

Town of Upper Marlboro

REGULAR TOWN MEETING

November 8, 2011

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
Joseph A. Hourclé, Commissioner

Staff present: M. David Williams, Town Clerk

Also present: Galen Meene, Secretary/ Upper Marlboro Lions Club, Kevin Best/ Town Attorney and various citizens and interested parties.

Pledge of Allegiance

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes

President Sonnett asked for consent to the Agenda. Approval was given by both Commissioners. The Town Meeting minutes from October 12, 2010 and the Work Session minutes from October 26, 2010 were summarized by Commissioner Hourclé. Commissioner Storey motioned to approve both sets of minutes, Commissioner Hourclé seconded. All minutes from October's Town Meeting and Work Session were unanimously approved.

Review/Approval of the Financial Report

Commissioner Storey reviewed the Treasurer's Report as of October 31, 2011. At 4 months into FY2012, total operational revenue was at 41.1% and total operational expenses were at 30.6%. He noted that line item #6394 "Miscellaneous Revenue" included a one-time insurance claim payment for the police cruiser. Commissioner Hourclé motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, President Sonnett seconded. The Treasurer's Report dated October 31, 2011 was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Hourclé: Reported that he attended the District 9 Community Forum Meeting on October 25th. Topics of discussion included bus routes and increases in public transportation fares.

Commissioner Storey: Announced that the Frederick Douglass HS Homecoming Parade had been cancelled due to inclement weather, and, he urged everyone to come to the Holiday Party at Town Hall on December 11th.

President Sonnett: Delivered a report on the November 3rd "Meet and Greet" at Town Hall with State Highway Administration officials from District 3. They informed the Town that the Route 725 Federal Spring Branch bridge project was expected to be completed by Thanksgiving and would include new sidewalk on the north side of Old Marlboro Pike from the bridge to the Verizon building. Also discussed was the State's new Illegal Commercial Sign Regulation.

In addition, President Sonnett reported that: The Board of Supervisors of Elections had all been sworn in; A new heat pump will be installed next week at Town Hall; A second shred-service was conducted for records disposal on November 1st; The FY2011 audit had been filed; And, that the Historic Designation Nomination was unanimously approved by the State and will be forwarded to the Federal Government for final approval.

Business

Old Marlboro Elementary School (OMES): President Sonnett said that he attended a meeting on October 25th with The Honorable Sheila R. Tillerson Adams, Administrative Judge, Prince George's County and Seventh Judicial Circuit and personnel from the Sheriff's Department and the Office of Central Services concerning plans for a "Family Justice Center" to be placed at the site of the Old Marlboro Elementary School (OMES). In addition, Judge Adams and The Honorable Cathy H. Serrette, Seventh Judicial Circuit and Family Division Coordinating Judge delivered a briefing on the subject to the County Council on November 8th. The briefing was open to the public and President Sonnett was allowed 3 minutes to present some of the Town's concerns.

President Sonnett then opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Meene spoke on behalf of the Lions Club, stating they were most interested in the preservation of Dr. William Beanes' gravesite especially in light of the upcoming War of 1812 Bicentennial. Residents continued to voice concerns about parking problems and traffic congestion. President Sonnett added that he had already communicated to County Executive Rushern Baker and County Councilman Mel Franklin at previous meetings, that proper, compatible adaptive-reuse of that site could be the Town's best opportunity to spark redevelopment of the downtown area. As the discussion wrapped up, he added that the Town will keep abreast of developments and will continue to receive resident feedback to arrive at an official Town position on the subject.

Supplemental Disability Insurance: Several Town employees have expressed a desire to obtain supplemental disability insurance not covered by the Town's current plan. President Sonnett said that the Town would need to authorize a payroll deduction for the additional premium payments for those employees at no additional cost to the Town. Commissioner Storey made a motion to approve the authorization, Commissioner Hourclé seconded. All were in favor with none opposed.

Emergency Preparedness (communications): President Sonnett said that in light of the recent hurricane and record flooding thereafter, the Town Clerk will be attending a 2-day workshop on emergency preparedness being presented by FEMA. He added that the Town is working towards better ways to communicate with its citizens and improving information delivery, especially in the event of such emergencies.

Comcast (Franchise negotiations): President Sonnett asked the Commissioners for approval to join the municipal negotiation team to renegotiate the Comcast franchise agreement. Commissioner Hourclé made a motion to approve the authorization, Commissioner Storey seconded. All were in favor with none opposed.

Public Comment

An inquiry was made as to the time of day and location of the recent residential break-in that was reported in the November *Landings* newsletter's Police Report. And, Mr. Kevin Best introduced himself to the citizens in attendance as the Town's attorney for the past 3 years, and that he also represents the towns of Forest Heights, North Brentwood and "soon to be" Eagle Harbor.

Adjournment

Commissioner Storey made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Hourclé seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


M. David Williams
Town Clerk

