

MINUTES  
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING  
March 25, 2015

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Ralph Whitmore, Commissioners Gary Baker, Chad Weddle, Russ Winch, and Debbie Zimmerman, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Public Works Director Robert DePaola, Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins, 12 citizens, Kelsey Loos of the Frederick News-Post, TFC Matthew Crouse. Commissioner Donald Schildt was absent.

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

1. MINUTES

*Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell Winch, to approve both the Town meeting minutes and Closed personnel meeting minutes of March 11, 2015. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0-1, with Commissioner Gary Baker abstaining.*

2. APPOINT OPEN MEETINGS REPRESENTATIVE

Ms Rollins reminded Commissioners that a designee needed to be appointed and reported to the Open Meetings Compliance Board. She noted that she and Commissioner Russell Winch have both completed the training requirement.

*Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker, to appoint Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins as the Open Meetings designee. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

*Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker, to appoint Commissioner Russell Winch as the Open Meetings alternate designee. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

3. UPDATE ON WATER PLANT DESIGN BIDS

Ms. Rollins notified Commissioners that Mr. Michael Marschner, Frederick County Special Projects, will be assisting the Town in evaluating the four proposals received for design of the new water plant.

4. UPDATE ON SALE OF TOWN WATERSHED

Burgess Whitmore notified Commissioners that he verbally notified the Boy Scouts of America representative that they have until February 1, 2016, to raise the funds to purchase the watershed from the Town. The Town is considering the sale to the Boy Scouts and will evaluate the feasibility of the sale at that time.

5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE and FEBRUARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

*Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker, to pay the attached bills. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

*Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker, to approve the February 2015 financial statements. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

6. RT. 194 DISCUSSION

George Rudy, in exile, noted that Rt. 194 is no longer a bypass and has substantive safety issues. He stated that in the 60's there was nothing located on the east side and that we need to continue to work with the Planning Commission and Frederick County to make sure our comments are on deck. He recommends a committee of officials to work on this and encourages citizen participation. He believes the problem of traffic comes from north, Rt. 30 in Pennsylvania, the feeder road of traffic to Rt. 194.

Punky Easterday, a volunteer firefighter with the Walkersville Fire Company, would like to see a traffic light at Frederick Street and Rt. 194, by the fire department. He noted that the trucks sometimes get stuck for many seconds trying to get onto 194. A light to be activated when they are trying to get out would be helpful.

Dick Brady, realtor and member of the Planning Commission, encouraged that we take advantage of an opportunity to address serious safety issues. State Highway Administration will come up with designs to resolve issues. He disagrees with the premise that the dualization will divide the Town. He believes it could resolve the safety issues and we should endorse it as a community and get it on the priority list for State funding.

David Ennis, 118 Challedon Drive, and member of the Planning Commission, is in favor of State Highway Administration moving forward with a study, with the viable alternatives. He is endorsing the study of the priority to move forward.

George Rudy, in exile again, noted the hot spots have been identified and still recommends that the Town be proactive in the process.

Burgess Whitmore noted that he has pondered long and hard and feels that State Highway Administration will do what they want to do. He stated we have been concerned and complaining about Rt. 194 since 1978, to no avail. He wants the intersections at Crum Road, Fountainrock Road, and Calvary Church addressed.

Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman would like the intersection at Deerfield and Daysville Road addressed. She is in favor of the dualization in order to get a safer Rt. 194.

Commissioner Russell Winch stated that State Highway Administration considers Rt. 194 a bypass and that the dualization will result in more traffic, more congestion, and more accidents. He would approve the widening from Rt. 26 up to Stauffer Road, but no further.

Commissioner Chad Weddle stated that he is in support of getting this started on the priority list because it won't happen for at least 10 years.

Commissioner Gary Baker is concerned with improving the safety of Rt. 194, and feels that is key.

*Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman, to send a letter in support of Rt. 194 being included in the State Highway Administration's priorities, to press for resolution of safety issues that have been noted. The motion passed by a vote of 3-1, with Commissioner Russell Winch in opposition.*

## 7. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Gary Baker noted the meetings of the Economic Development Commission held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month. He reviewed briefly the EDC Annual Report for 2014, copies of which were distributed at the places of each Commissioner.

Commissioner Chad Weddle announced that a closed personnel meeting had been held on March 11, 2015 to discuss a specific employee issue, under §10-508(a)(1)(a) of the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article.

*Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell Winch, to hold a closed personnel meeting under §10-508(a)(1)(b) to discuss any other personnel matter that affects 1 or more specific individuals. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

Burgess Whitmore noted the excessive trash lining Frederick Street and proposed evaluating the locations of the trash cans installed along the route, and perhaps, adding another one.

Commissioner Russell Winch discussed that a onetime drug collection event should be held the same day that we have scheduled a Bulk Trash Pickup and Shred Day (June 13, 2015). TFC Matt Crouse will check the protocol at the Barrack and see how it must be done. He will let us know.

Commissioner Russell Winch confirmed that this Saturday, March 28, 2015, is Opening Day for sports at Heritage Farm Park. Soccer, softball, and baseball have events scheduled beginning at 9:00 a.m. We need to remind

GVAA that the Town office needs their calendar of events. Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman will contact Mr. Thom Beckley and remind him of various items needed due to the agreement.

#### 8. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mr. George Rudy, in exile, reminded citizens of his success in the issues of Ft. Detrick, Montevue Nursing Home, Rt. 194 and encouraged all that this can be done.

TFC Matthew Crouse updated everyone on the use of Facebook as a social media tool for dispersing information on recent events and getting feedback from the public on identification of perpetrators. He noted that since the weather is getting better, there is more activity regarding car break- ins. In response to a question from the audience, he noted the shooter at Goodwill has not yet been captured, the case is still open.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Long Rollins  
Town Manager