

Town of Upper Marlboro

REGULAR TOWN MEETING

July 8, 2014

Approved Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 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: Kirsten Peterson of the *Gazette* and various citizens and interested parties.

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentation

President Sonnett introduced Christina A. Pompa, Planner Coordinator with the M—NCPPC Community Planning Division, who is currently assisting the Town with administrative support to implement and manage grant projects under its Sustainable Communities initiative. Ms. Pompa stated that she came to this Town Meeting to brief the Commissioners and deliver an update to the citizens about several downtown revitalization projects currently in the making. She noted that the Town has asked the SHA for a plan to retrofit existing sidewalks to meet ADA standards, and, a Bicycle & Pedestrian Accessibility Study request has also submitted to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. She added that the Sustainable Communities Workgroup has been meeting every couple of weeks, and has decided to pursue a Façade Improvement Project grant that would be available for downtown property and business owners. She formally requested that the Board provide the cover letter for the application. After the presentation, the floor was opened for questions. After discussion, Commissioner Ferrer motioned to file a cover letter of support, in substantially the form as presented in the draft, along with the grant application to Mr. Kevin Baynes of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development by July 15, 2014. Commissioner Storey seconded the motion. With no one in objection, the motion was unanimously passed. President Sonnett then praised Ms. Pompa, her intern Kristen Franklin and the rest of the M—NCPPC staff members for their excellent work on behalf of the Town.

Approval of Meeting Minutes & Financial Reports

President Sonnett asked for consent to the Agenda. Approval was granted by all Commissioners present. The Town Meeting minutes from June 3, 2014 and the Work Session minutes from June 24, 2014 were acknowledged by the Board as reviewed. Commissioner Ferrer motioned to approve both sets of minutes, Commissioner Storey seconded. All minutes from June's Town Meeting and Work Session were unanimously approved.

Commissioner Storey reviewed highlights of the Treasurer's Report as of June 30, 2014. He noted that most of the Income/Revenue Current Percentages were on target for the last month of fiscal year 2014, with the exception of Income Taxes, which recent revenues received included cumulative payments from previous years. President Sonnett said that even though the Adopted Budget Amounts are adjusted each year to reflect the past years revenues, variables such as State Tax Auditors being more efficient makes for an unpredictable result. Commissioner Ferrer motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, President Sonnett seconded. The Treasurer's Report as of June 30, 2014 was unanimously approved.

Reports

Staff/Committees: Mr. Williams announced that details of several events effecting the downtown in the next two months have been posted on the Town website.

Brian Callicott reported that the TUMHC would be preparing their booth displays for the Undaunted Weekend/Battle of Bladensburg event on August 23-24, 2014, and that they would also be holding their biannual elections for the Committee Board in August.

Commissioner Ferrer: Reported that she found the MML Convention very informative and worthwhile. She added that she also attended a meeting of the Maryland Buildings Officials Association (MBOA).

Commissioner Storey: Reported that the Storm Drain Map showing the complete inventory of storm drains within the boundaries of the Town has been updated and is ready for delivery back to the County. The President noted that he reported a drain problem in the Crain Monument area to the State. He then invited the president of the Marlborough Towne HOA, Barry Morton, to deliver a report if he cared to.

Marlborough Towne: Barry Morton added that some drains from Marlborough Towne that face School House Pond are intakes and some are exits, and that he has also collected an inventory of street light pole numbers. The pros & cons of conversion to LED versus induction lighting were briefly discussed.

President Sonnett: Stated he would deliver his reports under the Business section of the Agenda.

Business

Approval for requisitions: The President reviewed the details of 2 budgeted acquisitions in order to update the Board on the progress of the expenditures. He noted that a motion for approval was not necessary given that the items had already been budgeted, and that the truck would be purchased using an existing Montgomery County Open Contract. The new total for 3 Scanner/Printers for the police cruisers, budgeted at \$4K, is currently \$3,705; and, the final estimate for the Public Works pick-up truck, budgeted at \$40K, was now at \$38,307.70. He then noted the equipment's cost-saving features.

Landings newsletter delivery: The Board will be approaching Town residents door-to-door to enroll subscribers for the new Landings e-newsletter. He noted the cost savings in supplies, postage and especially the man-hours involved, but gave special note to the ability for residents to receive timely news on road closures, emergencies and severe weather alerts.

Spring Branch Estates "Link the Circle" event: Linda Pennoyer, resident of Spring Branch Estates, announced she has organized a block party for that community of neighbors entitled "Link the Circle" for Saturday, August 9, 2014 starting at 3:00 p.m. She noted that she was met with "quite a bit of enthusiasm" from at least 20-30 families who are very interested. She will be visiting the downtown businesses to garner support and added that visitors not from Spring Branch would not be turned away. The Board then thanked Mrs. Pennoyer and offered their support. It was suggested that information about the Town government, its services and volunteer opportunities could also be provided. It was agreed that the objective of the event was to foster a better sense of community by starting to get to know your neighbors, as well as, learning what your Town has to offer and what makes it special.

Banner Town Ceremony: The Town fulfilled the requirements needed by the MML to earn its designation as a "Banner Town" for the second year in a row. The Clerk ceremoniously attached the "2014" placard to the Banner Town Plaque in the meeting chamber to mark the occasion.

Public Comment

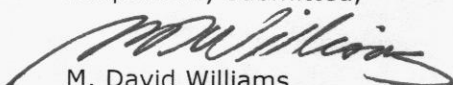
A citizen asked if any progress has been made on the Army Corp of Engineers Western Branch Restoration Project, the President said he would follow-up to see when information goes public. Recent property thefts in the residential area were also discussed. The President advised not keeping target items in view and to report any suspicious activity to the police. Kirsten Peterson introduced herself as the new *Gazette* reporter for the Town and invited anyone interested in sharing news to contact her.

A citizen asked for the details concerning the cancellation of the May 13 Town Meeting and its subsequent rescheduled date. A discussion followed about Open Meetings Act compliance, which it was agreed, in conclusion, that individual phone calls to possible attendees would not be made when a meeting date is changed. It was noted that notices are always posted on the Town Hall doors as soon as changes are known, and notices have also been posted online on the Town website.

Adjournment

Commissioner Storey made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Ferrer seconded the motion. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



M. David Williams
Town Clerk

