

Town of Upper Marlboro
ORGANIZATIONAL/REGULAR TOWN MEETING
January 11, 2016
Approved Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 p.m.

Roll Call: James Storey, President of the Board of Town Commissioners
Nancy Clagett, Commissioner / Treasurer
Linda Pennoyer, Commissioner

Staff present: M. David Williams, Town Clerk/Administrator

Also present: Johnathon Clinkscales of the *Enquirer Gazette* and various citizens and interested parties.

Pledge of Allegiance/Approval of the Agenda

President Storey asked for approval of the Agenda. Approval was granted by all Commissioners present.

Certification of Election Results

The Town Clerk read aloud the results of the January 4, 2016 General Election, as certified by the Board of Supervisors of Elections to be entered into the record.

- Voter count—87; Total absentee ballots—7; Total ballots cast—94.
- Tabulation of votes (in alphabetical order): Nancy C. Clagett—64; George M. Leonnig—44; Linda Pennoyer—71; James Storey—67.

The Clerk announced the 3 candidate names that received the greatest number of votes, to be the new Board of Town Commissioners for the 2016—2017 term of office. The Board accepted the election results and qualifications of all three candidates. President Storey reported that all 3 newly elected officials had already been sworn-in at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office on January 6, 2016. Later that day, the 3 Commissioners held an informal organizational meeting in which it was agreed that James Storey would be the President, and Nancy Clagett would be the Treasurer for the new Board.

Reports

Commissioner Clagett: Thanked the citizens of the Town for electing her to the Board, adding that she will do her best to maintain a strong and positive attitude with the Board as they work on improvements to the Town, and in general, ensuring the safety and well-being of all its residents. She reported that she recently toured the offices at Town Hall and is resolved to move forward with its expansion.

Commissioner Pennoyer: Also, thanked the citizens of the Town for electing her to the Board, adding that she is not a proponent of the current plans for the Town Hall Addition project. She stated that she hoped that other options could be considered, and suggested that the Town wait until residents are more involved and demonstrate a need for a larger Town Hall for meetings and events. Commissioner Pennoyer added that, overall, more resident input is needed and she will make a strong push to do that.

President Storey: As he thanked the residents for voting, President Storey noted that voter turnout was more than twice what it had been in the previous election. He stated his appreciation to all the candidates for their interaction and engagement with the residents as they canvassed the neighborhoods in Town, adding that the administration will continue work based on the residents valuable face-to-face feedback and how they voted.

He then reported on a recently received draft Retail Center Development Case Study from the Planning Department that identifies the Town as one of seven underperforming shopping areas in Prince George's County. Changes and corrections to the first draft were made by the Sustainable Communities Workgroup and were sent back for revisions. He noted that this case study will greatly assist the Town's Sustainable Communities Program.

Business

Treasurer's Oath of Office: President Storey administered the oath of office to Commissioner Nancy Clagett, swearing her in as Treasurer for the 2016-2017 term of office.

Resolution 2016-01: Check Signing Authorization: President Storey said a resolution of this type is put in place when elected officials are replaced, and that it will supersede Resolution 2014-01. He read aloud the resolution and asked for a motion for adoption. Commissioner Pennoyer motioned to adopt the resolution, Commissioner Clagett seconded. With no one opposed, Resolution 2016-01 was unanimously passed.

Codification (discussion): A survey form compiled by the Deputy Clerk was made available to those in attendance, with the purpose of prioritizing the list of issues with the help of resident feedback. President Storey noted that this would be a long-term project and asked that surveys be turned back in as soon as possible, so as to be reviewed and discussed at the next Town Meeting. Commissioner Pennoyer requested that the survey be distributed to all residents, whether by a bulk mailing or by door-to-door hand delivery. Available staff time and mailing costs were discussed, and volunteers were encouraged to hand distribute as much as possible. The survey will be posted on the Town website and will go out through social media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter.

Sustainable Communities (update): President Storey said the Sustainable Communities Workgroup (SCW), which is open to Town residents, businesses and stakeholders, needs to be repopulated. He asked for those interested to volunteer, and referenced a working matrix print-out outlining various issues, solutions and projects identified by the SCW as priority redevelopment action items.

Operations Overview: President Storey delivered an overview on Town Hall Administrative Operations, noting an increase in staffing, lack of adequate space and the inefficient, unsecure, unsafe and sometimes inappropriate use of existing facilities for basic workaday needs. He cited a page in the "Codes Overview" handout that shows the specs of similar Town Halls in the County, for comparison. He noted that these Town Halls all expanded in sync with growth of the communal activity of its residents, adding that the Town Hall Addition & Renovation Project proposed costs are very affordable in view of more than sufficient financial assets, and a track record of annual budget surpluses, that alone, surpass the total estimate for this project. In closing, he said the needed improvements will assist Town staff with providing services to the community and reinforce civic mindedness and pride in its residents.

Public Comment

Barry Morton of the Marlborough Towne HOA volunteered to distribute the Codes Overview Survey. He also said the development's street light upgrade project was now complete, and they should realize a 50% cost savings of energy usage from the 25 new fixtures. On another note, he also indicated that the history of the building, prior to it becoming Town Hall, remains a sore subject for some residents.

President Storey, interjecting an Agenda line item that was overlooked, explained the requirement for the Town to establish a "Corporate Authorization Resolution" requested by SONA Bank to be entered into the minutes. He said that the required document would be signed and submitted tomorrow.

A citizen questioned whether the Town Charter had been violated given that an "informal" organizational meeting of the three newly elected officials was conducted on January 6th. The President explained that tonight was the Organizational Meeting mandated by the Charter, and that the informal meeting was held shortly after the swearing-in ceremony by the Clerk of the Circuit Court, for the sake of administrative efficiency.

Adjournment

Commissioner Clagett made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Pennoyer seconded the motion. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. David Williams
Town Clerk/Administrator