

Town of Upper Marlboro

REGULAR TOWN MEETING

August 13, 2013

Approved Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 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: Senator Mike Miller and various citizens and interested parties.

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentation

President Sonnett welcomed and introduced Senator Mike Miller, President of the Maryland State Senate, who then presented to the Town a large format panoramic photograph taken on September 30, 1922 depicting the grand opening ceremony of the Robert Crain Highway. The Historical Committee Chair, Kate Germano, accepted the donation on behalf of the Town. Senator Miller said a friend had found the photograph at an antique shop, and since, Senator Miller had it enhanced by an archivist and framed.

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 July 9, 2013 and the Work Session minutes from July 23, 2013 were acknowledged by the Board as reviewed. Commissioner Storey motioned to approve both sets of minutes, Commissioner Hourclé seconded. All minutes from July's Town Meeting and Work Session were unanimously approved.

Commissioner Storey reviewed highlights of the Treasurer's Report as of July 31, 2013. He noted that there was a surplus of over \$200K from Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) that ended June 30, 2013 and that the current Treasurer's Report reflected only one month into FY14. Commissioner Hourclé motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, President Sonnett seconded the motion. The Treasurer's Report as of July 31, 2013 was unanimously approved.

Reports

Staff/Committees: The Clerk delivered an update on select War of 1812 anniversary events taking place in Prince George's County in the month of August. He also reminded those in attendance about the County's new Call Center number "311". He added that the 311 number only works if calling from within Prince George's County, and that callers from outside the county should dial (301) 833-4748.

The Historical Committee Chair reminded the group that the next quarterly meeting would be on August 17th immediately followed by an Archiving Session. She also reported that a very successful Oral History about St. Mary of the Assumption had been conducted at the July meeting and related documents from Gloria Wyvill have since been scanned and posted on the TUMHC website: www.tumhc.weebly.com.

Commissioner Hourclé: Reported that he attended a Plan 2035 meeting on the topic 'Where Should Downtown PG County Be?' An evaluation and scoring system was used to rate Metrorail stations, and, from a list of 6 stations selected, the New Carrollton and Prince George's Plaza Metro Stations were named as the top 2 sites in which development and revitalization efforts should be focused on. He also attended a meeting with Congressman Steny Hoyer and many municipal officials on July 2nd at the Upper Marlboro FOP. The majority of concerns were regarding neglected infrastructure.

Commissioner Storey: Reported that the Town's annual audit was scheduled for tomorrow and Thursday.

President Sonnett: President Sonnett noted that Police Officer Derrick Cromartie would be leaving employment with the Town next Thursday but that the vacant position should be filled before too long. Other topics reported on included: 1) The repaving of Marlborough Drive and Marlborough Circle is now in progress and President Sonnett acknowledged Andy Colevas for all of his invaluable assistance; 2) Because of the paving schedule, the rescheduled date for trash pick-up in Marlborough Towne was misinterpreted to include the entire Town. President Sonnett apologized for the misinformation that was printed in the *Landings* newsletter; 3) The Sustainable Community application is still on schedule to meet the October 1st submission deadline; 4) The County's I-Net team will be meeting with the Town next week to discuss different options for hook-up; 5) The Public Works crew has painted the exterior of Town Hall and the Church Street parking lot fencing, and will be making landscape improvements in the lot as well; 6) The July, 2013 Town Police Report was read aloud by President Sonnett.

Business

Special Event application: The Board reviewed a Special Events application submitted for the "Cruzin' Main Street Car Show" to be held on August 24th. Upon verification, Commissioner Hourclé motioned to approve the application and Commissioner Storey seconded the motion. With no one in opposition, the application was unanimously approved.

Resolution 2013-04; IRS Section 125 "Premium Only Plan": President Sonnett read the resolution aloud in its entirety. He noted that the document is required by the IRS and acts as the official authorization by the Board, for a portion of employees' insurance premiums to be designating as "pre-tax" wages. Commissioner Storey made a motion to adopt Resolution 2013-04 and Commissioner Hourclé seconded the motion. With no one in opposition, Resolution 2013-04 was unanimously adopted.

Maryland "Day To Serve" program: The Town will participate in this 4-State annual event by holding a Town-Wide Yard Sale on Saturday, September 28, 2013. Seller's fees will be \$15 per set-up, payable in either U.S. dollars and/or non-perishable food items, all of which will be donated to our local area food bank. Residents, Travis and Melissa Welch, have volunteered to organize the event, and the Town will partner with other charitable organizations in the area.

Property Standards (discussion): President Sonnett delivered an overview of how the County enforces violations of its Property Standards Code. He stated that given the low success rate of that enforcement, he believes that the Town should engage in a discussion about property blight concerns to help create a plan that would effectively address the Town's major concerns. Blank index cards were distributed and those in attendance were asked to write down their top issues of concern. Each participant was then asked to state their top concerns, without repeating an issue already transcribed by the Clerk, until all issues were listed.

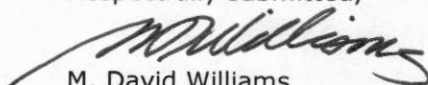
Items/issues offered up, discussed and recorded included: 1) Non-working/abandoned vehicles in yard; 2) Unstable/unfinished buildings; 3) Too many residents/vehicles per house; 4) Inappropriate signage (Bail Bonds); 5) Visible junk left out in yards; 6) Illegal parking promoted by business; 7) Party Noise (after hours too); 8) Commercial trash (outside containers); 9) Time limit on residential yard sales; 10) Commercial noise/ off hours (i.e.; trash pick-up); 11) Storm water runoff; 12) Unleashed pets; 13) Speeding vehicles; 14) House & Yard maintenance; 15) Downed trees; 16) Inappropriate storage of personal property (outdoors).

In conclusion, the President said that the exercise was a good start and asked residents to now consider what kind of Town Ordinances (or Code) would they like to see enacted.

Adjournment

Commissioner Storey made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Hourclé seconded the motion. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



M. David Williams
Town Clerk

