

Town of Upper Marlboro

REGULAR TOWN MEETING

April 8, 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: Alice Popovici 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 granted by all Commissioners present. The Town Meeting minutes from March 11, 2014 and the Work Session minutes from March 21, 2014 were acknowledged by the Board as reviewed. Two minor edits were noted by the Clerk. Commissioner Ferrer motioned to approve both sets of minutes as amended, Commissioner Storey seconded. All minutes from March's Town Meeting and Work Session were unanimously approved.

Commissioner Storey reviewed highlights of the Treasurer's Report as of March 31, 2014. At 9 months into FY2014, Commissioner Storey noted that line items 8120 (Insurance – Bonds) and 8190 (Staff Training) under Expenses/General Government, would need adjustments next month. In addition, line item 8290-02 under Expenses/Public Safety will also need adjusting. Commissioner Ferrer motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, President Sonnett seconded. The Treasurer's Report as of March 31, 2014 was unanimously approved.

Reports

Staff/Committees: The Town Clerk reported that the long awaited National Park Service Wayside Exhibit (interpretive sign) for Dr. Beanes' gravesite should finally be installed by Marlborough Day.

The Vice-Chair of the Historical Committee, Patti Skews, recapped their last meeting of March 15, 2014, at which Mr. Mike Sweeney delivered a presentation about the old Chesapeake Beach Railway and the train station that used to be located near Town Hall. Ms. Skews noted the next TUMHC meeting would be on April 12, and that volunteers were still needed for both the Marlborough Day Festival and the Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage Tour events.

Commissioner Ferrer: Reported that she attended a meeting of the Maryland Building Officials Association and shared information about fire hazards that was presented by their guest speaker.

Commissioner Storey: Reported that he gave a presentation entitled "Local Government and How it Fits" to the Advanced Placement Government class to Douglass High School students on March 24, 2014. He noted that all necessary requirements for the MML's 2014 "Banner Town" designation have now been met. He added that plans were being made for the Memorial Day Ceremony on May 26, 2014.

President Sonnett: President Sonnett reported that the Town received a \$2,800 grant from Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc. (ATHA/Maryland Milestones) to help fund some of the Marlborough Day 1812-related activities. He also noted that a letter was received from Senator Mike Miller supporting the adaptive re-use of the Old Marlboro School buildings, and that County Executive Rushern Baker and County Council Chair Mel Franklin were both copied with the Senator's letter. The President then delivered updates on the following: 1) The latest pothole repair on Elm Street should hold up; 2) An Extra Budget Work Session has been scheduled for April 9th; 3) The Magruder Law Office (Historic Site 79-019-23) has been placed on the "concerned list" of endangered historic properties by the HPC; 4) The Magruder Law Office will be addressed at the next HPC hearing on April 15 at the County Administration Building; and, 5) The Bank of America in Town was robbed during the day today.

Business

Employee Handbook: The President explained how the current language in the handbook concerning the hiring of relatives--page 9, Hiring of Relatives section (1.)--was too broad and overly stringent. Commissioner Storey motioned to strike the line item (1.) from the Employee Handbook, Commissioner Ferrer seconded the motion. With no one in opposition, the motion was unanimously approved.

Marlborough Day Festival: The President read aloud the Town's Proclamation to be printed in the event's program. Commissioner Ferrer motioned to approve the Proclamation, Commissioner Storey seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Board then reviewed the Special Event Application. Joseph Hourclé stated that the Marlborough Day Committee was still waiting for a statement of self-insurance from the M—NCPPC Parks & Recreation Department. The President then noted the Town Ordinances listed within the application that would need to be waived for the day of the event: Ordinance 90-04 section 1-2 paragraphs (a, b, e, h) and section 1-3; Ordinance 83-02 in its entirety; and, provide exemption for Ordinance 04-01 under section 1-4. Commissioner Ferrer motioned to waive enforcement of said Town Ordinances and approve the application, Commissioner Storey seconded the motion. With no one opposed, the application was unanimously approved.

The President noted that the FY2014 Budget included a line item for Contributions and asked the Board for a motion to approve a \$200 donation to the Marlborough Day Committee. Commissioner Storey motioned to approve a donation of \$200 to the Marlborough Day Committee for the May 10, 2014 event. Commissioner Ferrer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Old Water Tower Property: The property owners next to the lot where the old water tower used to be (14212 School Lane) approached the Town about acquiring the 60' x 60' vacant lot. Since there are no plans for the Town to utilize the land, the President suggested that the property could be listed as surplus and offered for sale to the contiguous property owners and highest bidders. He asked if there were any objections from the Board to further investigate this possibility—no objections were voiced.

Sustainable Communities (SC): The President opened up a discussion about the many possibilities of community revitalization that the new program designation enables. He said that the SC Workgroup has had several meetings to date and has developed a matrix of projects which now need to be organized and matched up to available funding sources. Some of the projects and initiatives discussed included: 1) Feasibility study for streets & sidewalks; 2) Connectivity to Community Center; 3) Linkages to existing hiking, biking & water trails; 4) Streetscaping & façade improvements; 5) Town Hall "green" addition; 6) Website/social media upgrades; 7) Improved street lighting; 8) Economic development; 9) Stormwater management; 10) Interpretive signage, and; 11) Parking & traffic control issues.

FY2015 Budget: The President reviewed the state of Town operations and how they relate to the preparation of the FY15 Budget, such as: 1) Lower highway user fees; 2) Higher income tax revenues; 3) Recycling contract/bins; 4) Website upgrade/social media; 5) Newsletter production and delivery; 6) Lower interest rates; 7) Citations technology/collections, and; 8) Budgeting for SC projects/grants.

The President noted that the Board will hold an Extra Work Session tomorrow, of which a portion will be closed to the public in order to discuss employee salaries.

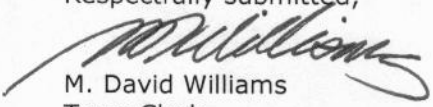
Public Comment

Attendance was urged for the April 14th SC presentation, and more volunteers are needed for the April 26th Pilgrimage. Citizens expressed concerns about a basketball hoop in the street on Rectory Lane.

Adjournment

Commissioner Ferrer made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Storey seconded the motion. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


M. David Williams
Town Clerk

