

Town of Upper Marlboro

REGULAR TOWN MEETING

March 11, 2014

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

Also present: 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 Town Meeting minutes from February 11, 2014 and the Work Session minutes from February 25, 2014 were acknowledged by the Board as reviewed. Commissioner Ferrer motioned to approve both sets of minutes as submitted, Commissioner Storey seconded. All minutes from February's Town Meeting and Work Session were unanimously approved.

Commissioner Storey reviewed highlights of the Treasurer's Report as of February 28, 2014. At 8 months into FY2015 (a 66.66% benchmark of the adopted budget), total operational revenues were on the plus side at 87.1%. He noted that total general government expenses were in range, but line item 8120 Insurance-Bonds would need an adjustment. Commissioner Ferrer motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, President Sonnett seconded. The Treasurer's Report as of February 28, 2014 was unanimously approved.

Reports

Staff/Committees: TUMHC Vice-Chair Patti Skews reported on the February 22nd Archiving & Planning Session. They have completed a draft walking tour of the Town that is now in the proofing stages. A M.O.U. has been established with the Maryland Historical Society for the loan of the official Star-Spangled Flag, and \$500 in additional funding has been received from ATHA, Inc. to help with the associated costs. She added that a reenactor portraying Dr. Beanes will be in the parade, and will also be escorted by period British Marines to a wreath-laying ceremony at the historic gravesite. She noted that the TUMHC will be operating 2 separate booths and would need at least 8 volunteers to assist adding that the next Marlborough Day Committee meeting would be March 13 at 6:15 p.m., and that the next TUMHC meeting would be on March 15 at 9:00 a.m. Two Board members then volunteered.

Commissioner Ferrer: Had no report at this time.

Commissioner Storey: Reported that he has been confirmed to speak to the AP Government class at Frederick Douglass High School on the morning of March 24th. It was noted that this action will enable the Town to continue its designation as a Banner Town from the Maryland Municipal League (MML).

President Sonnett: President Sonnett reported that on February 19, the Town's Sustainable Communities application had been approved, and that a press release making the official announcement would be forthcoming from the State. He said that a "partial" first meeting of the Sustainable Community Workgroup (SCW) occurred on February 18, adding that all meetings of the SCW were open to the public and that dates and locations of upcoming meetings would be posted on the Town website. He urged users to sign-up through the RSS feed in order to get timely notices of these postings. He added that he is currently talking with Trinity Church in hopes to arrange a date for the Town to deliver a special presentation to the public about Sustainable Communities and answer questions. He said the event could also help the TUMHC and other committees promote the April 26 Maryland Home & Garden Pilgrimage and the Marlborough Day Festival on May 10.

An official notice for "expressions of interest" has been posted in hopes to find someone who can maintain and upgrade the Town website and to introduce social media interaction to its functionality. A final draft of the RFP for the Old Marlboro Elementary Schools (OMES) has been received. It was noted that Senator Mike Miller has expressed his support for the Town's request for an evaluation of the OMES.

Business

Magruder Law Office: The President read aloud a draft letter to the Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission asking that attention be paid to the County owned property at 14708 Main Street, particularly to address the deterioration of the structure that is currently listed as Historic Site 79-019-23, Magruder's Law Office. It was noted that the June 2010 Historic Sites and District Plan incorrectly lists the address as being on "Elm" Street. Commissioner Storey motioned to approve sending the letter as presented, Commissioner Ferrer seconded the motion. Approval to submit the letter to the HPC Chairman was unanimous.

Annual Tax Rate: President Sonnett stated that the approval of the annual tax rate for the Town is normally conducted upon passage of the Budget Ordinance in June, however, the County has again requested this information early this year. The president then asked for a motion to maintain the Homestead Tax Credit at 100%, the current residential tax rate at 0.2403, and the current commercial and utilities rate at 0.45, for the 2015 fiscal year. Commissioner Storey motioned to report the tax rates as presented, Commissioner Ferrer seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mosquito Contract: The President explained the procedures involved for the annual Mosquito Control Program. He added that residents could opt-out by request, and that more information will be posted on the Town website. Inquiries were made about testing site locations and spraying schedules. President Sonnett said he would get answers soon, adding that spraying has typically been on Mondays at dusk. After discussion, Commissioner Ferrer made a motion to authorize signing on to the program, Commissioner Storey seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.

Meetings Schedule: Due to out-of-town travel plans, the March 25, 2014 Work Session was rescheduled to March 21, 2014 at 9:15 a.m. And, due to a schedule conflict with this year's MML Convention, the June 10, 2014 Regular Town Meeting was rescheduled for June 3, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

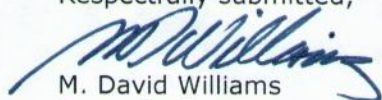
Public Comment

A large pot-hole on Elm Street was reported which had been filled previously but has since returned. Questions were raised concerning the missed recycle pick-up by the County's contractor.

Adjournment

Commissioner Ferrer made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Storey seconded the motion. With all in favor the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


M. David Williams
Town Clerk

