Town of Upper Marlboro

REGULAR TOWN MEETING
October 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/Administrator

Also present: Boy Scout Troop 416 from St. Mary's School; Sydney Steed and Raealyne Olarte/student reporters from the University of Maryland; 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 above mentioned visitors were introduced and acknowledged as observers gathering information and knowledge to fulfill requirements. The Regular Town Meeting minutes from September 8, 2015 and the Emergency Town Meeting minutes from September 22, 2015 were acknowledged by the Board as reviewed. Commissioner Ferrer motioned to approve both sets of minutes, Commissioner Storey seconded. All minutes from both September's Regular and Emergency Town Meetings were unanimously approved.

Commissioner Storey reviewed highlights of the Treasurer's Report as of September 30, 2015. He noted that total operational revenues and general government expenses were within an acceptable range of the 25% benchmark for 3 months into FY2016. He noted Public Safety line item 8285/Workers Comp will need a minor adjustment due to a rate increase, and, Public Works line item 8375/Uniforms would need an adjustment as well due to the addition of a new employee to the department. After reviewing the Town investments, he added that a CD up for renewal on October 26 will be reinvested, but some will be drawn out to use as liquid funds for Capital Improvement projects.

Commissioner Storey then delivered an update on the income tax overpayments being investigated by Craig Zukor of the State Comptroller's Office. He explained that the State had its last accurate count of taxable addresses in 2010 and has since used a database that incorrectly included 20774 and 20772 addresses located outside of the Town. It was noted that a payment of $82K had been made back to the State that was applied to Tax Year 2014 (TY14), and that the September 2015 payment to the Town for $29,401 was being withheld by the State to reconcile (in part) TY14, with a portion to go towards TY15. He added that, pending an audit, a solid number for TY15 should come in November, 2015. It was then noted that the Town will still have an estimated surplus of $350K for FY15 even after the income tax repayments are made. Commissioner Ferrer motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, President Sonnett seconded. The Treasurer's Report as of September 30, 2015 was unanimously approved.

Reports

Staff/Committees: Historical Committee member Brian Callicott announced that the TUMHC will be at the Great Jack O Lantern Campfire at Darnall's Chance on October 24th. He also reported that he procured a commemorative ribbon worn by an attendee of the grand opening ceremony of the Robert Crain Memorial Highway on September 30, 1922 to put in the Town's archives. President Sonnett added that the repair schedule to the Crain Monument to fix the damage from the 2011 earthquake has been delayed due to concerns from the MD Historic Trust, but should be completed no later than Spring 2016.

Commissioner Ferrer: Had no report at this time.

Commissioner Storey: Reported that he will be attending the LGIT Annual Meeting in Annapolis on October 29, and, Benecon's Annual Health Benefit Seminar in Lancaster, PA on November 19-20, 2015.

President Sonnett: President Sonnett reported that the president's office had been moved into the conference room, as a temporary measure, to make space for a work station for the recently filled Deputy Clerk position. He added that the Town has received notice that the Old Stone Building (14500 Church Street) will be reviewed by the HPC for historic designation on December 15, 2015.

Business

Resolution 2015-02: Town Position on Relocation of County Seat: The President read aloud the resolution opposing moving the County Seat of government out of the Town of Upper Marlboro to Largo. The floor was then opened up for comment. It was noted that the County and Town leaders of past administrations had worked very hard to keep the seat of government in the Town, and, that the Town had made concessions to the County, and gave up a lot, in order to support that objective. Commissioner Ferrer motioned to adopt the resolution, Commissioner Storey seconded. With no one in opposition, Resolution 2015-02 was unanimously approved.

Board of Supervisors of Elections (selection): The President asked for consent from the Board of Town Commissioners to nominate the current slate of the Board of Supervisors of Elections (BSE) for another 2-year term. With unanimous consent, Commissioner Ferrer motioned to reappoint the current BSE (Yvonne Tucker, John McCauley and Patricia Skews), Commissioner Storey seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous. The President said that the nominees will be sworn-in at a later date before the 2-year term begins on Monday, November 2, 2015.

Special Event Application (Frederick Douglass HS homecoming parade): An application was received from Frederick Douglass High School to hold their Homecoming Parade on Saturday, October 17th. After review and discussion, Commissioner Ferrer motioned to approve the application, Commissioner Storey seconded the motion. With no one opposed, the motion was passed unanimously.

Roll-off Contract (Burch Trash Service, Inc.): The Town's household contractor, Burch Trash Service, Inc. has offered a 20-yard roll-off contract for the Public Works Facility at no charge. The major benefit of the arrangement will be that the Public Works crew would no longer have to store bulk items at their Facility until a full load (that warrants the minimum $165 dump charge at the landfill) was achieved. The President recommended the arrangement adding that it was not a long-term contract and could be canceled at any time. Commissioner Storey motioned to approve the contract, Commissioner Ferrer seconded the motion. With all in favor, the month-to-month contract was unanimously approved.

Town Holiday Party (schedule): Ellen Storey announced that the Town Holiday Party will be held on December 13 starting at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

October Work Session (date change): Due to a conflict with the Town Clerk's training schedule, the October Work Session was moved to Wednesday, October 28 at 9:15 a.m. The President reminded all that changing meeting dates is the only option to address such a situation, until a Charter Amendment Resolution is completed authorizing other individuals, other than the Town Clerk, to take and produce the minutes of Town Meetings.

Public Comment

It was announced that the Town Historical Committee (TUMHC) would be holding an Archiving & Planning Session on October 17th at 10 a.m., and, that the Friends of the Upper Marlboro Branch Library were looking for volunteers to help with book sales on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

In closing, the President invited the visiting UMD students to stay should they have any more questions, and he told the Scout Troop 416 to see the Clerk after the meeting to receive additional meeting materials.

Adjournment

Commissioner Ferrer made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Storey seconded the motion. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. David Williams
Town Clerk