

Town of Upper Marlboro

REGULAR TOWN MEETING

April 13, 2015

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: John Petro of Abraham/Petro Design, Anthony McAllister and Rob Manns of Manns Woodward Studios, plus, various citizens and interested parties.

Pledge of Allegiance

Consent to the Agenda

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

Presentation

The President introduced the three members of the collaborative architectural design group. Mounted large-scale graphics depicting the floor plans and exterior renditions were on display, and a PowerPoint presentation of the evolution of the project's designs was shown and orated by architect, Rob Manns. The floor was then opened for questions. Comments and questions dealt strictly with costs as opposed to any design elements such as floor plans or esthetics. The general consensus reached by the Board, and those in attendance, was that the design was right but the high price was not. Some construction options were suggested for consideration by the architects, such as: splitting construction and renovation into phases over time. "Site Development" was noted as being the largest fixed cost in the project. The President thanked the design group for the presentation and said the Board will need to further discuss and evaluate the proposal, and will be back to them shortly.

Approval of Meeting Minutes & Financial Reports

The Town Meeting minutes from March 10, 2015, the Work Session minutes from March 23, 2015, and the Extra Work Session minutes from March 26, 2015 were acknowledged by the Board as reviewed. Commissioner Ferrer motioned to approve all three sets of minutes, Commissioner Storey seconded. All minutes from March's Town Meeting and Work Sessions were unanimously approved.

Commissioner Storey reviewed highlights of the Treasurer's Report as of March 31, 2015. He noted that total operational revenues and general government expenses were within an acceptable range of the 75% benchmark for 9 months into FY2015. It was noted that totals within line items from General Government (8122), Public Safety (8273 & 8280.04) and, Public Works (8375) would be adjusted in the end of year FY2015 Detailed Budget. Commissioner Ferrer motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, President Sonnett seconded. The Treasurer's Report as of March 31, 2015 was unanimously approved.

Reports

Staff/Committees: Historical Committee Chair, Patti Skews announced that the next Archiving & Planning Session was scheduled for next Saturday at 10:00 a.m. She added that Jessie Frazier from the Union United Methodist was invited to come to speak about the church's history, and offer copies of old photographs of the church for the Town's archives.

Commissioner Ferrer: Reported that she attended an Economic Development Corporation (EDC) meeting in a newly opened restaurant in Largo on March 26. She noted the EDC was very receptive to helping the Town attract such businesses.

Commissioner Storey: Reported that Tuskegee Airman Jim Pride will be a guest speaker at the Town's Memorial Day Ceremony, and he also asked residents for suggestions for additional speakers.

President Sonnett: With the current sidewalk project(s) entering year 3, and the downtown Façade Improvement Project taking over a year now to get started, President Sonnett reported that it has been "exceedingly frustrating" dealing with State agencies to move things along in a timely fashion. He stressed how important all the projects, especially the Pratt Street project, needed to be coordinated with one another in order to avoid unnecessary problems and do-overs. He added that the Town will be meeting with the group conducting the Pedestrian & Bicycle Study within the month, and, that the rest of his reports will be delivered under the Budget Introduction line item of the Agenda.

Business

FY2015 Detailed Budget: President Sonnett explained how the FY2015 Budget Ordinance was recently amended to reflect grants received, and that now, the FY2015 Detailed Budget needed to be updated along with other line items as the Town approaches the end of the fiscal year. Commissioner Storey reviewed aloud the year-end changes outlined in the hand-out entitled "FY15 Jul Detail Budget". He noted that salary line items under all departments now reflected an additional partial pay period that increased the totals originally budgeted. He also highlighted other line items that had experienced rate increases, extra staff training and doubled Public Safety new-hire expenses. Grant monies were now accounted for (in bold) and deductions from other line items were derived from actuals received and transferred to other line items within departments to balance the Budget. Commissioner Ferrer motioned to approve the FY2015 Detailed Budget as amended. Commissioner Storey seconded the motion. With no one in opposition, the motion was unanimously approved.

FY2016 Budget: The President noted that the State Legislature was meeting tonight, so the final figures for Highway User Revenue were still pending. He stated that projected State Police Aid funding was probably solid, but the outcome of a Bill to amend Personal Property Taxes was still unsure. He noted however, that investment savings interest has gone up and that total income tax revenues have historically come in on the high side. He added that the Board has discussed and determined that an additional administrative position was needed to maintain continuity of governance. Other items discussed by the Board during the drafting of the FY2016 Operating Budget were reviewed by the President that included: 1.) Additional Public Works and Public Safety personnel; 2.) Departmental Capital Outlay expenditures (equipment & vehicles); 3.) Public Works Facility improvements; 4.) The Town Hall Addition/Renovation project; and, 5.) The new Pratt Street sidewalk and Parking Meter upgrades. In conclusion, the President stated that the final draft of the FY2016 Town Operating Budget will be officially introduced at the May Town meeting, for passage in June.

General/Administration issues: The President announced that the Town Commissioners met with personnel from the Show Place Arena, Darnall's Chance and the Parks & Recreation Department to discuss joining forces and coordinating efforts to hold Town-branded events that Town volunteer committees and businesses can participate in.


Public Comment

It was noted that the recent placement of a speed monitoring device on Old Marlboro Pike appears to be slowing down speeders. A concerned citizen suggested that an actual police presence was still needed.

Adjournment

Commissioner Ferrer made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Storey seconded the motion. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


M. David Williams
Town Clerk

