

Town of Upper Marlboro

REGULAR TOWN MEETING

January 14, 2014

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
Larissa A. Ferrer, Commissioner

Staff present: M. David Williams, Town Clerk

Also present: The Honorable Marilyn M. Bland Clerk of the Circuit Court, and various citizens and interested parties.

Oath of Office

The oath of office was administered to the three, newly elected Board of Town Commissioners by The Honorable Marilyn M. Bland, Clerk of the Circuit Court. Certificates were signed and issued.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Meeting Minutes & Financial Reports

President Sonnett asked for consent to the Agenda. Approval was given by all Commissioners present. The Town Meeting minutes from December 16, 2013 were acknowledged by the Board as reviewed (the December Work Session was canceled due to holiday conflicts). Commissioner Storey motioned to approve the minutes, Commissioner Ferrer seconded. The minutes from the December 16, 2013 Town Meeting were unanimously approved.

Commissioner Storey reviewed highlights of the Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2013. He noted that total operational revenues were at 67% and general government expenses were within an acceptable range of the 50% benchmark for 6 months into FY2014. He noted that the high revenue percentage was due to tax payments received earlier than normal. Commissioner Ferrer motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, President Sonnett seconded. The Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2013 was unanimously approved.

Reports

Staff/Committees: Mr. Williams pointed out a new 4-panel exhibit in the meeting room entitled "The War of 1812 in Prince George's County". He added that it is on loan to him for his display at the upcoming Clerk's Conference in Bowie starting tomorrow.

The Historical Committee Vice-Chair, Patti Skews, announced the next TUMHC Quarterly Meeting & Archiving Session would be Saturday, January 18th at 9:00 a.m. and would include a Marlborough Day Festival Planning Session. She also reported on the December 21st Archiving Session, noting that the TUMHC is currently working on a walking tour map in preparation for Marlborough Day.

Commissioner Ferrer: Reported that she and the Board of Commissioners met today with County Officials and the Town's Public Works Supervisor concerning Storm Water Management practices. It was noted that the County had only partial information about the stormwater drain system in Town, and that the missing pieces of information would now need to be collected from various sources to complete the picture. The Town's Sustainable Communities policies and future projects were also discussed. She added that it had been a productive meeting with important accomplishments, and that the County has agreed to assist with public outreach and help identify available grants for projects.

Commissioner Storey: Had no report at this time.

President Sonnett: President Sonnett reported that the Sustainable Communities application that was expected to have been approved in January, should now have, approval by the second or third week of February. He noted that so far, he has heard nothing but positive feedback about the Town's application.

He also reported that he attended the Maryland Municipal League's Opening Day Legislative Reception in Annapolis on January 8th with Commissioner Ferrer, noting that it was an important networking event.

Business

Sustainable Communities Plan: A hand-out was distributed entitled "January Town Meeting Discussion DRAFT" that listed a variety of project ideas for needed improvements to the Town. President Sonnett explained how the list was derived from the objectives and goals outlined within the Town's Sustainable Communities application. He then asked those in attendance to review the list of projects, in order to engage in a group discussion. Comments and ideas offered and discussed under the five separate subheadings included:

- 1) Infrastructure— Street scape design and sidewalks most important; Add "pedestrian-scale" lighting; Add/connect bike trails; Bike lanes most likely not feasible on certain streets due to narrow lanes; Hire streetscaping and sidewalks specialists to generate recommendations; Replace missing "post-caps" on Schoolhouse Pond boardwalk; Install walking/biking path to Community Center; Dredge project to enable kayaking; and, Widen sidewalk/improve accessibility to Dr. Beanes' gravesite.
- 2) Structures — Survey historic buildings for adaptive re-use options/use results to market to community-oriented entities for low-impact use; reestablish building facades such as the old movie theatre; and, Work with DOT/Metro to improve transportation options and parking;
- 3) History/Branding/Community — Improve Beanes' Gravesite to be a more welcoming Memorial Site; Better signage (in and outside of Town) for Town's historic sites; Work with the County to improve the overall presence and feel of the County Seat to dovetail with Town's Historic Village appeal.
- 4) Economic Development — Address parking issues (i.e.; requirements for business employee parking spaces, grand-fathering agreements, shared parking facilities, better directional signage, etc.); and, Consider hiring Downtown Business Manager.
- 5) Environment — Better recycling program/participation (different household bins, community bins, hazardous waste collection scheduling, public outreach); Household trash Pay-As-You-Throw programs; Energy-efficient street lighting; and, Property standards/Code enforcement (i.e.; grass height, litter control).

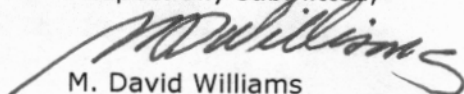
Public Comment

President Sonnett said that residents should be receiving a new Stormwater Management Tax on this year's tax bill, but could receive rebates for homeowner control efforts such as rain barrels, etc.

Adjournment

Commissioner Ferrer made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Storey seconded the motion. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


M. David Williams
Town Clerk

