

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
March 8, 2017

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, March 8, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Gary Baker, Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Russell Winch, and Debbie Zimmerman, Public Works Director Bob DePaola, Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins, Ken Kellar of the Woodsboro Times, Jessica El-Zeftawy of Frederick County Public Library, and 7 citizens. Commissioner Donald Schildt was absent.

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

1. MINUTES

Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to approve both the Town meeting minutes and Closed Legal meeting minutes of February 22, 2017. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0-1, with Commissioner Gary Baker abstaining.

Burgess Weddle reported that the Commissioners met in closed session to discuss a legal matter under State Government Article, §10-508(a)(7), regarding the construction of Richard Winn Lane and the annexation agreement obligations of Century Center, now in default.

2. FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTATION FOR NEW WALKERSVILLE BRANCH – JESSICA EL-ZEFTAWY

Ms. Jessica El-Zeftawy handed out library materials and updated the Burgess and Commissioners on activities and statistics supporting the library. She noted that there are 152K library card holders in Frederick County, and 83K are active. The Walkersville branch sees 6,000 visits each month. She mentioned the joint support of the library and the Weinberg Center for the Bill Nye Science Guy coming in April. She noted there are 40 story times per week throughout the County. She discussed many activities, including the library's sponsorship of symphony music, and instrument petting zoo, and summer reading challenge that begins May 1st. Ms. El-Zeftawy was exuberant and enthusiastic regarding all the work and activities attributed to the library. As a finale, she reminded everyone of the upcoming groundbreaking ceremony for the new library to be located on Glade Road on a parcel donated by the Town of Walkersville to Frederick County. The old 2,500 sq. ft library will be replaced with the new 15,000 sq. ft. facility!

3. CONSTANT YIELD TAX RATE

Ms. Rollins reviewed the 2017 Constant Yield Tax Rate Certification that exempts the Town from advertising an increase in the tax rate. The constant yield tax rate is 0.1595 and the Town's current tax rate is 0.16 per \$100 of assessed property value. Commissioners decided to advertise an increase in the tax rate of .05 for a rate of .21.

4. UPDATE ON 125th ANNIVERSARY

Burgess Weddle reminded interested citizens of the March 25th Anniversary planning meeting at Town Hall at 9:00 a.m. He also noted that the first event of the celebration year will be the April 4th reenactment of the Town Charter signing.

5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND FEBRUARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker, to pay the attached bills and accept the February 2017 financial statements. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

6. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman expressed her sadness at the departure of TFC Richard Freysz, effective March 15th. He will return to barrack service and will be replaced by TFC Matthew Baum.

Commissioner Russell Winch confirmed misprinted information in the Woodsboro Times, verifying with Mr. Bob DePaola that the new pressure monitors have been installed at on Bedrock Drive. We are currently awaiting activity on the monitors in order to evaluate the residents' pressure complaints.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis reported on the Monday Green Team meeting. She made contact with the fire company and obtained permission to hold this year's Farmers' Market at the carnival grounds at a cost of \$25 for the entire season. She noted that Market Manager Dawn Hipsley will give completed form to the fire company and that many of last year's vendors are committed to returning to the market.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis also reported that the next Green Team committee meeting on March 20th will involve planning for the September community picnic and possible participation by the team.

Commissioner Gary Baker noted that he likes the locations where the Town's speed monitor has been placed. He also complimented the completed installation of the new fence in front of the Heritage Farm Park Manor House. He asked that the bricks be power-washed to complete the new look.

Ms. Rollins reported that the installation of the security cameras has been completed. We have some issues with band width down at the Town Shop and the inability to support being able to view all nine cameras simultaneously. We are working on replacing the Verizon DSL lines at the shop and plant with a more powerful option. Commissioner Russell Winch asked that it be confirmed that the camera system, and its utilization of wi-fi is secure.

Ms. Rollins reported that our official letter has been sent requesting our Resident Trooper Program consist of 5 troopers, as per adopted FY 2017 budget.

7. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Ryan Fulmer, of 206 Braeburn Drive, presented his Eagle Scout project; a beautiful wooden crafted box for receiving flags in need of retirement. Previously, the Town collected dilapidated flags in the lobby in a cardboard box and they were collected for proper disposal by a representative of the Woodsboro American Legion. Ryan's project included the construction of 7 beautiful boxes, placed strategically around our region, and will now give honor to the flags as they await their proper retirement. Thank you Ryan! American Legion Commander Dwight Reynolds was on hand to thank Ryan for his project and we hope they both will be available to attend our Veterans' Day ceremony.

Burgess Weddle reviewed the upcoming schedule of meetings and events, including the Groundbreaking for the new library on Monday, March 13th 4:30 p.m., the 125th Anniversary meeting on Saturday, March 25th 9:00 a.m., Water disconnect day on Wednesday, March 29th, the Reenactment of the Town Charter signing on Tuesday, April 4th, and office closing for Good Friday on Friday, April 14th.

Mr. DePaola reported he will be meeting with the electrical engineers for the new water plant tomorrow. He also reported that the work has been completed on the high school baseball fields, as requested at a previous town meeting.

No further business, so the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Long Rollins
Town Manager