

Town of Upper Marlboro

REGULAR TOWN MEETING

January 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 (not present)

Staff present: M. David Williams, Town Clerk

Also present: Kirstin Peterson of the *Gazette* and various citizens and interested parties.

Pledge of Allegiance

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 December 9, 2014 and the Work Session minutes from December 23, 2014 were acknowledged by the Board as reviewed. Commissioner Storey motioned to approve both sets of minutes, Present Sonnett seconded. All minutes from December's Town Meeting and Work Session were unanimously approved.

Commissioner Storey reviewed highlights of the Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2014. He noted that while General Government, Public Safety and Public Works total expenses were within an acceptable range of the 50% benchmark for 6 months into FY2015, but, total General Government expenses were slightly high due to line item 8122 (General Liability Insurance) which will require an adjustment later in FY2015. He also noted that Public Safety line item 8280.04 (Miscellaneous) would also need an adjustment due to unforeseen medical evaluations incurred recently. President Sonnett motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, Commissioner Storey seconded the motion. With no objections, the Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2014 was unanimously approved.

Reports

Staff/Committees: Mr. Williams presented a U.S. Mint "War of 1812" commemorative coin to Brian Callicott and Patti Skews of the Town's Historical Committee, stating he wanted to donate one to the TUMHC as a token of appreciation for their enthusiastic support throughout the bicentennial anniversary. TUMHC Chair, Patti Skews, announced that the starting time for their monthly meetings has now been changed to 10:00 a.m. and that the next Archiving Session will be on Saturday, January 17 where they will also discuss preliminary plans for a future TUMHC event "Memories & Morsels of Main Street" tentatively scheduled for June 20, 2015. Darnall's Chance is going to sponsor an "Upper Marlboro Historical Photo Contest & Exhibit this spring—winners and cash prizes will be announced June 13 at the House Museum's Colonial Picnic (photos from the contest will also be available to the TUMHC for the Town Archives. The DC Running Club has also approached the Town about holding a 5K Run event in Town on Marlborough Day. President Sonnett added that there has been a renewed interest to improve the annual Marlborough Day Festival venue, suggesting these new historic-oriented events could tie-in nicely with the Town's desire to have the annual event highlight more of the Town's historic appeal.

Commissioner Storey: Had no report at this time.

President Sonnett: President Sonnett urged residents to be sure to indicate that they live in a municipality, specifically, the "Town of Upper Marlboro" when filing their 2014 tax returns, otherwise, tax revenues meant for the Town might go to the State instead. He added that making this clarification will not raise or lower residents' State income taxes. The President also reported that the Town is currently in the process of selecting a new police officer to replace Sgt. Fowler.

Business

Ordinance 2014-03 (passage): Commissioner Storey motioned to adopt Ordinance 2014-03 establishing and changing a portion of Pratt Street to serve as a one-way street traveling east from Main Street to Judges Drive. President Sonnett seconded the motion. President Sonnett interjected that the ordinance becomes effective 20 calendar days after passage, and, in order to allow time for new street signage installation and other State required traffic control devices, the proposed start of the actual one-way traffic pattern will be April 6, 2015. With no one opposed, the ordinance was unanimously adopted.

Sustainable Communities: The President stated that the remainder of the items on the Agenda would be updates on the Town's historic buildings at risk and various projects the Town is currently undertaking.

Facade Improvement Program (FIP): The Design Guidelines essential for the Façade Improvement Project have been revised by Park & Planning and will be available after January 22, 2015.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Accessibility study: A kick-off meeting has been scheduled at the County Administration Building for Wednesday, January 28. Consultants hired through the Washington Council of Governments (WCOG) will be visiting sometime prior the meeting for a walk-through of the Town.

Old School Building: Howard Berger of the Historic Preservation Section of the Park & Planning Dept. has indicated that the current study was in the draft and sign-off process and should be completed soon.

Old Stone Building: Paperwork concerning the request for an historic status evaluation still remains with the County

Town Hall Addition project: The Board of Commissioners has met twice with the architectural design firm (Abraham/Petro Design) each time to make changes to conceptual designs. A Special Town Meeting (or two) will be scheduled for a special presentation of the final design(s) for public comment.

Public Works Facility: Commissioner Storey has been working on reestablishing a water connection to the facility, and the Board is considering options available for the installation of a complete restroom.

Public Comment

A citizen asked about the current public hearing held at St. Mary's concerning renovations to the church property, including the historic Crandell-Rothstein House. Commissioner Storey said that on January 6 the Board of Appeals approved a request by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Washington for zoning variances for the new rectory and the Crandell-Rothstein House renovation project on the condition that they abide by previously arranged agreements with the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC).

A resident cited a January 12 *Washington Post* article about a current court case involving a Prince George's County family suing the County over a fatal police shooting by an off-duty municipal police officer. President Sonnett stated that, current Town policy prohibits the use, and/or, wearing of Town-owned Public Safety equipment and uniforms when not on duty within the Town's corporate borders.

Adjournment

Commissioner Storey made a motion to adjourn, President Sonnett seconded the motion. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



M. David Williams
Town Clerk

