

# Town of Upper Marlboro

## REGULAR TOWN MEETING

October 11, 2011

Approved Minutes

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Stephen F. Sonnett, President of the Board of Town Commissioners  
James Storey, Commissioner/ Treasurer  
Joseph A. Hourclé, Commissioner (scheduled absence)

Staff present: M. David Williams, Town Clerk

Also present: Various citizens and interested parties.

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes

President Sonnett asked for consent to the Agenda. Approval was given by both Commissioners. The Town Meeting minutes from September 13, 2011 were summarized by President Sonnett and the Work Session minutes from September 27, 2011 were summarized by Commissioner Storey. Commissioner Storey motioned to approve both sets of minutes, President Sonnett seconded. All minutes from September's Town Meeting and Work Session were unanimously approved.

### Review/Approval of the Financial Report

Commissioner Storey reviewed highlights of the Treasurer's Report as of September 30, 2011. At 3 months into FY2012, total operational revenues and general government expenses are all within the 25% benchmark range with the exception of the "Audit, Dues & Subscriptions, Insurance, Police Liability and Vehicles" line items which are one-time expenses. President Sonnett motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, Commissioner Storey seconded. The Treasurer's Report as of September 30, 2011 was unanimously approved.

### Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Storey: Reported that the Board had an out-briefing resolution meeting with the auditor today as part of the annual financial report currently in progress. There was an excess of revenues over expenditures. It was suggested that the Town start using accrual-based reports in order to avoid having to move revenues back from July and August of the next fiscal year. Overall, the auditor's report was favorable of the measures the Town has taken towards fiscal responsibility. Commissioner Storey also reported that two CDs will be due for renewal on November 1<sup>st</sup> and November 10<sup>th</sup>.

President Sonnett: Reported that 3 meetings had been arranged with the State Highway Administration (SHA) as a result of his conversation with the Secretary of Transportation last summer at the MML Convention. The first meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup> dealt with the consolidation of traffic and informational signage downtown and the second meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup> concerned sidewalk and crosswalk plans for Old Marlboro Pike (Rte. 725). The third meeting is planned with SHA District Engineer personnel for November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

President Sonnett also reported on: Recent communications with Comcast concerning a cost analysis for installation; A September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting and briefing with County personnel about flooding issues; An October 4<sup>th</sup> reception for municipal officials at the U.S. Capitol; and, LGIT Volunteerism workshops and Emergency Preparedness training.

He added that the Nomination for Historic Designation had been unanimously forwarded by the State Board on October 4<sup>th</sup>, and, that a County Commission on the War of 1812 has been formed and that the Town is sponsoring Town Clerk M. David Williams and resident Brian Callicott to serve on its board.

### Business

Board of Supervisors of Elections: President Sonnett recommended residents Yvonne Tucker, John McCauley and Patricia Skews be nominated to the 2012 Board of Supervisors of Elections. The board approved of the

nomination of the 3 residents with no one opposed. The nominees will be sworn in by the President and receive their election workbooks before November 7<sup>th</sup> when their 2-year term begins.

Holiday Party: Commissioner Storey announced that the Town Hall-iday Party will be on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. He said given the success of last year's party, the venue will be the same with a tree lighting ceremony at dusk, food & beverages, carols and photo ops with Santa.

Energy Grant RFP: The RFP was posted on the Town website and was emailed to 6 minority contractors and also 6 local businesses in the area. Only one bid was received from a qualified contractor with grant experience. President Sonnett said that because the bid seemed to be high, he will talk further with the EmPower grant consultant to see if the Town will need to rebid the HVAC upgrade project.

Cruzin' Main Street: Due to more rain in the forecast, the event was again postponed from September 25<sup>th</sup> to October 23<sup>rd</sup>. President Sonnet motioned to approve the date change on the application, Commissioner Storey seconded the motion. All were favor with no one opposed.

Special Event application: An application was received form Frederick Douglass High School to hold their Homecoming Parade on October 29<sup>th</sup>. President Sonnet motioned to approve the application, Commissioner Storey seconded the motion. All were favor with no one opposed.

Police Department issues: In light of the departure of one of the Town's police officers, the President opened the floor to discussion on whether or not the Town needed to refill that position so as to continue the mid-watch shift (1—8:00 a.m.) He noted that over a 6-month period, the police had averaged slightly less than 2 calls per month during that shift, and that the police vehicle that was recently "totaled" in the flood would also need to be replaced should the Town decide to continue the mid-watch coverage. After discussion, the commissioners agreed to monitor the number of calls for an additional period of time in order to reassess the situation at a later date.

President Sonnett noted that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that the Town entered into with the Criminal Justice System in 1982, allowing our police to obtain various police-related information, will need to be reauthorized. Commissioner Storey made a motion to authorize President Sonnett to renew the agreement, President Sonnett seconded the motion. All were favor with no one opposed.

Old Marlboro Elementary School and Old Stone Building: On September 27<sup>th</sup>, the Town learned that plans were underway to demolish the old school buildings on Elm Street. Since then, President Sonnett has made numerous phone calls to county officials and has also read the bid solicitation which confirmed the demolition of the 2 school buildings but specifies restoration and preservation of Dr. William Beanes' gravesite and the small brown house next to it. It was also learned that a "Domestic Court" and a new Sheriff's Department were planned for that location. President Sonnett noted that the parcel of land and the two school buildings were recently upgraded to "Historic Site" status. During recent meetings with Mel Franklin and Rushern Baker, he had communicated that the school buildings (and the old stone building) were important to the character of the Town and should be preserved. He said he will continue to collect more facts and that the Town could hopefully, through discussion, be able to persuade the County not to proceed with the demolition. The floor was opened to discussion and it was noted that any new structure would abut the historic designated residential neighborhood and could also negatively impact the Post Office and the traffic on Elm Street. President Sonnett added that the Old Stone building and the Crain Monument had both sustained minor damage from the earthquake last August.

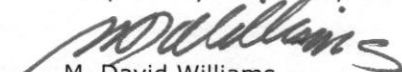
## **Public Comment**

Questions concerning plans for new sidewalks and crosswalks on Old Marlboro Pike were raised. President Sonnett said the project is still in the beginning planning stages, but that the State would be funding it.

## **Adjournment**

Commissioner Storey made a motion to adjourn, President Sonnett seconded the motion. All were in favor with no one opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
M. David Williams  
Town Clerk

