

Town of Upper Marlboro

REGULAR TOWN MEETING

September 9, 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: Kirsten Peterson of the *Gazette* and various citizens and interested parties.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Meeting Minutes & Financial Reports

The President asked for consent to the Agenda. Approval was granted by all Commissioners present. The Town Meeting minutes from August 12, 2014 and the Work Session minutes from August 26, 2014 were acknowledged by the Board as reviewed. Commissioner Storey motioned to approve both sets of minutes, Commissioner Ferrer seconded. All minutes from August's Town Meeting and Work Session were unanimously approved.

Commissioner Storey reviewed highlights of the Treasurer's Report as of August 31, 2014. He noted that a new pick-up truck had recently been purchased, and that the expenditure would not appear in this report (line item 8541.00—Capital Outlay/Public Works) but, will be listed under the budgeted amount in next month's Treasurer's Report for September. Commissioner Ferrer motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, President Sonnett seconded the motion. The Treasurer's Report as of August 31, 2014 was unanimously approved.

Reports

Staff/Committees: The Town Clerk, Dave Williams, announced that the first "Landings" e-newsletter was successfully delivered via MailChimp last Saturday. He also noted that, to date, the Town has amassed nearly 150 subscribers to the e-newsletter delivery service.

The Town of Upper Marlboro Historical Committee (TUMHC) Chair, Patti Skews, reported on their August 16 Quarterly Meeting, which dealt mostly with preparations for their booth display at the "Undaunted Weekend" Festival in Bladensburg on August 23. Despite the rain, the TUMHC and ATHA declared the festival a success, noting that the Town Walking Tour Brochures were a big hit. She then announced that the next Archival Meeting for the TUMHC will be on September 20, adding that they will also be visiting the Upper Marlboro Branch and Marietta libraries to scan archived materials relating to the Town, and a call for volunteers was made for interested residents to help out. TUMHC member Brian Callicott said that ATHA has offered funding for up to 3 more War of 1812 interpretive wayside signs. He said the Committee did have more ideas if the Town was agreeable to proceeding with the creation of additional historic signage.

Commissioner Ferrer: Attended the PGC Economic Development Corporation "Thirsty for Business Thursday" with President Sonnett on July 31, which is a free event designed to connect business owners with government officials, non-profits and community leaders.

Commissioner Storey: Reported he met with Mr. Moses Sadiran of the PG County Dept. of the Environment to tour the Town's storm drains on August 19. He added that preparations were coming along for the 2nd Annual Day-To-Serve Town Yard Sale & Food Drive on September 20.

President Sonnett: President Sonnett stated that he would be delivering his reports under the Business section of the Agenda.

Business

General Administration Issues: The President said that a Town Police Officer had been taken off of active duty for medical reasons last week. He added, should his absence become long-term, the Town may need to hire a replacement in the meantime. Should this be the case, it would then necessitate a budget amendment. The President added that any grants received this fiscal year would also require a budget amendment (i.e.; the Façade Improvement Project).

The President announced that the process of selecting a contractor for the Town Hall Addition project was close to the end, and suggested that the Board should proceed with due diligence to conduct feasibility studies before incurring expenses for design. It was noted that some elements from the first preliminary design have changed, and probably will continue to evolve as needs, questions and concerns arise during the process. The floor was opened for questions—discussion included: Mandatory Review and zoning, final cost estimates, availability of grants, footprint location and "Green" building standards.

With the Town's recycling contract with the County up for renewal at the end of October, the Board is continuing the search for a private contractor in order to better manage the weekly service. President Sonnett stated that he is presently in contact with the County Dept. of the Environment's Waste Management Division concerning the acquisition of the already distributed big blue totes. The Town is also proposing a swap-out of some of the larger blue totes with the smaller yellow bins that have been requested by some Town residents (especially from the Marlborough Towne units).

The President announced that the Planning Department personnel working with the Town in the Sustainable Communities Workgroup (SCW) have made a foray into the county transportation department concerning the problematic bus stop on Water Street. He invited interested residents to attend the next SCW meeting scheduled for September 11 at 8:00 am, adding the next Façade Improvement Program meeting with downtown property and business owners will be held at Ledo Pizza at 8:30 am on September 30.

And also announced that September's Work Session had been rescheduled from Tuesday, September 23 to Monday, September 29.

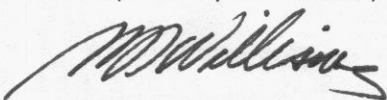
Public Comment

A resident expressed concern about numerous problems with the bus transportation in Town. After a discussion that included ideas for alternative sites for stops, and/or, the utilization of smaller sized buses, President Sonnett stated that he would be pursuing alternative transportation options through the SCW meetings.

Adjournment

Commissioner Storey made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Ferrer seconded the motion. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



M. David Williams
Town Clerk

