

# Town of Upper Marlboro

## REGULAR TOWN MEETING

December 11, 2012

Approved Minutes

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

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

Staff present: M. David Williams, Town Clerk

Also present: Bailey Henneberg of *Patch.com*, Mr. Eugene Pitrof and various citizens and interested parties.

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes & Financial Reports

President Sonnett asked for consent to the Agenda. Approval was given by both Commissioners. The Town Meeting minutes from November 13, 2012 and the Work Session minutes from November 27, 2012 were summarized by Commissioner Hourclé. Commissioner Storey motioned to approve both sets of minutes, Commissioner Hourclé seconded. All minutes from November's Town Meeting and Work Session were unanimously approved.

Commissioner Storey reviewed highlights of the Treasurer's Report as of November 30, 2012. He noted that total operational revenues and general government expenses were within an acceptable range of the 42% benchmark for 5 months into FY2013. He noted that 2 CDs were up for renewal this month and one more in April, 2013. Commissioner Hourclé motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, President Sonnett seconded. With no one opposed, the Treasurer's Report as of November 30, 2012 was unanimously approved.

### Reports

Historical Committee: Chair, Kate Germano reported on the 1st meeting of the Town of Upper Marlboro Historical Committee (TUMHC) that was on November 19<sup>th</sup>. With a total of 18 in attendance, the committee reviewed and approved a draft of the "Bylaws of the Town of Upper Marlboro Historical Committee". Regular Committee Meetings are to be held quarterly and Archival Sessions will be scheduled for once a month starting on 15 December 2012. She also noted that the TUMHC is planning to create a Self-Guided Walking Tour of the Town, and possibly a Holiday Historic Home Tour in December 2013. Also in 2013, they will develop an Oral History program as well, and have already agreed on the theme to be "School Days in Upper Marlboro". The Chair then urged citizens to bring items of historical interest to the Archiving Session next Saturday to have them recorded, photographed or scanned for the Town Archives.

Committee Member Brian Callicott reported that Carol Whitsell of the Daughters of 1812 had contacted the TUMHC via Town Hall asking how to get permission to "mark" Dr. Beanes' gravesite, to commemorate the anniversary. Town Clerk, David Williams noted that Ms. Whitsell had mentioned their group had hoped to hold a ceremony for the marking sometime in the fall of 2013. Kate Germano added that the committee will assist her in the process of finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County on this event.

Commissioner Hourclé: Reported that on November 27<sup>th</sup>, he attended one of two Listening Sessions scheduled by the County Executive Office, at Charles H. Flowers Elementary School.

Commissioner Storey: Reported that the Town Hall-iday Party went very well, with 35-40 in attendance. He thanked everyone who helped make it a success. The President added a special thank you to Jim and Ellen Storey for organizing the event and providing the excellent food and refreshments.

President Sonnett: President Sonnett reported that he had sent a letter to the Chair of the County Planning Board officially requesting a detailed evaluation of the Old Marlboro High School (Historic Site 79-019-52) and received a reply back yesterday. Elizabeth Hewitt, Chair of the Planning Board stated that head of the Historic Preservation Section would be contacting the Town soon to determine the type of study the Town desires. He added that the Park & Planning Department was still awaiting a signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) from the County to conduct repair and maintenance to Dr. William and Sarah Beanes' gravesite.

Last June, the Town sent a letter to Roslyn Johnson, Deputy Director Department of Parks and Recreation, concerning traffic congestion created by the annual graduation schedule at the Show Place Arena. President

Sonnett said a reply letter was received in November and that there would be a meeting this week between the County Court, Maryland State Police and Town Police Chief Michael Gonnella, to come up with a plan. Other topics and updates reported: 1) Bi-weekly meetings with the County Planning Department to complete an application for Sustainable Community designation are going well; 2) The DC Running Club has approached the Town with an idea to hold an event in the Town next fall. Will meet soon to define event venue and details; 3) Sub Region 5 & 6 Master Plans were voided by the Court, meaning the County Planning Department must go back to the stage when they first obtained permission to print the preliminary Master Plan, and will then have to repeat all successive steps of the process thereafter until reapproved; 4) The President said he attended the PGCMA Legislative Reception on November 15<sup>th</sup> and that the major topic of discussion was advocating reinstatement of Municipal Highway User Fees to pre-recession levels. 5) The Town Clerk has been meeting with other municipalities to develop an Emergency Preparedness Operations Manual.

## Business

President Sonnett said the County has once again offered the Town surplus property at 14500 Church Street, which includes the structurally damaged stone building. He noted that the Town, at present, cannot think of a good public use for it due to lack of parking, but would like to know what would become of the site should the Town not opt to receive the property. He added that the Town has until 30 December 2012 to reply.

Recycling Services contract: The Town was notified by mail in November that its 5-year Recycle Collection contract had expired in October. President Sonnett noted that the "per unit" cost had gone up from \$42 to \$48, and that he would be investigating other options as there are problems with the renewal contract.

Town Hall Addition project: Copies of an updated floor plan for the new Town Hall addition dated 10 December 2012 were distributed and reviewed by the Board. It was noted that more storage space would be desirable. In response to questions, President Sonnett said that construction would not be started for another year, and that the exterior design will be in harmony with the existing Town Hall with brick façade and roof line down, so as not to conflict with the residential feel of the immediate area. He said costs have been roughly estimated to be \$150-\$250 per square foot (or, \$500-\$650K total).

He then opened the floor to those in attendance for comments and suggestions. Concerns expressed included: 1) Main entrance does not face street; 2) Operating costs may be too high once built; 3) Showers for staff not necessary; 4) A 99-seat capacity multi-purpose room may not be needed; 5) Already have community center just outside Town; And lastly, 6) Outside groups using new facility seems undesirable. Other comments in support of the current design included: 1) Addition will engender more community involvement; 2) A larger space and a kitchen are already needed for existing annual Town events; 3) Larger sized multi-purpose room and emergency generator enables Town Hall to be an emergency operations center; 4) Existing building to get energy efficiency upgrades, and addition will have energy efficiency built in; 5) Current estimated total costs are roughly 15%—20% of Town's present total assets.

President Sonnett concluded with saying there will be many updates ahead and more opportunities for discussion as the design is refined and details are worked out down-the-line.

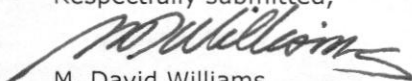
## Public Comment

A pothole on Elm Street was reported and noted by the Clerk. Also, Commissioner Hourclé invited anyone interested in working with the Marlborough Day Committee, to attend their next meeting.

## Adjournment

Commissioner Storey made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Hourclé seconded the motion. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



M. David Williams  
Town Clerk

