

## TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President, Loucretia Wood at 7:00 PM. In attendance were Loucretia Wood, Jeff Fields, Patricia Clements, and Karl Fockler. Also in attendance was Mr. Wib Pumpaly, Town Administrator and Mr. Dennis Clower, Town Attorney. Commissioner Joseph Letts was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Prosper Boudart

Approval of the Minutes – August 27, 2019 **Commissioner Clements moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Fields. Approved 3-0.** Commissioner Fockler arrived at this point. A question was asked on whether we had gotten any bids on the Avalon building. We are expecting an examination of the building on Friday.

**Accounts Payable** in the amount of \$85,503.83 were presented for approval. **Commissioner Clements moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Wood. Approved 4-0.**

**Miller Environmental August Report** - Mr. Josh Griffith submitted the following in a written report. A total of 2,914,000 gallons of water was produced with an average daily production of 94,000 gallons. No submitted samples tested positive for coliform. Weekly housekeeping and weekly and monthly maintenance were performed. In addition, 43 Miss Utilities were completed, 1 Settlement read was performed. Daily pH and chlorine tests were performed and chemical feed pumps were adjusted as necessary to maintain optimal pH and chlorine parameters. Chemicals were mixed daily to maintain adequate levels for chemical feed with buffer time for fire safety. The chemical inventory was maintained. Daily tests were recorded in the TWF logbook. Monthly samples were collected and sent to certified lab for testing per state requirements. All data sheets for chemical usage, equipment runtime, pH calibration, and routine checklists were utilized and filed. The WTF Maintenance schedule was followed. Trained with the town to read radio meters. AC Schultes was in on 8/26/2019 to pull Well 1, confirmed proper operation of its check valve, and inspected the well casing due to a leak found at the well head. While onsite, he also dug down to Well – 1's discharge connection and found a dime-sized hole in the pipe. Parts were delivered and the leak was repaired on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The production of Well-1 was monitored after the repair and also several days after running it. The well has not increased in its production and is still around 20% less than when it was installed. Options were discussed with Mike Grapes of Charlestown and a follow-up report sent to Town Hall. We have agreed to run Well-1 more as it does sustain the tower level running 24-7, and will revisit the options mentioned in the report during the fall when usage is less. LECCO was in on 8/26/2019 and replaced the fire hydrant that had been leaking. Replaced a chlorine discharge line fitting on 8/30/2019. The iron content from Well #1 is declining as we run it more. Commissioner Fockler asked about the laundry list and if it is being accomplished. Miller has given the priority list to the Town. Now that we have some valves that they are able to exercise them, we might do a stem test and see if we can take them off the list to replace them. At present we have one valve that shuts the entire town down. It might be prudent to have a backup valve that would do this task. This would eliminate anyone having to go into the meter pit to shut down the tower.

**Cecil Co. Sheriff's August Report** –Sgt. Mahan was in attendance and a written report was submitted showing in August 2019 34 shifts were approved for a total of 136 hours. Of that number 120 hours were covered. There were three calls for service and two out of town assists. There were 132 property checks made. There were 31 community contacts. There was 5 traffic citation (1 radar and 4 non radar) and 20 (7 radar and 13 non-radar) warnings issued. No arrest warrants were served or issued.

They also supported National Night Out with a deputy and a K9 unit. He feels that Charlestown has less overdoses, robberies and thefts than other parts of the county. Commissioner Wood and Commissioner Clements expressed their appreciation for the police presence at National Night Out.

**Code Enforcement Monthly Review** – Bryan Lightner . He was in attendance and a written report was submitted showing his monthly review. He addressed complaints on 13 different properties within town for various issues. Three for buildings in disrepair, 1 suspected salvage home, an overgrown detention basin, wedding events without approval, accessory commercial use in residential zoning district, chickens roaming neighbors property, paint peeling and a dying tree, trash along the roadway, dogs barking all night, deck built without permit. He worked with Janine and applied for a Chesapeake Bay Trust Grant. Commissioner Clements asked about the wedding venue. She stated that she would like to have a discussion as she was just informed of a letter from the Town Attorney. The letter was sent to Mr. Ashworth in response to his letter.

**Resolution 2019 -01 Community Legacy Program Grant** It was suggested that the Town enact a resolution in support of the Community Legacy Program for a Façade Grant that has been applied for. **Commissioner Fockler moved to approve the resolution 2019-01, seconded by Commissioner Clements. Approved 4-0.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Long Point Tree Replacement – Willow Oak, White Swamp Oak – Janine Antoshak** She did some information gathering. These trees have a fall digging hazard so the planting should be held off until the spring. The estimate is \$800.00 per tree installed (planted). They will also take care once planted. By consensus this planting will be held off until spring. We will be having another horticulture & history tour October 19<sup>th</sup>. This will be a different tour than those held previously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Halloween Parade/Costume Judging** The date will be October 25, 2019.

**Christmas Party & Tree Lighting Activity** December 6<sup>th</sup> Tree Lighting December 7<sup>th</sup>

### **Period of Public Comment**

**Pauline Bryant** – She would like to ask the board once again for the town to approve golf carts. She really needs one. She thinks that children should not be able to use them. She has also seen vehicles launching boats at the wharf.

**Alvin Russell** – He would like to have his fine waived for his deck that he constructed. He was not aware that he needed a permit. Historic District Commission recommended that the fee be waived. Commissioner Lou Wood is against this as it would set a precedent. Mrs. Russell stated that many people have their fines waived. She thinks that this town is not fair. How does the Wellwood get away with all that they do? **Commissioner Fields moved to waive the fine because of the circumstances involved, there was no second for the motion.** Commissioner Clements asked if they had ever had permits for other things? Yes, for a fence and a shed, but many years ago. As there was no second the next step would be the Board of Appeals. Unfortunately, this would cost \$400.00. Commissioner Wood

moved to charge them \$10.00 an hour (2 hours a day x 4 days + \$50.00 for the permit for a total cost of \$130.00, seconded by Commissioner Clements. Approved 3-0.

**Rosalyn Bott** – The historian that is being used she hopes will not be the one that was used for the letter that the church received. The historian will be Mrs. Audrey Edwards.

**Orlan Kelly** – No comment

**Sean Durgin** – He was wondering about decks. He has been exploring where to find that information. Ledger boards must have special screws. Sgt Mahan advised as he had just built one that

**Dennis Taylor** – He would like to know about parking near Veterans Park. The stripping company has been delayed due to a death in the family.

**Prosper Boudart** – He is concerned about the Foot Log Bridge that needs screws, power washing and stained. The window of opportunity is shrinking. Power washing will need to have a trap underneath to catch the debris.

**Bart Rommell** – 409 Calvert – He is concerned about the wedding venue. Do you fine Larry about the stairway and railing? Do you fine his for the weddings? The traffic is a problem. We have people walking the streets and the buses are creating a problem. We are not making money off the weddings, but are actually are losing money. He would like to see them keep their activity at the property on Water Street

**Maryanne Rommell** – They have owned their property for 17 years. She is in support of her neighbors and their concerns of the weddings. She wanted to state that the weddings take place on the weekends and not Monday through Friday.

**Craig Schnell** - Mr. Schnell passed out pictures showing the residence at 125 Conestoga being used as a wedding venue. He cited our code that pointed out that residential businesses can have no more than 2 employees at a time. 175.1 A building or portion thereof designed for use as a residence. In terms of the lawyers thinking that it is “grandfathered in”. Home occupation must be enclosed in the residence. These weddings take place outside. The area around Calvert and Conestoga is residential and the 125 residence is being operated as a business. He refers to Commissioner Fockler’s comments about keeping the character of Town Hall and the historic ambience. He stated that Commissioner Fockler has a business interest with Mr. Metz and will he be involved in discussions? That is not a topic for the closed session tonight. Has anyone given Larry permission to have weddings? No.

**Tom Kelly** – He would like to be informed once the lawyers are finished with their discussions. Then he will have more comment. Commissioner Clements would like to see a meeting with Planning and Zoning and the Commissioners to sit down and state what the position of the town is. Mr. Kelly wants someone to support the neighbors.

Commissioner Wood moved to close the session to a closed session, seconded by Commissioner Clements at 8:32 PM. Approved 4-0. During the closed session, Commissioner Felds left.

The meeting was reopened at 9:42PM. There is nothing further to discuss at this point. Commissioner Clements to close the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Fockler at 9:43 PM. Approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Myers, Town Clerk

Loucretia Wood, President Board of Commissioners

Approved 9.24.2019