

**TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND
August 24, 2021 7:00 PM
Fire Hall, 307 Market Street**

The meeting was called to order by President Karl Fockler at 7:03 PM. In attendance: Commissioners Wood, Kronner, and Miller; Staff: Bryan Lightner and Antoinette Rayfield, Town Attorney David Beste; Public attendees: Dan Rupert and Pauline Bryant.

Pledge of Allegiance: David Beste opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes: August 10, 2021 – Commissioner Kronner moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Miller. Approved 3-0.

Accounts Payable in the amount of \$110,777.10 were presented for approval. **Commissioner Kronner approved with Commissioner Wood's second. Approved 4-0.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Water Tower: Doug DeClurk was present via telephone conference. Mr. DeClurk explained that Stoltzfus agreed to complete the water tower painting to specifications, they were awaiting the paint which was on back order. Now that the paint was available, finding the right climate to paint the tower was the issue. Mr. DeClurk explained that the humidity was an issue which would make the paint bubble. President Fockler asked if the maintenance yard would be restored back to its original state before the paint contractors came, and Mr. DeClurk answered yes.

630 Water Street: President Fockler stated that now that the tenants have moved out of the property, the plan is to perhaps use the property as a temporary Town Hall while Town Hall on Market Street is renovated and expanded. President Fockler further explained that 630 Water Street was adequate in size and space for use as a Town Hall. Commissioner Wood asked if we could possibly utilize the second floor for rental office space. Commissioner Miller added that many upgrades are needed to make the space useful for office space, and would there be enough interest to attract people to rent office space in Charlestown. Commissioner Kronner added that going forward we need a plan and time limit to ensure that 630 Water Street does not become the permanent Town Hall. **Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to move Town Hall to 630 Water Street. Motion died for lack of a second.**

Park Ranger: President Fockler expressed the need for a Park Ranger on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at various beaches to keep the peace and write traffic tickets. Commissioner Miller stated we need more like a guard or police officer due to some of the unsavory behaviors during the weekends. Commissioner Wood asked where the funds would come from to pay for the position. President Fockler stated the town could pull the funds out of the sheriff's budget, and the traffic tickets would also add funds to that budget line item. President Fockler further explained he felt that eighteen dollars (\$18.00) per hour would be a sufficient salary, and that this person would work April through Labor Day. The position would be advertised next year.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kronner to hire a Park Ranger early next year, with a second by Commissioner Miller, Motion carried 4-0.

Street Lights: Commissioner Kronner explained that Linda Burris from Delmarva Power Inc. would like to see all of the remaining old lights replaced throughout Cecil County within the next eighteen (18) months. **This item was tabled pending additional information.**

Tower Point: Commissioner Wood made a motion to table the Tower Point conversation and vote because it was already decided in prior months. Commissioner Miller stated that more information was needed. Commissioner Kronner explained that we did not need to waste any more time on a done deal.

Floating Docks: Commissioner Miller found some prices and styles that could be considered for expanding the boat parking at the public boat launch. Additional dock space could be used while boaters wait to use the launch. **Tabled pending more information regarding permits needed and whether our insurance would be impacted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Shakespeare in the Park: Commissioner Wood requested that everyone come out and participate in this event. The event is scheduled for September 25, 2021 beginning at 7:00pm. Commissioner Wood further requested that a donation be made to The Brown Box Theater Company in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300). Funds to come out of the Parks and Recreation budget. **Motion made by Commissioner Wood, with a second by Commissioner Kronner, motion carried 4-0.**

Christmas Lights: Bryan Lightner presented the packet of Christmas decorations and cost to the Board of Commissioners. He explained that Charlestown would partner with other towns in Cecil County and become a part of the event “Winter Lights”, which is a program sponsored by the Cecil County Tourism Office. Mr. Lightner further explained it was a very successful event last year, and that Antoinette Rayfield is part of the County’s Planning Committee to help include Charlestown this year. Ms. Rayfield explained that there will be a grant that all the seven (7) participating towns will share, and the Cecil County Chamber of Commerce will let us know how much they are contributing to each town in the near future. **Tabled pending additional information.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dan Rupert shared that there is, what looks to be, a huge rust stain on the water tower. He also shared his concern about parking if Town Hall was moved to 630 Water Street.

Pauline voiced her concerns about the golf cart issue in town. She questioned whether the Town’s Golf Cart Ordinance was in effect and discussion ensued regarding enforcement.

Commissioner Miller moved to close the public meeting and go into Executive Session at 8:30 pm seconded by Commissioner Kronner. Approved 4-0.