

Town of Upper Marlboro

EMERGENCY TOWN MEETING

September 22, 2015

Approved Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:17 a.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/Administrator

Also present: Various citizens and interested parties.

Pledge of Allegiance

Upon receiving approval for the Agenda from all Board members present, President Sonnett opened the meeting stating the Board will reverse the order of agenda items to begin discussions concerning the Town Hall Addition and Renovation Project.

Business

Contract Proposal (preliminary groundwork for Town Hall Project): President Sonnett explained the two issues that need to be addressed in order for the project to move forward. The first being a rule set forth by the County's Mandatory Referral process, and the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE), that mandates that any work disturbing an area of land in excess of 5K square feet would require extra storm water management practices that would elevate project costs dramatically. The second stumbling block to moving the project forward has been the unknown factors involved with the existing in-ground, closed-in pool structure on the Southwest side of Town Hall. After a long investigation of looking into different options, the Board concluded that, overall, removal of the pool would be the best plan to keep costs down and curtail any other foundation problems that might arise. He added that a shared parking agreement with the Board of Education for possible overflow parking was also a considered measure to keep from exceeding the 5K area of disturbance limit. Two pool removal proposals were then reviewed: 1) Remove-A-Pool at \$68,500; and, 2) McLellan & Co. at \$31K. After discussion of the details, Commissioner Storey motioned to accept the contract proposal from McLellan & Co., President Sonnett seconded. With no one opposed, the motion was unanimously passed.

Reports

Commissioner Storey: Delivered an update on the ongoing investigation by the State into Income Tax overpayments made to the Town. He said that the Town will be sending a check for \$82K back to the State to cover calendar year 2014 (CY14) and will be corrected in the current FY2015 audit. A "soft" figure of \$50K (representing overpayments in CY15) may be paid back by the Town by way of the State holding back future distributions of tax revenues until the total overpayment amount is satisfied. It was noted that the Town's FY2016 Budget estimates should be okay, and that even with the previous year's adjustments/deductions, the Town still realizes a surplus for past fiscal year's ending totals. A final State-audited total of overpayments for CY15 should be ready by mid-October.

President Sonnett: President Sonnett reported that he has signed off on 3 routine agreements: 1.) The FY16 MDOT "Transportation Grant Application Form" which allocates Highway User Revenues to the Town; 2.) The SHA "Supplemental Letter of Agreement" (LOA) which allows the Town to access the salt supply from the SHA/Marlboro maintenance facility; and, 3.) The Everest Reinsurance Company's "Excess Loss Schedule" application which renews the Excess Loss Insurance Policy required by Cigna, the Town's healthcare plan administrator.

The President said that on October 1, the Planning Board will review an M—NCPPC request for a \$55K "Aid to Municipalities" grant for the Town, to be used to implement preliminary design and engineering work on several downtown "Streetscape" projects. He then urged citizen's to attend the "Purple Light Nights" ceremony, later that same day, at the County Administration Building starting at 7 p.m.

Lastly, the President explained the "Cadillac Tax" which starts in 2018, stating that the next Board of Commissioners may want/need to make adjustments to the Town's healthcare package.

Business (continued)

MML Fall Conference (proxy): The Town Clerk/Administrator will be attending the MMLK Annual Fall Conference this year to represent the Town and vote by proxy in their elections, and to attend a workshop needed to obtain "Fellow" status with the Maryland Municipal League's "Academy of Excellence" program (also a requirement to qualify in the "Banner Town" program). He added that Mr. Williams will also attend the LGIT Annual Meeting in Annapolis on October 29th where he can complete the final required course for the fellow title.

Façade Improvement Program (FIP): The President announced that the property owner of 14707, 14749 and 14753 Main Street and the property owner of 14825 Pratt Street have all received approval of their FY2015 FIP applications. He added that the Town has submitted for additional FIP grants for FY2016.

Reports (continued)

President Sonnett: Reported he met with County Council Chair Mel Franklin and will finalize a letter to communicate the Town's opposition to such a move. A resident voiced opposition as well, adding that traffic congestion downtown also needs to be addressed in order to attract new businesses. President Sonnett noted that the Town is currently working with State agencies for better traffic light control at the intersection of Main and Water Streets, along with other sidewalk issues and goals under the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Sustainable Communities program.

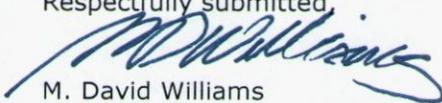
Public Comment

A resident expressed concern about building upon back fill, and possibly old plumbing fixtures, where the Town pool used to be. The President said that the Board has been working with the appropriate County agencies that have rules already in place that require geotechnical testing before permitting. Another citizen was concerned about the use of the word "emergency" in the Town Meeting notice for October. The Clerk explained that the nomenclature was used according to guidelines in the MMCA Clerk's Handbook. Other attendees expressed discontent with having the meeting in the morning. The Board explained that the regular Work Session was purposely changed to a "Town" meeting solely for the purpose of voting on a timely contract for the pool removal, and was in addition to the regular Town Meeting on September 8, 2015. After more concern was voiced about how Town residents can be notified about these "timely" meetings (and real emergencies), the President said that the website has an RSS feed feature that will instantly notify those who have signed up of every news posting that is put on the Home Page. He added that the Town is currently working to improve the Town's Public Access Channel 19 and will take today's concerns into consideration for future notices. Other discussion items included plans for a shared parking agreement with the Board of Education and Town Hall addition contracting.

Adjournment

Commissioner Storey made a motion to adjourn, President Sonnett seconded the motion. With no one in opposition, the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



M. David Williams
Town Clerk

