

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
October 28, 2015

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, October 28, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Gary Baker, Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Russ Winch, Donald Schildt, and Debbie Zimmerman, Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Public Works Director Bob DePaola, 9 citizens, and Walkersville Resident Trooper Richard Freysz, Terri Shoemaker –Kreit, CPA, of Smith, Elliott, Kearns and Company, and Kelsi Loos of the Frederick News Post.

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by Burgess Chad Weddle.

1. MINUTES

Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell Winch, to approve the Town meeting minutes of October 14, 2015. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

2. AUDITORS REPORT

Ms. Terri Shoemaker-Kreit, CPA, and Audit Manager at Smith, Elliott, Kearns and Company, reviewed the audited financial statements of the Town. She noted the firm issued a clean, unmodified opinion on the statements presenting fairly the financial position of the Town. There were no recommendations for improvement or changes needed for internal controls. She also reviewed the firm's letter to the Burgess and Commissioners, with routine audit adjusting entries made during the fieldwork.

3. AT & T RECOMMENDATIONS

Commissioner Russell Winch reported that he is still working with the Town's wireless consultants and engineers and has no update at this time. The item will be added to the November 18th Town meeting agenda.

4. PARKSIDE (GRAHAM PROPERTY) REQUEST FOR MODIFICATION OF DESIGN REQUIREMENTS ON CURB, STORM DRAIN, AND CHANNEL DESIGN

Ms. Hauver explained that the engineer for the developers of the Graham Property is working on a storm drain design that conveys stormwater on the property as well as addressing the issue of water pooling on Biggs Ford Road in nearly every storm event. The engineer's design would require several modifications to the design standards set forth in the Walkersville Design Manual. The Code allows the Burgess and Commissioners to grant modifications if they find that unusual hardships may result from strict compliance with the regulations.

Ms. Hauver explained that the Planning Commission has spent a lot of time reviewing the plans and asking questions of the applicant. The Commission felt that additional information was needed from the developer's engineer as well as the Town Engineer before they would be prepared to make a recommendation.

To expedite a solution, and enhance everyone's understanding of the issues, Ms. Hauver proposed a joint workshop with the Burgess & Commissioners, the Planning Commission, Richard Parks of Acer Engineers, and the developer's engineer and representatives. The workshop is to take place at the next Town meeting on November 18th.

5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker, to pay the attached bills. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

6. WATER BILL REQUESTS

Brook Hicks, representing Calvary Assembly, requested a one-time recalculation of the church upcoming water bill to the Town's industrial rate. The church discovered a water leak having to do with its cooling tower, resulting in over 700,000 gallons of water usage. The Town's standard policy was adopted, reducing the bill to \$3,456.40.

Mary Irungu, of 8823 Eureka Lane, requested a one-time recalculation of her water bill as per the Town's standard policy. The Town's standard policy was adopted. Ms. Irungu did not have the amount of her bill so Town Hall will be contacted for the calculation tomorrow.

7. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis asked Mr. DePaola for the timeline for exercising water valves. It is planned for every other year, and ongoing now.

Ms. Brodie-Ennis asked for an update on camera usage for crime in Town. Burgess Weddle promised a report later on.

Commissioner Donald Schildt reported that a financial report from GVAA has yet to be received. Burgess Weddle reported that he plans to touch base with all town HOAs and organizations, including GVAA, to give his contact information and establish better communication with them.

Commissioner Schildt would like to see monthly meetings between the groups and the State Police monthly. TFC Richard Freysz came to the podium and discussed communications and what he knew about the reported Homecoming shenanigans at the high school.

Commissioner Donald Schildt reported that the Veterans Day plans are set for November 8th, with plans to honor Mr. Elwood Hummer and other WWII speakers. The ceremony will be held at 1:00 p.m.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis reminded folks that the Boy Scouts will be delivering grocery bags the first Saturday in November to be collected when full with donations of canned goods on the second Saturday in November. She noted that the Food Bank would especially appreciate canned fruit, a hot item with those served.

It was proposed to rearrange the bulk recycling schedule due to upcoming holidays and meeting dates as follows: November 12 (Thursday) instead of November 11 Veterans Day, December 9, regularly scheduled day, and December 28 (Monday) rather than December 23 (Christmas Eve Eve). *Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to accept the revised bulk recycling schedule. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.*

Commissioner Russell Winch announced that the MML Legislative Dinner will be held December 4th, at Carriage House in Emmitsburg. He is hoping Governor Larry Hogan will attend.

8. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mr. George Rudy," Resident in Exile with Vested Walkersville Property Interests", noted that he has been complaining about the issue of the cell tower since 2005. He claims it is in violation of Federal regulations. He plans to compile a list of questions for the consultants and present it at a later date.

Burgess Weddle reiterated the following announcements:

- Veterans Day remembrance – Nov. 8, 1:00 p.m.
- Veterans Day – office closed – Nov 11
- Bulk Recycling day moved to Thursday – Nov 12
- Next Town meeting moved to Wednesday – Nov 18
- Frederick Community Foundation honoring Vaughn Zimmerman on Thursday – Nov 19
- Planning Commission meeting – Nov 24

Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell Winch, to hold a closed legal/ personnel meeting. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1, with Commissioner Schildt in opposition.

Burgess Weddle reported that he had attended the MML Fall convention and heard lots of topics of interest to the Town. He will report on this later.

George Rudy, again returned to the podium, to suggest photos of the resident troopers be posted on the website, a project that is already underway.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Long Rollins
Town Manager