

**TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND
July 27, 2021 7:00PM
Charlestown Fire Hall**

The meeting was called to order by President, Karl Fockler at 7:03pm. In attendance: Commissioners Fockler, Elmer, Kronner and Wood; Staff Bryan Lightner, Town Engineer Chris Rogers; Public attendees Gary Bott, Charlene Notarcola, Dennis Taylor, Audrey Edwards, Doug Miller, Holly Miller, Pauline Bryant, Renee Campano, Steve Vandervort, Naomi Chadwick, Prosper Boudart, Ursula Boudart,

Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Fockler invited Pauline Bryant to lead the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioner Appointment – President Fockler was grateful to see five applicants interested in filling the vacant Commissioner seat. **Commissioner Kronner nominated Doug Miller, which was seconded by Commissioner Wood. Approved 4-0.** Charlene Notarcola, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cecil County, was present to swear in Commissioner Miller.

Approval of the Minutes – July 13, 2021 – Commissioner Kronner moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Wood. **Approved 4-0**

Accounts Payable in the amount of \$47,393.68 were presented for approval. **Commissioner Kronner approved with Commissioner Wood's second. Approved 5-0**

Water Tower Update: Mr. Doug DeClerk provided the update, the tower is being filled up and the high-level sensor will be re-activated tomorrow. The remaining painting is slated to be completed during the first week of August. Restoration of the site and settling any damage claims will follow once the painting is complete.

Old Business

Donations – Bryan Lightner; Mr. Lightner proposed the following donations for this year:

Senior Center = \$1,000
Colonial Charlestown = \$5,000
Fire Department = \$50,000

Commissioner Kronner approved the donation of \$1,000 to the Senior Center, with Commissioner Elmer's second. Approved 5-0.

Commissioner Kronner approved the donation of \$5,000 to the Colonial Charlestown, with Commissioner Wood's second. Approved 5-0.

Commissioner Kronner approved the donation of \$50,000 to the Fire Department, with Commissioner Elmer's second. Approved 5-0.

New Business

Dredging grant/DMP site design - Mr. Lightner explained the Town will apply for a grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to dredge the areas around the Town pier, fire boat dock, and boat ramp. The application is due September 15th, with funding being available July 1, 2022, if awarded. Concurrently, Mr. Lightner needs to develop a Request for Proposals to spend previously awarded grant funds to re-design the Town's existing dredge material placement facility, located adjacent to the Water Tower. The berms of this facility need to be re-graded, and may need a new weir box installed as the outfall associated with the de-watering of the dredge spoils. Unfortunately, these grant funds will only cover a portion of the re-design and construction, additional funds will be needed to complete the construction. It also appears that the facility may not be ready to receive the dredge spoils associated with the grant proposal, so Mr. Lightner will coordinate with MD DNR and Cecil County to see if a nearby facility, west of North East, would be a viable alternative.

Artesian Water Interconnection – Mr. Lightner explained the Town has had discussions with the Artesian Water Company, Inc. to consider connecting the Town system to their system, for redundancy purposes in the case of an emergency. If a well or the water tower is not working due to a power outage, for example, an interconnection could ensure Town residents have uninterrupted drinking water use. The latest interconnection site proposed is located along Cool Springs Road at the intersection of US Rt. 40, since this site is more cost effective than an alternative site located along MD Rt. 7, at 1825 W. Old Philadelphia Road. However, Cool Springs Road is a private road and an easement would need to be negotiated with the adjacent property owners. Mr. Lightner stated the costs still need to be worked out, as well as, the potential availability of grants or loan forgiveness programs. Mr. Rogers, Town Engineer, mentioned that the costs for interconnection are typically less than the costs associated with installing back-up generators for well pumps. He also stated that previous long-range planning studies have not identified a need for the Town to construct an additional water tower.

Commissioner Comment

President Fockler reminded the group about Tommy Halsey's Eagle Scout Project, which is the establishment of a slave cemetery, located at the northwest corner of Caroline and Cecil Streets. President Fockler would like the group to consider erecting a plaque to commemorate the grounds, and suggested a similar design as one found in Washington Square, Philadelphia.

Period of Public Comment

Gary Bott – Mr. Bott would like to be made aware of when the water tower is operational. He also wanted to clarify that the Fire Department’s request for financial assistance for this year was \$100,000. He also supports the idea of an interconnection with Artesian Water Company, Inc.

Pauline Bryant – Ms. Bryant would like to have the posts replaced at Sandy Beach, so that the public doesn’t park their cars on the grass.

Renee Campano – Ms. Campano wanted to follow up on the status of the legal action the Town is taking with regards to 423 Chesapeake Road. Mr. Lightner stated the Town Attorney did file for a lis pendens associated with the property deed and that the Town will coordinate with the County on their separate enforcement actions.

Ursula Boudart – Ms. Boudart thinks beach tags is a good idea for the Town to consider for park users. She also remembered there being some land set aside in the Cool Springs subdivision for a second water tower, should the need arise someday for its construction. Finally, she recommends the Town use some of the corona-virus stimulus funds to re-design Town Hall and upgrade the Town’s water system.

Prosper Boudart – Mr. Boudart would like for the Town to improve the sound system associated with in-person Commissioner meetings.

Steve Vandervort – Mr. Vandervort remembered as part of the annexation agreement with the Cool Springs subdivision that money be set aside to construct a new well. Mr. Rogers and Mr. Lightner will verify those funds exist. He also suggested that the Town pay very close attention to the details in the agreement that may be signed with the Artesian Water Company, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Lightner, Town Administrator