheriff's office will honor every contract that they have. 80% to 90% of their calls are being handled by telephone. He feels that it will be a savings to the town and it could unnecessarily expose citizens to the virus. Commissioner Letts asked if they had any other towns who had suspended? Yes. The department is trying to limit exposure of their deputies to the public as much as possible to preserve the force as the curve goes up. President Fockler asked if they could drive through during their normal shifts? Absolutely, Sgt. Mahan can get that out. Commissioner Wood asked if we could send a property check for the entire town and get the patrols to come through three or four times a shift. If we can do this, then why do we need to contract with the Sheriff's office. President Fockler stated that the contract allows the patrol to be here for a period of time of four hours. Commissioner Wood thinks that we should continue the patrols. This will guarantee the citizens of Charlestown some level of security. Commissioner Wood stated that the previous county problems (drug problems, joblessness) did not go away with COVID19. She sees this getting worse before it gets better. The businesses are still open and allowed to sell alcohol. Maybe we could move the hours to earlier. Sgt. Mahan stated that there is not one indication that the Sheriff's office wanted to reduce the contractual hours. Commissioner Kronner stated that the service is a phone call away. He feels we do not have a major crime problem here in Charlestown. Commissioner Letts thinks we should leave it as is. Commissioner Fields is in agreement with whatever is decided. Commissioner Fields did comment on the fact that he has not seen patrols in Trinity Woods at all. **Commissioner Kronner moved to use an abbreviated schedule, of two hour patrols instead of four hours**

**while the Governor's declaration of emergency is in effect, seconded by Commissioner Fields. Approved 3-2. Motion carried.**

- **Maintenance Issues – Commissioner Jeff Fields** Commissioner Fields and President Fockler met last Wednesday and staked out a site for the salt pad with the Maintenance Staff. The Maintenance staff stated that they were capable of pouring the pad and were ready and able to do it. Commissioner Fields is very pleased with the new maintenance staff. President Fockler also stated the staff seems capable. The pad would be approximately 24 x 25 The site would be prepared by digging out and putting down crusher run and then concrete on top. **Commissioner Fields moved to go ahead with the project of the pouring the salt site pad approximately 24' x 25' at a 8" pad depth, seconded by Commissioner Kronner. Approved 5-0.** Commissioner Fields thanked Commissioner Wood for her hiring of the current staff.
- **Aging in Place – Commissioner Wood** She personally has been delivering on her own, not as a Commissioner, meals to school kids who need them. Our town does not have a pickup site. She wants the town citizens to know that if they need the service that they can get the meals delivered. You go on the Facebook School Site and you can get your name on the list of delivery sites.

Seniors should be staying in and Commissioner Wood is looking for ways that we might be able to help. If someone has a condition that endangers you going out at this time, we need to get it coordinated so that we can help them. President Fockler would like to see an aging in place component here in town. Not long ago a request was made that the Commissioners reach out and provide services so that our seniors can age in place. Commissioner Wood agreed to take the point on this program.

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

**Park Mobile Services Agreement** – We signed an agreement in February to go with this service. Some of the available spaces will be need to be lined. Mr. Pumpaly has been in contact with the company that had previously lined some spaces in town and he will be meeting with him to give a bid on Monday. Thursday, April 2 @ 9:30AM a conference call will be held between Lou Wood, Wib Pumpaly, Karl Fockler and Debbie Myers to get this project going. During a conversation with the representative, Mr. Pumpaly found that grassy areas could be included in the project. President Fockler is certainly looking at Avalon both the lower and upper fields. Mr. Pumpaly also mentioned Fireman's Field.

**Dredge Site** near the Water Tower. Mr. Pumpaly had a \$20,000 grant to get the site chemically investigated. Mr. Pumpaly will have some conversations with Mr. Chris Rogers of AECOM in the next week to explore options. We have not dredged since 2008. The Fire Company has expressed their concern at the Fire Boat Pier which needs dredging.

**Water Tower Refurbishment** – The last time the water tower was painted was about seven years ago. It is beginning to show signs of wear. The interior is in need of refurbishment as well. Mr. Pumpaly has been in contact with Doug DeClerck formerly of Maryland Environmental Services. Mr. Pumpaly will forward to the Commissioners a report done about a year and half ago that Mr. DeClerck generates which points out many deficiencies in need of refurbishment. The estimated costs are around \$860,000 with the breakdown being: Interior Wet Chamber, 200,000; Exterior, 275,000; Interior Dry Chamber, 75,000; Exterior Encapsulation, 125,000; Temporary Water Tanker, 75,000; Bidding Services, 10,000; Quality Assurance Inspection Services, 100,000. Commissioner Letts asked if this was basically what we did several years ago right? And we were told then that it was going to be more detailed. The project will take about

two and half months to complete. The paint lifespan will be 20 to 25 years. Mr. Pumpaly will ask Mr. DeClerk to attend a meeting in the near future. Commissioner Wood asked if there would be financial aid for this project? Mr. Pumpaly will be working on grants and low interest loans. Commissioner Wood stated that we had gotten the ball rolling on this project earlier and she was glad to see it progressing.

We have a system in the Water Tower called **Sensaphone** that notifies a list of people when there are problems with the tower. As of December, 2020 Verizon will no longer support the 3G current system. Ray Horney of Horney Electronics will install the new system at an estimated cost of \$1,500.00. Mr. Horney will be installing the new system on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

We have been doing business for a number of years with a group called CORRPRO which inspects the internal cathod system in the Water Tower. Mr. Pumpaly has not extended the contract this year as we will be refurbishing the tower. Mr. DeClerk feels that an onsite inspection is more effective than this type of system.

Chapter 99 of the Charlestown Code was approved by the Commissioners. The Critical Area group of the State needs a clean copy of the Chapter 99 for their approval so that we can get it through and finalized. Mr. Pumpaly is working on getting this completed.

### **President's Report**

President Fockler thanked everyone for their willingness to participate online during this difficult time. Debbie Myers and Janine Antoshak are here in town hall on a staggered basis and together to keep the business of the town going forward. Wib is working from home and coming in early in the morning and in the late evening. Right now we need everyone to be safe. Be a good neighbor, check on those older folks by phone and do call the police if you see any illegal activity going on. Trash pickup remains the same at this time.

Commissioner Wood has been in contact with Travis Marion who is the lead for MML in our area. There is a meeting with Governor Hogan and a task force to address the COVID19 pandemic. This will hopefully stem some of the rumors coming out on social media. She will get the information on this group to President Fockler.

We have heard from David Beste, Esq that our hearing on the Eagle Point issue has been postponed due to the courts being closed.

There being no further business, **Commissioner Kronner moved and Commissioner Letts seconded to close the meeting at 8:46 PM. Approved 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Myers, Town Clerk