

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
September 9, 2015

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, September 9, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Ralph Whitmore, Commissioners Gary Baker, Donald Schildt, Chad Weddle, and Debbie Zimmerman, Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Public Works Director Bob DePaola, and 80+ citizens, including Walkersville Resident Troopers Matthew Crouse, Gary Conklin, Richard Freysz, Cpl. Ed Witanowski, Det. Sgt. Scott M. Robertson, and Barrack Commander Lt. Wayne Wachsmuth.

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by Mr. Tim May.

1. MINUTES

Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schildt, to approve both the Town meeting minutes and the Closed Personnel and Legal meeting of August 26, 2015. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

2. RESOLUTION 2015-01 TIME OF POLLS OPEN FOR ELECTIONS

Resolution 2015-01 was introduced at the last Town meeting and officially changes the Town Charter to keep the polls open from at least 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m.

Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman, to adopt Resolution 2015-01 and change the poll hours to at least 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

3. AWARD BASKETBALL COURT REHAB BID

Ms. Zimmerman and Ms. Rollins reviewed the bid for rehabbing the Community Park basketball court to a regulation size and adding an asphalt playground with various games painted on the asphalt. This is the second time the Program Open Space project has been put out to bid and the only bid received. The bids received were \$25,000 for the basketball court and \$4,835 for the asphalt playground. Of note, the original grant from Program Open Space is for a total project cost of \$15,000, with reimbursement of 90% (\$13,500) from Maryland. This leaves a cost to the Town of \$16,335.

Commissioner Donald Schildt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chad Weddle, to award the Community Park basketball court rehab and asphalt playground to American Tennis Courts, Inc. in the amount of \$29,835. The motion passed by a vote of \$4-0.

4. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

5. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Donald Schildt offered advice to the incoming Commissioners that will be elected next Monday. In reference to the request for a waiver of development review fees, he recommended that waivers on fees never be offered by the Burgess and Commissioners.

Commissioner Donald Schildt also noted that Mr. Elwood Hummer is still living and is a veteran who should be recognized at our Veteran's Day Remembrance. Burgess Whitmore suggested that Commissioner Schildt be in charge of this event regardless of Monday's election outcome.

Commissioner Chad Weddle reported that citizens have notified him of election signs in various rights of way.

Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schildt, to direct the Town Code Enforcement officer to remove any illegal signs. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

Mr. Bob DePaola reported that the wooden bleachers at Heritage Farm Park are in need of rehabilitation and if we fix them ourselves, the materials would cost \$2,238.

Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker, to allocate up to \$3,000 to fix the bleachers at Heritage Farm Park. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

Town election will be held Monday, September 14th, from 12 noon to 8:00 p.m.

6. PUBLIC HEARING – CRIME IN WALKERSVILLE

Burgess Whitmore announced the process for speaking at the hearing. There will be a sign up sheet to speak. There will be a 3 minute time limit per each speaker.

Senior Trooper Matthew Crouse handed out statistic sheets comparing populations, area, and number of officers for Walkersville, Thurmont, Brunswick, and Taneytown. Before the speakers on the sign up sheet were called to the podium, various questions were called out from the audience, including the following:

- Question on the 701 number of calls for service
- Stats from Sheriff's department not matching State police
- Creamery Park hang out
- Why can't the \$29,000 go to the police rather than a basketball court?
- Why can't the public know the troopers schedules?
- Why can't we schedule to get more bang for the buck, scheduling more nights and less day shifts?
- Controlled dangerous substance stats included?
- Does CDS include SPICE?
- How many tickets were issued on Rt. 194 in the school zones?
- Was there a major cutback in troopers at the Barrack?

Sign up sheet:

James Borak, of Charles Street, noted that his block has had 5 random crimes and is located 150 ft. from Creamery Park. He noted he leaves 9 Pennsylvania Ave. at midnight and there are still kids in Creamery Park. He would like more officers to patrol and doesn't think that \$29,000 for a basketball court is a proper allocation of town funds.

Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis asked for information on preventative programs such as DARE and Neighborhood Watches.

Jenny Gilroy, of 256 Deer Run Drive, the head of the Deerfield Neighborhood Watch, asked how to get information on the resident troopers, noting she doesn't know who they are.

George Rudy, 133 W. 3rd Street, reported his 2007-2008 petition for 24/7 police services, noting the piecemeal police coverage. He stated that kids put out info on when the police are on duty on their devices. He's observed

the rollover of troopers noting it's a serious issue if the troopers and the community don't know each other. He stated that after living on the corner of Crum Road and 194, what he's heard tonight is contrary to his experience.

Tammy Duggan, of 7 Charles Street, noted that she was a victim of crime in Walkersville, that her car was broken into because it was unlocked.

Michael Seibert passed when his name was called.

Ray Soderberg, owner of Freestate Roll-off and Recycling, reported that he's a victim of crime and has interacted with all of the resident troopers. He noted that the railroad has been broken into on a regular basis.

Commission Chad Weddle read a letter from Good Hair Days Judy Poffenberger.

Commissioner Donald Schildt suggested extra lighting at Creamery Park and functioning cameras.

Commissioner Chad Weddle thanked everyone for coming. It was good see citizens flood the meeting room and be interested in their community.

It was suggested and agreed that direct contact information would be posted on the Town's website.

Suzan Thompson of Liberty Street, asked if crime was mostly committed at night?

Veronica, of 2 Hahn Circle, requested that links to community watch groups be posted on the Town website.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Long Rollins
Town Manager