

Town of Upper Marlboro

REGULAR TOWN MEETING

January 8, 2013

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: Daniel Gross, writer for the *Gazette* and various citizens and interested parties.

Pledge of Allegiance

Consent to the Agenda

President Sonnett asked for consent to the Agenda. Approval was given by both Commissioners.

Presentations

President Sonnett introduced Mr. Michael S. Asante, Ph.D., and Tiffany Williams-Jennings from the Prince George's County Planning Department who delivered an update about the County's new General Plan 2035. Through a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Asante answered questions and explained how the plan is developed and how communities can participate. President Sonnett suggested that the role of the County's 27 municipalities should be taken into account during the planning process, as most of them have cultural amenities, and/or development plans in progress or in place already. Informational handouts were provided.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes & Financial Reports

The Town Meeting minutes from December 11, 2012 and the Work Session minutes from December 18, 2012 were summarized by Commissioner Hourclé. Commissioner Storey motioned to approve both sets of minutes, Commissioner Hourclé seconded. All minutes from December's Town Meeting and Work Session were unanimously approved.

Commissioner Storey reviewed highlights of the Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2012. He said that total operational revenues and general government expenses were within an acceptable range of the 50% benchmark for 6 months into FY2013. He also noted 2 CDs would be up for renewal in June and December of 2013. Commissioner Hourclé motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, President Sonnett seconded the motion. The Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2012 was unanimously approved.

Reports

Committees: Kate Germano delivered a report on the Town's Historical Committee Archiving Session on December 15th, highlighting an exciting oral history interview that they are currently conducting with long-time past resident, Shirley Duvall. She then encouraged those with old photos and documents to attend the next Archiving Session scheduled for January 19th at the Town Hall.

Commissioner Hourclé: Had nothing to report at this time.

Commissioner Storey: Had nothing to report at this time.

President Sonnett: President Sonnett delivered an update on the Showplace Arena/Graduation Ceremony traffic congestion problem, saying that the Town had recently met with the State Police on the issue, and had also received a reply back from the Showplace Arena management. So far, only certain ceremony times had been changed, however, meetings are expected to continue that will address traffic rerouting by the police. He also reported on the following topics: 1) The M.O.U. authorizing repair and routine maintenance of Dr. William Beanes' gravesite by the Park and Planning Department has finally been signed by the County; 2) The Town has sent a letter to the County stating that the terms of the current renewal contract for recycling were unacceptable, and that the Town is requesting to enter into a dialogue to adjust some of those terms; 3) A January 11th meeting has been scheduled with the County Planning Department to discuss what

kind of study(s) should be conducted on the Old Marlboro Elementary School (OMES) building; 4) Meetings have been scheduled at 2 week intervals to work with the County Planning Department to complete a Sustainable Community application, to submit the final by April, 2013; 5) Comcast franchise negotiations are now going well and another meeting is scheduled for February 8th. The Town has officially submitted a request for an I-Net connection to Town Hall.

Business

FY2013 Detailed Budget Adjustments: Commissioner Storey reviewed mid-year adjustments to line items in the FY2013 Detailed Budget. Commissioner Hourclé motioned to adopt the proposed adjustments, President Sonnett seconded. With no objections, the mid-year adjustments were unanimously approved.

Public Works Maintenance Manager: Under Charter provision 82-15B, President Sonnett made a motion for the Board to approve the hiring of Demetrius Stevenson to fill the vacant position. Commissioner Hourclé seconded the motion to approve. A vote was taken. With no one in opposition, the approval was unanimous.

Stone Building: The Office of Central Services has offered to raze the old stone building at 14500 Church Street and deed the land to the Town, on the condition the site be dedicated to public use. Noting that the building had structural problems, not enough parking, and given that the Town could not render a practical use for the structure, President Sonnett asked for a motion to accept the offer. Commissioner Hourclé motioned to accept provided that all applicable laws are followed in the process, Commissioner Storey seconded. With no one in opposition, approval was unanimous. It was also noted during public comment that the stones might be saved and possibly incorporated into a garden-scape, maybe as a wall or wishing well.

Marlboro Village Shopping Center Liquor Store: President Sonnett reviewed the Town's interests concerning Osborne Wine and Spirit's request for a transfer of license to the Villages of Marlborough Shopping Center. The floor was then opened for public comment. Concerns included litter, crime/shoplifting, adequate police/security presence, vagrancy and possible negative impacts on businesses and residents. The Board suggested the Town formulate a position, and noted that any citizen can participate in the Public Hearing scheduled for 10 a.m. February 26th at the County Services Building in Hyattsville.

National Park Service (NPS): Another M.O.U. is being sought by the NPS with the Town that creates a partnership agreement, naming the Town as monitor of an interpretive sign that is scheduled to be installed at the gravesite of Dr. William and Sarah Beanes this spring. A draft is currently being developed and should be finalized by the next Town Meeting.

Public Comment

A citizen expressed concern about the proposed Town Hall addition, proposing a referendum be presented for the Town residents to vote on. Another resident expressed concern that, the multi-purpose room as shown in the current design proposal was larger than needed. It was also noted that both speakers stated that the operating costs of this sized addition would be too high for the taxpayers to afford. A third citizen questioned the need for a larger space for the police department.

Adjournment

Commissioner Storey made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Hourclé seconded the motion. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



M. David Williams
Town Clerk

