

# Town of Upper Marlboro

## REGULAR TOWN MEETING

February 11, 2014

Approved Minutes

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m.

Roll Call: Stephen F. Sonnett, President of the Board of Town Commissioners  
James Storey, Commissioner / Treasurer  
Larissa A. Ferrer, Commissioner (communicated absence)

Staff present: M. David Williams, Town Clerk

Also present: Greg Dale of the *Gazette* and various citizens and interested parties.

### Pledge of Allegiance/Approval of the Agenda

President Sonnett asked for consent to the Agenda. Approval was granted by all Commissioners present.

### Certification of Election Results

The Town Clerk read aloud the results of the January 6<sup>th</sup> General Election, as certified by the Board of Supervisors of Elections, and to be entered into the record.

- Voter count-48; Total absentee ballots-0; Total ballots cast-38.
- Tabulation of votes: Larissa A. Ferrer-44; Stephen F. Sonnett-45; James Storey-44; Helen Ford (write-in)-1; George Leonnig (write-in)-1.

All Commissioners present accepted the election results and qualifications of all three candidates.

### Report of January 13, 2014 Organizational Meeting

The newly elected Commissioners held the Charter mandated organizational meeting at 8:00 p.m. on January 13, 2014, and it was unanimously agreed that Stephen F. Sonnett continue to hold the position of President of the Board of Town Commissioners and that Commissioner James Storey be reappointed as Town Treasurer. President Sonnett then administered the oath of office to swear-in Commissioner Storey as Treasurer for the 2014-2016 term of office.

### Approval of Meeting Minutes & Financial Reports

The Town Meeting minutes from January 14, 2014 and the Work Session minutes from January 21, 2014 were acknowledged by the Board as reviewed. Commissioner Storey motioned to approve both sets of minutes, President Sonnett seconded. All minutes from January's Town Meeting and Work Session were unanimously approved.

Commissioner Storey then reviewed highlights of the Treasurer's Report as of January 31, 2014. He noted that at 7 months into FY2014, both Total Revenue and Total Operational Expenses were within an acceptable range of the 58% benchmark, but, he added that Total Operational Revenue was at 75.8% due to early tax payments, and that General Government expenses line item 8120 (Insurance-Bonds) exceeded the budgeted amount and would require a future adjustment. President Sonnett motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, Commissioner Storey seconded the motion. With no one opposed, the Treasurer's Report as of January 31, 2014 was unanimously approved.

### Reports

Staff/Committees: The Town Clerk reported that the 1812 exhibit that has been on loan to the Town for display would now be moving to different locations during the remainder of the bicentennial anniversary. Historical Committee Chair, Kate Germano, reminded everyone of the next TUMHC Archiving Session on February 22, and, that tickets were still available for the Maryland Home & Garden Pilgrimage on April 26. She stated that the TUMHC is seeking volunteers to help with all the activities they are planning for the Marlborough Day Festival on May 10. The TUMHC will have a couple of booths on Main Street and will also be participating in the parade. Other activities include a wreath-laying ceremony at Dr. Beanes' gravesite and a reenactment of his historic arrest. She added that the 30' x 42' Star-Spangled Banner

Flag, recently completed by the Maryland Historic Society, would also be on display, plus, 1812-themed music and a period puppet show.

Commissioner Storey: Reported that he will be giving a presentation to Frederick Douglass High School students next month as part of the requirements to achieve the Maryland Municipal League's "Banner City" designation for 2014. He will be speaking to the Advanced Placement/Government class on the topic of "Understanding Local Government". He also said that Prince George's Federal Savings Bank had recently been acquired by Southern National Bank Corporation of Virginia (SONA) but that the change would not affect investment policies or services to its customers.

President Sonnett: Reported that the Town received a draft RFP for the evaluation of the Old Marlboro Elementary School buildings (OMES) and that the Commissioner's will reply with comments shortly. Other items reported on: 1) Attended the Maryland Mayor's Association Winter Conference in Annapolis on February 6-7. Topics included—Highway User Revenues, new State Ethics Law (personal information disclosure), new \$20 municipal vehicle tax, speed camera contracts, bottle deposit tax bill, no-excuse absentee voting, and streetlight procurement. He noted that in 2012, property tax revenues made up 68.2% of all Maryland municipal revenues from across the state, but that the Town's property taxes make up roughly 40% of all tax revenues received--with income taxes coming in around 60%; 2) An ad has been placed in the papers and online today for a full-time Public Works maintenance employee to replace Mr. Hall; 3) Met with the County Executive, whose latest budget stresses priority to public safety, education and health. The President suggested including investment into communities/municipalities. The Town's redevelopment plans and the County's Master Plan for the Town were also discussed; 4) A kick-off meeting of the Sustainable Community Workgroup has been scheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup>; and, 5) The next I-Net Negotiations Meeting will be on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Business**

Proclamation: President Sonnett read aloud a Proclamation to honor Town resident Anna W. Buck who will turn 100 years young on March 9<sup>th</sup>. He noted that it will be presented to her personally on her birthday along with several other certificates of recognition collected from the County and the State.

Resolution 2014-01: Since the Town elected a new Commissioner on January 6<sup>th</sup>, Resolution 2012-03 that authorizes specific individuals to sign Town checks, has been updated to reflect that change. The President then reviewed the amendment(s), and introduced Resolution 2014-01 for passage. Commissioner Storey motioned to adopt resolution as amended, President Sonnett seconded. With no one opposed, Resolution 2014-01 was adopted unanimously.

14500 Church Street: President Sonnett read aloud a statement from the Board of Town Commissioners concerning the donation of County-owned surplus property on Church Street (the Old Stone Building). The statement urges the County to allow time for an evaluation, as it relates to adaptive re-use by the public, before proceeding with demolition. The floor was then opened for comments. Historic attributes, concerns for cost of upkeep and interim landscaping/clean-up measures were discussed. Commissioner Storey motioned to adopt the statement as presented, President Sonnett seconded the motion. With no one in opposition, the statement was unanimously adopted.


### **Public Comment**

The TUMHC was contacted by a county citizen regarding the old Chesapeake Beach Railroad station that was located not far from the existing Town Hall. Information about downtown revitalization was shared. The current flood study and trash problems along the Western Branch were also discussed.

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Storey made a motion to adjourn, President Sonnett seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
M. David Williams  
Town Clerk

