

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Ordinance 2020-03 – Trailer Lot User Fee**  
**May 14, 2020 6pm**

The hearing was opened by President, Karl Fockler. The agenda for the meeting was to discuss the proposed ordinance 2020-03 Trailer Lot User Fee. The meeting was conducted on Zoom and conference call. Those in attendance were President, Karl Fockler, Joe Letts, Lou Wood, town attorney, Dennis Clower, and Town Administrator, Wib Pumpaly. The meeting was facilitated by Office Administrator, Janine Antoshak and Town Clerk, Debbie Myers. Val Hahn and Karen Hess also joined by Zoom. By Facebook, Kerry Thompson, Tammy Jones Leonard, Renee Capano, Carol Lynn DeLabruer, Lil Lack, Don Hess.

The purpose of the proposed ordinance is to impose an annual fee of Five Percent (5%) of the rental charges for the rental, leasing or use of any space, facilities or accommodations in or for the providing of any services by such trailer camp. The trailer park tax shall not exceed (\$100) one-hundred dollars, per unit, annually. Fees collected on or after January 1, 2021 should be remitted to the town by March 1, 2021. This would be a new revenue stream for the town. This would not be enacted until the year 2021.

Val Hahn feels that this is an undue burden to the campers and small businesses. If the town is in need of funds, then they should look to the county or state for additional funds. Her suggestion would be to wait one more year and revisit this in 2021. These are not people with second homes in the Hamptons, these are hard working people. This is not the time to be taxing anyone. She feels that the town should wait until we see what kind of impact COVID-19 has.

Karen Hess 419 Charlestown Place, Charlestown MD 21914 was also in agreement that a delay is in order. They are not raising their lot rent as many of their renters are not working at this time due to COVID-19. They estimate a \$7,000.00 bill which would be passed on to renters, which at this time would be a hardship for some. Is the 5% with a \$100.00 cap going to hold forever? We would not look to raise it any time soon. Her campers are there from April to October on an average of 78 days a year. Are the taxes going up in the rest of Charlestown? No, the rate is staying the same.

Commissioner Wood stated that the tax would not take place until 2021 and we would certainly reconsider in 2021 if the economy is not rebounding. She is not opposed to tabling this and bringing it back up in January of 2021.

Commissioner Letts feels that we should make a decision and either do it or not do it. He would be in favor of waiting until 2021.

Don Hess joined by conference call. He was wondering if this goes through how will he pay? You would collect the monies with your rents and then remit them to the town at one time. The communication broke down and Mr. Hess left the call.

The meeting was concluded and more discussions will be held with those involved.

Respectfully submitted

Debbie Myers, Town Clerk

Approved 5-26-2020