

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
January 29, 2014

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, January 29, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Ralph Whitmore, Commissioners Gary Baker, Donald Schildt, Chad Weddle, Russell Winch, and Debbie Zimmerman; Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Public Works Director Robert DePaola, Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins, 11 citizens, Kelsi Loos of the Frederick News-Post and TFC Matt Crouse.

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by Commissioner Chad Weddle, remembering those who need to be out in the cold weather to do their work and thanking God for the warmth provided by His love.

1. MINUTES

Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker, to approve the Town meeting minutes of January 8, 2014. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker, to approve the Closed meeting minutes of January 8, 2014. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0-1, with Commissioner Donald Schildt abstaining.

2. RESOLUTION 2014-01

Ms. Rollins reviewed the Maryland Municipal Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement and the resolution needed to become part of the State-wide mutual aid agreement between public works divisions of municipalities to aid and assist in emergencies and disasters and for the receipt of funding awards to address such emergencies.

Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell Winch, to adopt Resolution 2014-01 to become part of the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement and to sign the agreement as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

3. ZONING ISSUES REGARDING FENCES

Ms. Hauver reviewed a list of fence permitting issues that could be clarified in the Town Code. She presented these as a starting point for the Commissioners to review and for the Planning Commission to address:

- Designate a staff person or official to serve as an as-needed consultant for zoning related questions.
- Add inspections to the Zoning Certificate Review Process.
- Amend the Code with regard to fences.

Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion to take these issues to the Planning Commission and hire additional staff to assist in the Planning Department work. The motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Chad Weddle noted that he was presenting Board of Appeals Chairman Vaughn Zimmerman's comments for the record. He noted that §88-10 of the Town Code should also be amended. Commissioner Weddle will work on an ordinance to be introduced at the next meeting and then forwarded to the Planning Commission for their input.

In the meanwhile, Ms. Hauver and Mr. Dewese will draft a process for approval and inspection of fences.

Commission Donald Schildt noted submission of a plat should be required with the fence permit process. He said you can go to the courthouse and get a plat for a buck. He also noted that he is upset to discover that, according to the September 2012 Board of Appeals minutes, the Board of Appeals recommended that something be done with the Town Code in regards to fences and nothing was done.

4. CRAMER FARM – AG PRESERVATION

Ms. Hauver noted that we have received notification that the Cramer Farm has applied for Ag preservation. The County wants to know if the Town supports this as it is within the Town limits.

Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman, to notify the County that the Town continues to support this application for Ag Preservation of the Cramer Farm. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

5. INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 2014-01: RECREATIONAL LAND SET ASIDES IN RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

Ms. Hauver reviewed the issue of the amount of land required to be set aside for recreation in new subdivisions. The recreational land requirement is on top of the stormwater management and forest resource land requirements. The amount of land now required to be maintained by a homeowners association could become burdensome both to the neighborhood and the Town.

Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman, to introduce Ordinance 2014-01 regarding recreational land set asides in residential developments. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

6. MORE GVAA AGREEMENT REVISIONS AND REVIEW OF ELECTRICITY AT HFP

Much discussion occurred regarding the summary of electricity bills for the park, concession, scoreboard, and Manor House.

Commissioner Donald Schildt made a motion that the GVAA agreement be amended to require GVAA to pay for electricity for the concession stand, the scoreboards, and the Manor House. The motion died for lack of a second.

Upon further discussion of the proposed agreement, commissioners suggested addition of "GVAA acknowledges that all other groups must go through the Parks Committee and completion of the Parks Usage Form." I.e. GVAA does not have the authority to allow other athletic groups to utilize the facilities without the proper permission and insurance coverage.

Commissioner Donald Schildt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell Winch, that all food, photo, and merchandise vendors must secure permission through the Parks Committee in order to operate at the parks for any event at any time. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1, with Commissioner Chad Weddle in opposition.

Commissioner Donald Schildt made a motion to have GVAA drop off their financial reports to the Town Hall by February 1st. The motion died for lack of a second.

Ms. Rollins was directed to complete the suggested changes to the agreement, forward to the Commissioners for final approval, and then forward to GVAA representatives with an invitation to attend the February 12th Town meeting for implementation and signatures on the agreement.

7. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND NOVEMBER 2013 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell Winch, to pay the attached bills and accept the December 2013 financial statements. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

8. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Donald Schildt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman, to include meeting minutes of all groups, Board of Appeals, Planning Commission, Parks Committee, and Economic Development Commission in the Burgess & Commissioners meeting packets. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Commissioner Donald Schildt reported that he had attended a drug seminar in Thurmont with speaker Mike Gimball. He is in favor of holding one here in Walkersville in conjunction with WHS PTSA. Possible dates are March 19th or April 2nd and the cost is \$300.

Commissioner Donald Schildt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell Winch, to co-sponsor a parents-only drug seminar with WHS PTSA, with speaker Mike Gimball, and to fund the cost of \$300 for the seminar. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

TFC Matt Crouse was introduced as the new resident trooper, replacing Nick Farioli who has transferred back to the Frederick barrack.

Burgess Whitmore read thank you notes from the Walkersville Volunteer Fire Company, the Glade Valley Community Services agency, and Cpt. Ryan Hobbs, serving in Afghanistan.

Boy Scout Troop 1070 is celebrating their 50th Anniversary and is looking for a project to do in the Town to document the occasion.

Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker, to hold a closed legal meeting to discuss the Board of Appeals decision against the Town and the process to resolve and bring the 10 Charles Street fence into compliance. The motion passed by a vote of 3-2, with Commissioners Chad Weddle and Donald Schildt in opposition.

9. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mr. George Rudy, "currently in exile", reported on the status of his activities with his bio-tech concerns with Ft. Detrick and the State assembled group of experts and their report. He noted that he is in critique/counter-critique mode and that he will continue to send copies of his correspondences to everyone and hopes to settle the issues at the Federal level.

Mr. Rudy also reported that the abandoned Valero station has not met reporting requirements to MDE and this concerns him due to location within the Town's Wellhead Protection area.

Ms. Robin Bowers, Administrator of the Walkersville Library branch, requested permission from the Commissioners to hold a Spring Bazaar on May 3rd, 2014 at the future library site. It will be a business expo with local businesses displaying and selling their wares. Commissioners suggested it be held during Walkersville Day as the Town is teeming with tourists that day, but members of the Walkersville Business and Professional Association and the Economic Development Commission explained their selection of the May 3rd date. Burgess Whitmore noted that the site has been deeded to Frederick County with the option to take it back if the library project is cancelled. She said the County directed her to the Town for permission.

Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell Winch, to approve the Spring Bazaar on May 3rd, 2014. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Nancy Walsh, George Street, registered her complaint about her father-in-law's vehicle being towed from Goldsborough Place this past Friday. She stated that she had been given no notice and wants to be reimbursed for the tow bill.

Citizen Donald Schildt went to the podium and inquired on the recent fence appeal.

Citizen Donald Schildt requested reimbursement from the Town for the \$300 fee he paid to file a case with the Board of Appeals.

Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell Winch, to adopt Resolution 2014-02 honoring the service of Richard Gilbert as he retires from Frederick County Public Schools. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gloria Long Rollins
Town Manager