

**TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND
August 10, 2021 7:00PM
Wellwood Large Tent**

The meeting was called to order by President, Karl Fockler at 7:02pm. In attendance: Commissioners Fockler, Elmer (via Zoom), Kronner, Miller, and Wood; Staff Bryan Lightner and Antoinette Rayfield; Cecil County Sheriff Office Sgt. Kalinsky; Miller Environmental Joshua Griffith (via Zoom); Public attendees Prosper Boudart, Ursula Boudart, Audrey Edwards, Pamela Mahan, Richard Mahan,

Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Fockler opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes – July 27, 2021 – Commissioner Kronner moved to approve, seconded by President Fockler. Approved 5-0

Accounts Payable in the amount of \$110,060.68 were presented for approval. **Commissioner Kronner approved with Commissioner Miller's second. Approved 5-0**

Miller Environmental June Report: Joshua Griffith (via Zoom) gave report. Commissioner Kronner, upon reading the report, asked why the town utilized 500,000 gallons of water during the water moratorium as compared to last years total. Mr. Griffith stated the water usage was up due to a water main breakage and repair. Mr. Griffith added he will research the increase in depth.

Cecil County Sheriff's May Report was read by Sgt. Kalinsky. Sgt. Kalinsky added we need to check into speed bump locations and where to install them.

Maintenance Report - Commissioner Curtis Elmer gave the report regarding a list of maintenance items that were completed around town. Commissioner Elmer also added that there is much trash being left on Foot Log Beach over the weekends, and the maintenance team is spread thin with basic upkeep, installation of new meters, etc. Commissioner Elmer stated that the maintenance team worked overnight to replace a fire hydrant. Bryan Lightner stated there is much more maintenance work/repairs needed around town. President Fockler requested the grass on Bladen Street be cut more often. A motion was made to cut the grass on Bladen more often and to accept the Maintenance report as written. **President Fockler moved to approve with second by Commissioner Kronner. Approved 5-0.**

Water Tower Update - President Fockler asked if there was anything the town and maintenance team need to look into as the water tower has now been restored. No further maintenance or questions were found. **Commission Kronner moved to officially lift the water moratorium with Commissioner Miller's second. Approved 5-0**

Old Business

Critical Area Overlay District Map Amendment - Bryan Lightner submitted an updated map for approval by the State of Maryland Critical Area Commission. Mr. Lightner further added that the map was recommended Charlestown Planning and Zoning Committee. **Commissioner Kronner made motion to accept the report with a second given by Commissioner Wood. Approved 5-0.**

Tower Point Lease was revisited and brought to discussion by Commissioner Kronner. Commissioner Kronner stated the town is losing out on one million dollars (the dollar amount offered to the Town of Charlestown by AT&T for control of the antennas at the top of Tower Point). Commissioner Kronner further stated AT&T could reduce the amount or pull the entire deal the longer we wait to decide. Commissioner Kronner made a motion to approve the Tower Point Lease. The questions were raised; Is the current lease bad, and does the town give up ownership? Commissioners Miller and Elmer needed more information before making a decision to support the selling of the area. Commissioner Wood stated that one million dollars is not enough money. President Fockler asked that this discussion be placed on hold until more information is given. **Commission Kronner withdrew the motion.**

Commissioner Elmer's Zoom connection was lost. Motion was carried to continue the meeting without Commissioner Elmer.

New Business

630 Water Street – Bryan Lightner updated everyone that the tenant has moved out and there is minimal damage to the property. President Fockler added that he thinks that the building should house Town Hall due to the lack of privacy at the current location. Commissioner Miller agreed. Commissioner Kronner stated that there will be a lose of revenue of \$30,000 per year. President Fockler stated we can renovate the second and third floors and rent those out. It was agreed that the plans to make 630 Water Street the new location for Town Hall will be open for community input.

Park Ranger – President Fockler is asking for a Park Ranger to authorize parking and patrol Foot Long Beach. Commissioners Kronner and Miller agreed. **This will be placed on the agenda at the next meeting.**

Boat Ramp - Floating Docks – **This will be placed on the agenda at the next meeting pending more information from Commissioner Miller.**

Street Lights – **This will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting pending more information from Commissioner Kronner.**

Events – Commissioner Wood stated that National Night Out at Avalon Park was a good event. She added that she wished more people could have come to the event. Commissioner Wood stated that Town Hall needed to be power washed, the flower boxes needed updating, and also the Ice House needed painting. Commissioner Wood asked the Commissioner's about hosting

Movie Night. President Fockler agreed this was a great a idea. Upon receiving a date, movie, and time, the event will be posted on the town's Facebook page.

Period of Public Comment

Pamela Mahan – Ms. Mahan stated that the storm drainage is a continual problem, and it seemed that all the storm water gathered at 338 Market Street, where her mother resides. Ms. Mahan further explained that twice this year the driveway was washed out after a storm. Ms. Mahan is happy to hear that the grass on Bladen Street will be trimmed more often, and requested Tory House also be added to receive regular maintenance.

President Fockler responded regarding the storm drainage problem; he has spoken to an engineer, to give the tow some concepts to consider.

Ursula Boudart – Ms. Boudart asked if something could be done about the bridge on Bladen Street, there is a lot of mud and gravel washes into the street when it rains. Ms. Boudart asked if the bridge could be regraded. Ms. Boudart also expressed there are safety and parking concerns about moving Town Hall to 630 Water Street. Ms. Boudart further explained the town needs the revenue that 630 Water Street generated. Ms. Boudart shared that there is a large log and stones that need to be removed from Foot Log Beach.

President Fockler stated that we will get more input from the community.

Richard Mahan – Mr. Mahan stated he was in favor of moving Town Hall to 630 Water Street, and if the town wants to renovate the current Town Hall, we all must consider a temporary place to work while 241 Market Street is being renovated. Mr. Mahan further explained he is in favor of selling Tower Point, and thought that the one million dollars was much needed capital for the town presently.

With there being no further business, Commissioner Wood moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Antoinette Rayfield, Town Clerk