

MINUTES  
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING  
August 9, 2017

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, August 9, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Gary Baker, Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Debbie Zimmerman, and Russell Winch, Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Public Works Director Bob DePaola, 8 citizens, Ken Kellar of the Walkersville-Woodsboro Times and Nancy Lavin of the Frederick News-Post, and two ladies in the front row who were giving looks that could kill to everyone seated on the dais. 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 the Town meeting minutes, with various corrections, of July 12, 2017. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

2. CENTER FOR MUNICIPAL SOLUTIONS RECOMMENDATION LETTER FOR VERIZON UPGRADE ON DISCOVERY TOWER

The draft recommendation letter for modifications to the Verizon cellular service was presented for Commissioners' approval. Commissioner Winch asked for a structural report which had not yet been received. The matter will be moved to the August 23<sup>rd</sup> agenda if a valid structural report is received.

3. UPDATE ON COMCAST INSTALLATION OF NEW PHONE SYSTEM

Ms. Rollins reported that the new Comcast Business VoiceEdge phone system has been installed. Town staff is currently learning the specifics of how the system operates and patience is requested. Commissioners suggested announcing this on the website.

4. UPDATE ON SECURITY CAMERA INSTALLATION

Burgess Weddle reported that representatives of CIA had reviewed our system and noted that there is an issue with the viewing of the various cameras. Technicians will address it. The cameras continue to work and the dvr's are recording, even if they cannot be viewed on the office computer. In the meantime, new cameras are being installed for viewing of Memorial Park and the Five Points area of the Town, on Thursday. A demonstration on the operations of the cameras will be scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup> or the October 11<sup>th</sup> Town meeting.

5. POLICE UPDATE

Burgess Weddle reported on the meeting with the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. and Barrack Commander, where the new schedule for 5 troopers was reviewed. The new troopers will arrive on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The new schedule calls for a supervisor on duty Monday-Friday during the day. A meeting will be held with the Maryland State Police at the November 8<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting. Citizens can greet the new troopers, ask questions, and a review of the 5-trooper schedule will take place.

6. UPDATE ON WATER PLANT

Mr. DePaola reported that the final design for the water plant is now going through MDE review and questions. Looking for final approval of the design so that the work can go out to bid.

7. 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 4-0.*

## 8. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis reported that she has spoken with Farmers' Market Manager Dawn Hipsley, and Ms. Hipsley is not interested in running the Farmers' Market in the future.

Burgess Weddle reviewed the items for sale as souvenirs of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Polo shirts \$20, T-shirts \$17, Crocks \$28, Pitchers \$28, Coasters \$15, Christmas ornaments \$20, and Throws \$70.

Mr. David Ennis reported that the Town's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Geocaching event commenced on August 1<sup>st</sup> and to date, at least 35 geocachers have participated.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis announced the Community Picnic on September 9<sup>th</sup> at Heritage Farm Park from 3:00-7:00 p.m., centering around the large pavilion, and reviewed the activities planned for the day: bring your own picnic (BYOP) or purchase food from the participating food truck(s), DJ providing music and activities, Girl Scout craft table and activities, Boy Scout Troop 1070 activities for kids, Dan Thomas supervising biodegradable water balloons, and more.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis also reported on the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee meeting and planning of upcoming events: Ms. Bonnie Liens and the Walkersville Historical Society have an October Ghost Story event in process with a Timeline for the one murder in Walkersville history that still remains unsolved. For November there will be a period clothing and costume display with photos of Walkersville residents in period clothing. For December there will be the Christkindlemarket with 3 churches offering space, vendors, carolers, and town criers.

Burgess Weddle read a letter and request from Mr. Joel Herman, to donate and place a stainless steel time capsule in a vault sealed and buried at Heritage Farm Park. The plan is for the capsule to contain letters from the current sitting Burgess and Commissioners, photos, a light bulb, a CD, historical information, possibly a flash drive. Commissioners wondered what would be available to read the flash drive in 125 years. Town backhoe, staff, and concrete will be utilized to bury the vault, to be opened at the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Burgess Weddle read a thank you note from Ms. Jillian Johnson, Ms. Allegheny County Outstanding Teen, for her monetary award for participation in the Town's 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis also reported that representatives from the ARIA Memorial committee had requested approval to bury a shoe-box sized container under the memorial which would contain parts of the plane recovered after the accident. This was approved by consensus.

## 9. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Julie Cook, of Guardian Properties, representing tenants of 8506 Fortune Place, notified commissioners of "exorbitant" water bill on the property. She reported that the tenants would not come to request a reduction and recommended that the Town change its policy of requiring someone to come personally to make the request at a Town meeting. Burgess Weddle and Commissioner Winch reiterated that the Town's policy was to grant a one-time recalculation of the water bill to the lower Industrial rate. Commissioners granted the recalculation and staff will notify the water department to send out a revised bill.

Kathy Troupe, 105 Polaris Drive, expressed her dismay that Rutters will be in her backyard. She questioned whether there was a study done on noise and light pollution. She noted that she is concerned with lights and diesel trucks and the resale value of her property and is not concerned with crime, but her quality of life. The Burgess and Commissioners explained that the Planning Commission handles and approves the conditions under which a commercial zoned property can construct its business.

Tom Gilbert, 56 Hampton Place, noted several eyesores around town, specifically the tree plantings along Rt. 194 planted by State Highway Administration. He also noted that Walkersville Middle School has tall Johnsongrass growing around the old library area. Johnsongrass is a noxious and invasive weed under Maryland law and property owners are required to control it. Mr. Gilbert also noted some disruptive residences in Glade Village, loud motorcycles speeding, and the fact that by the time police show up, the culprits have scattered like roaches in the light. He wondered if there was a way to communicate other

than by the scanner so that the warning of their approach is not given to those that they are trying to neutralize.

Burgess Weddle reviewed the announcements for the upcoming month.

Dan Yeeles, 201 Greenwich Drive, asked if the Town Code cited a number of people that are allowed to live in one residence. He also noted that the last minutes posted on the website are from May and asked if there had been meetings in June?

*Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker, to hold a Closed Legal meeting to discuss land acquisition for the new water plant. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Long Rollins  
Town Manager