

**TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND
September 14, 2021 7:00 PM
Town Hall, 241 Market Street**

The meeting was called to order by President Karl Fockler at 7:03 PM. In attendance: Commissioners Wood, Kronner, Miller, and Elmer via Zoom; Staff: Bryan Lightner, Town Attorney David Beste; Public attendees: Sonny Diamonte, Jeanette Armour, Ursula Boudart, Prosper Boudart, Mary Clark Confalone, and Richard Mahan.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mary Clark Confalone opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes: August 24, 2021 – Commissioner Kronner moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Miller. Approved 4-0.

The Report of the Executive Session of August 24, 2021 was that an offer of full time employment would be extended to Eric Mocko and a workplace harassment policy would be refined in consultation with the Town Attorney.

Accounts Payable in the amount of \$30,857.60 were presented for approval. **Commissioner Kronner moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Miller. Approved 5-0.**

Miller Environmental – August Report: This report will be provided next week and subsequently emailed to the Commissioner's for their review.

Cecil County Sheriff's Office – August Report: This report will be provided next week and subsequently emailed to the Commissioner's for their review.

Maintenance Report: Commissioner Elmer reviewed the list of items that the Maintenance staff completed in August, including power washing Town Hall, cleaning Foot Log Beach, installing the rake onto the Kubota tractor for beach cleaning, installed the speed bump in front of Town Hall, cleaned up debris after Tropical Storm Ida, and kept the bathrooms cleaned at Veteran's Park.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Hall Addition: Richard Mahan presented the concept drawings he prepared for the proposed additions onto Town Hall. One version included expansion towards the Fire Hall, another version to be presented at the next meeting included expansion towards the Fair Green Park Playground. Mr. Mahan shared the first version was a modest increase in office space, providing a new post office, and new meeting space. The number of parking spaces provided would increase slightly and be adequate to support the increased addition square footage.

Avalon Park Master Plan: Mary Clark Confalone gave a presentation on the history of the park since the Town acquired it from a marina. It's always been a focus of the Green Team and the committee set up by the Commissioners to plan for the park to keep the park looking as natural as possible. The stage was added as an entertainment space and another goal has been to educate residents and increase awareness of the value of native plants in our landscape.

Stormwater Management Priorities: President Fockler shared two concept maps showing sub-drainage areas to known stormwater problem areas in Town, Frederick & Market Streets near the Athletic Complex, and Frederick and Calvert Streets near the Wellwood. The engineering company PELSA is working on some conceptual designs for reducing flooding in these areas, and these will be shared with the Commissioners when they become available. The goal is to use a combination local funds and grant funds to design and construct restoration projects within these two priority areas.

NEW BUSINESS:

Speed Bumps: President Fockler discussed how these speed reduction measures were approved for use at a previous meeting, but now open for discussion is where to place them. A survey was developed to solicit feedback from residents, which shows they are split on the idea of using speed bumps to reduce speeding, however, the majority recognize and agree that speed bumps can increase public safety. The majority of residents do not approve of the speed bump currently in front of Town Hall along Market Street. A list of other streets to consider for placing speed bumps will be shared at the next meeting for a vote.

Cool Springs Phase 3C Dedication: Bryan Lightner explained the deed transferring ownership of the streets, sidewalks, lights, and storm drainage system of this section of Cool Springs from the developer to the Town needs to be signed and recorded at the County Courthouse.

Commissioner Kronner moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Miller. Approved 5-0.

GIS software purchase: Bryan Lightner explained this computer software is necessary to begin mapping the drinking water system and stormwater drainage system, particularly with the goal of better tracking the maintenance tasks associated with these systems. Computer licenses would be purchased for one desktop in Town Hall and two i-pads for use of the maintenance staff. The price quote submitted also includes a training class for two Town employees. **Commissioner Kronner moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Miller. Approved 5-0.**

Community Survey Priorities: Commissioner Miller discussed his review of past meeting minutes to develop a list of tasks that need to be completed. The goal is to develop a survey for residents to begin to see which tasks might be a higher priority for them, which can in turn, help the Commissioners take appropriate action towards completion. Commissioner Miller will meet with Bryan Lightner next week to develop a list for a vote at the next meeting.

Volunteer Events: Bryan Lightner shared two volunteer events coming up, River Sweep on September 18th, to clean up Long Point, Sandy Beach, and Foot Log Beach, including tree and

shrub plantings; and Cecil Cares Day on October 2nd, to cut back the vegetation growing along the bulkhead at Avalon Park.

Veteran's Park Flagpole Light: President Fockler discussed installing a solar light to illuminate the flag at Veteran's Park. **Commissioner Kronner moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Miller. Approved 5-0.**

Commissioner Elmer discussed the idea of rewarding Commissioner's for their service to the Town, and one way to do this could be to waive their water utility bills.

President Fockler made the group aware of a hearing before the Circuit Court on October 22nd, to determine whether the Town and Barbara Payne have standing to appeal the Cecil County Council's recent rezoning decision for the lands located at 1875 W. Old Philadelphia Road.

President Fockler also discussed the County's adopt-a-road program and suggested we adopt the stretch of MD 7, from the creek next to 875 W. Old Philadelphia Road to Bladen Street.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sonny Diamonte shared recent publications highlighting his group's efforts with the Ice House. He also wanted to make everyone aware of a decoy collector's event being planned for next spring.

Jeanette Armour announced the Wreaths Across America event will be held on December 18th. She also mentioned the importance of engaging children with history and the group discussed the idea of creating a historic walking tour map for Charlestown. Ms. Armour also will work with Commissioner Kronner to have Rob Knight paint the Ice House.

Ursula Boudart asked what the purpose of Sandy Beach was, as she's noticed some small boats being launched from that land. There are white posts along Conestoga Street that were recently replaced, and a black chain needs to be installed to limit boat launching from this park.

Prosper Boudart questioned why 630 Water Street appears vacant. Bryan Lightner mentioned there are still some minor repairs needed and a lease needs to be developed with the Town Attorney before renting.

Richard Mahan questioned why no action was taken regarding the Town Hall addition, and this item will be brought up at the next meeting for a vote.

Commissioner Kronner moved to close the public meeting at 8:30 pm, seconded by Commissioner Miller. Approved 5-0.