

Town of Upper Marlboro

REGULAR TOWN MEETING

March 13, 2012

Approved Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 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: Josie Fiore of the Upper Marlboro Library and various citizens and interested parties.

Pledge of Allegiance

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes & Financial Reports

President Sonnett asked for consent to the Agenda. Approval was given by both Commissioners. The Town Meeting minutes from February 14, 2012 and the Work Session minutes from February 28, 2012 were summarized by Commissioner Hourclé. Commissioner Storey motioned to approve both sets of minutes, Commissioner Hourclé seconded. All minutes from February's Town Meeting and Work Session were unanimously approved.

Commissioner Storey reviewed the Treasurer's Report as of January 31, 2012. He noted that total operational revenues and general government expenses were within an acceptable range of the 67% benchmark that represents 8 months into FY2012. Commissioner Hourclé motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report as of January 31st 2012, Commissioner Storey seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Reports

Staff: Mr. Williams reported that the 3rd meeting of the Prince George's County Commission on the War of 1812 will be on March 28th at the County Administration Building.

Commissioner Hourclé: Reported that he attended the District 9 Forum hosted by Council Member Mel Franklin on February 28th. "High-end Gaming for Revenue" was the primary topic of discussion. He also reported that the Marlborough Day Committee is discussing relocating their event to pond-side in 2014, since the "War of 1812" theme will better commemorate the anniversary by being closer to the Town's historically related sites.

Commissioner Storey: Reported that 2 CDs will be up for renewal in April. He noted that a total of 5 CDs will be maturing in 2012, and that he will be working to obtain the best rate of return.

President Sonnett: President Sonnett reported on recent State legislation concerning funds that municipalities receive from cable franchise fees, highway user fees and taxes—all of which are currently being debated by the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis to adjourn April 9th. He also reported that the County is reevaluating their plans for the historic schools and that "for now" he believes that demolition is not eminent. He has requested a meeting with the Associate Director of the Office of Central Services to discuss the current condition of the site and ways to clean it up whether the buildings are rehabilitated or not. He added that the Informational Meeting at Trinity Church Parish Hall went well, and that the parties involved were appreciative of the event and how the discussion was directed.

Plans have been received from the State Highway Administration (SHA) for sidewalks and crosswalks to be installed along the southern side of Route 725 between Spring Branch Drive and Rectory Lane. The Town will soon be mailing informational letters to the property owners affected

by the project. The SHA has indicated that they are prepared to proceed as soon as all permissions are granted by those property owners.

Progress on the clean-up of the excessive number of signs in the downtown area is expected soon as a result of previous meetings with State and County personnel. Also, funds from the Energy Grant for energy-efficiency upgrades to Town Hall are currently being processed by the state.

Commissioner Storey and the President attended a LGIT (Local Government Insurance Trust) workshop on March 6th in LaPlata, MD that dealt with rates and coverage changes for FY2013. The Town does not anticipate an increase in premiums, given that some rates will go up and some will go down. However, health insurance coverage rates will rise as the average age of Town employees increases.

Comcast will be sending out a county-wide assessment survey to a random sampling of residents to get feedback on current and future needs and interests. President Sonnett asked residents receiving the surveys to respond promptly, as it will help the Town in negotiating for a new cable television franchise agreement.

Since uniform rental agreements have been problematic, the Town has purchased new uniforms for the Public Works crew, in lieu of renewing the current rental contract on March 8th. The Town expects to save \$2K per year. Also, a contract renewal proposal was received from the Town's auditor reflecting a \$700 increase.

Business

Mosquito Control Program: The President explained the State's Mosquito Control Program and the County's procedure for spraying and invoicing, adding that the costs to the Town have doubled from previous years. He also announced that residents could opt-out by request. After discussion, Commissioner Hourclé made a motion to authorize the Town to sign-up for the program, Commissioner Storey seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Sustainable Communities: An application for the 5-year designation is currently being drafted by the Town. President Sonnett explained that the program requires the formation of a workgroup and the development of a strategic plan for the area to be designated. The workgroup would be made up of residents, business owners, property owners, plus, Town, County and State officials. Once the designation is approved, these entities within the defined sustainable community area would become eligible for a variety of grants.

The President opened the floor to discussion by asking what direction the Town should be going. Areas of concern and ideas for improvement included: historic restoration and maintenance, better walkability & lighting, storefront beautification, proliferation of bail bondsman offices, relocation of power-lines, sidewalks, crosswalks, parking, signage, "green" areas and the desire for a wider variety of restaurants, markets and shops to promote a "village" atmosphere downtown.

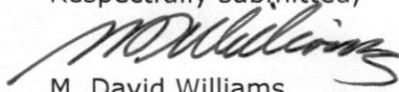
Public Comment

The President introduced new resident, Larissa Ferrer. As a graduate of the Architecture University in Moscow, she expressed interest in helping the Town in its redevelopment efforts.

Adjournment

Commissioner Storey made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Hourclé seconded the motion. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



M. David Williams
Town Clerk

