

# Town of Upper Marlboro

## REGULAR TOWN MEETING

October 8, 2013

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: Chase Cook 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 given by both Commissioners. The Town Meeting minutes from September 10, 2013 and the Work Session minutes from September 24, 2013 were acknowledged by the Board as reviewed. Commissioner Storey motioned to approve both sets of minutes, Commissioner Hourclé seconded. All minutes from September's Town Meeting and Work Session were unanimously approved.

Commissioner Storey reviewed highlights of the Treasurer's Report as of September 30, 2013. He noted that total operational revenues and general government expenses were within an acceptable range of the 25% benchmark for 3 months into FY2014. He added that tax revenues are typically low at this time of year, and that Public Works line item 8517 for Streets & Sidewalks was showing a slight surplus. Commissioner Hourclé motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, President Sonnett seconded. The Treasurer's Report as of September 30, 2013 was unanimously approved.

### Reports

Staff/Committees: Mr. Williams displayed a personalized tote bag recently produced by the Prince George's County Commission On the War of 1812. The bag depicts the "Undaunted" logo created for the anniversary and will be distributed throughout the County by PGCC-WO1812 Board members.

Commissioner Hourclé: Reported that a county mailed announcement for a public hearing set for November 12<sup>th</sup> about the new General Plan (Plan Prince George's 2035) was the actual official public hearing and not just a "preliminary" meeting. He also reported that the Town-Wide Yard Sale & Food Drive held at Town Hall on September 28<sup>th</sup> went very well.

Commissioner Storey: Had no report at this time.

President Sonnett: President Sonnett advised homeowners to carefully read notices recently mailed to area residents, selling insurance for water lines located on their property. He also reported that he met with Councilman Mel Franklin earlier in the week to discuss various issues within the Town. The most important issues stressed by the president were downtown signage, zoning for businesses and parking availability for retail businesses. He noted the councilman seemed to be receptive to the Town's needs.

Other topics reported on included; 1) A new full-time police officer has been offered employment and will begin on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October; 2) A contractor in charge of the demolition of the Old Stone Building has visited Town Hall recently in preparation for the razing of 14500 Church Street. The President has been in touch with the Historic Section of the Planning Board who has expressed some ideas for reuse, but may not have the time needed to stop the demolition. The Town has requested that the contractor save some of the best stones for possible reuse in a public garden that the Town may want to put in its place. He added that he suspects that the structure will most likely be torn down.

### Business

Board of Supervisors of Elections (Oath of Office): 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 Hourclé motioned to reappoint the current BSE (Yvonne Tucker, John McCauley and Patricia Skews), Commissioner Storey seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous. Patricia Skews was then sworn-in by the President. The remaining 2 nominees will be sworn-in at a later date before the 2-year term begins on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Recycling contract: The President noted that the current recycling contract with the County was due for renewal on October 31<sup>st</sup>. The Board has been researching alternatives, but will need to extend the County contract another year in order to continue its research, especially with regards to bins. Commissioner Storey motioned to approve the contract renewal at the new rate of \$47.79 per unit. Commissioner Hourclé seconded the motion. Approval to renew the County contract was unanimous.

Detailed Budget adjustments: President Sonnett suggested tabling this item to a later date, so as to better assess the projects and funds available within the Public Works maintenance budget. He noted that the roof(s) at the facility were in need of repair, and that further evaluation of the heating & cooling system was also needed. He then asked residents to please notify the Town Office of any areas that are in disrepair or need attention.

Special Event Application: An application was received from Frederick Douglass High School to hold their Homecoming Parade on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. After review and discussion, Commissioner Hourclé motioned to approve the application subject to confirmation that the applicant has arranged for a road-closure permit from the state. Commissioner Storey seconded the motion. With no one opposed, the motion was passed unanimously.

Town Holiday Party & Town Meeting schedules: Commissioner Storey announced that the date for the Town Holiday Party was Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, with the Tree Lighting Ceremony at dusk (5:30 p.m.). Also, noting that the monthly Work Session for December falls on the 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve), the Board agreed to reschedule the Work Session for Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m.

January Town Election: The President announced that he would be running for President. He opened the floor for discussion to address the continuity of governance issues involved with administration turn-overs. Also discussed were ideas for initiatives to entice residents to run for office that included pay scale adjustments and staffing changes. Commissioner Hourclé announced he would be willing to step down in order to give other residents a chance to run for office. A citizen asked how residents not attending the monthly meetings will get the information on who is running or not. President Sonnett said the word will be put out shortly, adding that he personally intended to campaign door-to-door with this, and other issues such as recycling.

Town Goals (discussion): The Town's Sustainable Communities application was completed last week, and has now been officially filed with the State. Depending on the review schedule, the Town may receive a reply within a month or two. In addition to sidewalks and façade improvements, he noted that the OMES building was noted as important to the "Historic Village" feel that the Town wants to enhance.

Historical Committee: Chair Kate Germano reported that she is coordinating with the MD State Historical Society about a War of 1812 flag replica to be loaned to the Town for display at the next Marlborough Day Festival. She also reported that a plaque dedication ceremony will be conducted by the U.S. Daughters of 1812 on October 15<sup>th</sup> at Dr. Beanes' gravesite, and, that the next Archiving Session would be on October 19<sup>th</sup>. She added that the TUMHC is planning on participating in the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage in April 2014.

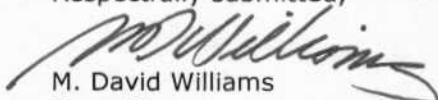
### **Public Comment**

An inquiry was made as to whether or not recommendations made by the Town were acknowledged in the recently approved Sub Region 6 Plan. The president said that some comments were included to an extent but not detailed, adding that there has been a petition for review filed with the court.

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Storey made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Hourclé seconded the motion. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
M. David Williams  
Town Clerk

