

MINUTES  
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING  
June 13, 2018

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, June 13, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Gary Baker, Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Donald Schildt, Russell Winch, and Debbie Zimmerman, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins, Public Works Director Bob DePaola, TFC Jeremy Wills, 10 citizens, and Ken Kellar of the Woodsboro Times.

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

1. MINUTES

*Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman, to approve the Town meeting minutes of May 23, 2018. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0-1, with Commissioner Russell Winch abstaining.*

2. PRESENTATION – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES – SYRINGE SERVICES – JESSICA ELLIS, MA

Ms. Jessica Ellis presented her powerpoint slide information on “Reducing the Harm Associated with Injection Drug Use.” Her presentation reviewed all types of protections and preventative items in our society, including sunscreen, naloxone, condoms, helmets, designated drivers, needle exchange, seatbelts, and nicotine gum. She reviewed the definition of harm reduction as practical strategies that reduce negative consequences associated with high risk behaviors. It applies a holistic approach and incorporates a spectrum of strategies including abstinence. Ms. Ellis reviewed the cycle of harm reduction that includes Risk reduction, support, and wellness -> Education, safer use, safer sex, prevention of HIV/HCV/STIs -> Individual counseling, group support -> Advocacy, linkages, testing -> Outreach, SPPs, Prevention, supplies ->, etc. She stressed that Harm Reduction DOES NOT MEAN “anything goes”, does not enable drug use or high risk behaviors, does not condone, endorse, or encourage drug use or sex work, does not exclude or dismiss abstinence-based substance use treatment models as viable options. The Syringe Services Program (SSP) provides harm reduction that provides sterile needles, syringes, and other injection equipment, safe disposal containers, education about safer injection practices, HIV and HCV education and testing, overdose prevention education, overdose response training and distribution of Narcan kits, fentanyl testing strips, linkages to care and support, medical, mental health, social services, and substance use treatment. She reported that SSPs benefit the community in the following ways: increase the entry into Substance Use Disorder Treatment, reduce overdose deaths, reduce crime, saves money, reduces the spread of communicable disease, and reduces needle stick injuries. She went over the slides regarding Common Misconceptions as follows:

- Myth: SSPs encourage, enable and increase drug use.  
Fact: Scientific research has concluded that SSPs DO NOT increase drug use. In fact, many studies demonstrate that SSPs decrease drug use by connecting people to treatment. People who inject drugs that participate in SSPs are 5 times more likely to enter drug treatment than non-participants.
- Myth: SSPs increase crime.  
Fact: Crime actually decreases in SSP areas because participants are connected to services such as treatment, housing, food pantries and other social services.
- Myth: SSPs increase discarded syringes in the community.  
Fact: SSPs actually decrease the number of discarded syringes in public areas. In 2016 Baltimore City reported a 76% return rate of used syringes.
- Myth: SSOs are a waste of money.  
Fact: SSPs are cost effective. The cost of treating a person who has contracted HIV is roughly \$600,000. There are also significant savings due to reduced HCV transmission and early intervention in injection related infections. Research suggests that for every \$1 invested in SSPs, there is a public health savings of \$2.

- Myth: SSPs are not proven effective.  
Fact: SSPs are proven effective in reducing new HIV and viral Hepatitis infections by decreasing the sharing of syringes and other injection equipment.
- Myth: SSPs are not widely adopted.  
Fact: SSPs are a widely adopted intervention in America. According to the directory provided by the North American Syringe Exchange Network, 39 states, DC, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands all have programs. Syringe Exchanges have been adopted by states led by politicians of both major parties and have the support of numerous national medical and public health organizations.

More information is available at Facebook, [Frederick County Harm Reduction Services](#)

Commissioners discussed whether or not they would support a program here in Walkersville. Questions were discussed and most were in favor of the program that already is up and running in Frederick County.

### 3. INTRODUCTION OF TFC JEREMY WILLS

Burgess Weddle introduced TFC Jeremy Wills. TFC Wills came to the podium and discussed his prior experience prior to transferring to the resident trooper program. Commissioners bombarded him with questions regarding the police activity throughout the town and he answered general questions.

### 4. RIGHT TURN IN/OUT ON FOUNTAIN ROCK ROAD AND ROUTE 194

Ms. Hauver reported that we now have a signed contract with Lenhart Traffic Consulting for engineering and permitting options for converting the intersection of Fountain Rock Road and MD 194 to a right-in, right-out configuration.

### 5. ETHICS APPLICATIONS

Ms. Rollins reported that one application has been received for positions on the Board of Ethics. To date, Ms. Suzan Thompson has applied and more applications are needed before appointments will be made.

### 6. INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 2018-06 – ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT – TOWNHOUSE HEIGHT

Ms. Hauver reviewed the zoning text amendment submitted by the developer of the Longley Green subdivision. The proposed change to the Town Code would allow townhouses in the R-4 zoning district to be 45 feet high instead of 35 feet as currently permitted. The homes would still be limited to 3 stories. This will allow for higher than 8 foot ceilings and compensate for the way height is measured in our current ordinance, as it does not account for fill above the street grade on which the houses will be sited. The Planning Commission will work on this and hold a public hearing on June 26. The ordinance will then be before the Burgess & Commissioners at a public hearing July 11, 2018.

*Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman, to introduce Ordinance 2018-06, zoning text amendment to increase townhouse height allowance to 45 feet. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1, with Commissioner Donald Schildt in opposition.*

### 7. REQUEST FOR CHANGE ORDER APPROVAL PALL CORPORATION

Included in the commissioners' packets was a copy of a Request for Change Order Approval from Pall Corporation, providers of the water filters to be installed in the new water plant. Due to delays in approvals from MDE, Pall Corporation is claiming a delay in receiving notice to fabricate. They are asking for an escalation of 3% of the original \$963,576 price, since they were originally scheduled for October 2017. Commissioners declined to approve this change order and asked for staff to recheck the contract for the validity of this request.

## 8. TRASH COLLECTION BID OPENING

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, two bids were received for Town's trash collection contract. Two price options were given by each company as follows: Republic Services 1. \$258,958.68 a year with no price increase for renewal years, and 2. \$206,557.52 for 1<sup>st</sup> year of contract with yearly increases for renewals based on CPI-Water/Sewer/Trash (2%-3%). J and J Trash Services 1. \$187,067.60 keeping collection days on Wednesday with no price increases for renewal years, 2. \$126,139.60 changing collection days to Fridays with yearly price increases for renewal years – Price by year 6 = \$147,581.04.

After much discussion between the commissioners and promises made for improvement by our current provider, the commissioners voted to continue with Ecology Services @ \$90,089.40 plus tipping fees. They will reevaluate the service in January 2019 to see if commitment has been lived up to.

*Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman, to extend the Ecology Services contract for one year and to schedule a reevaluation of the service in January 2019. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.*

Citizen Mitchell Brannen, 56 Maple Avenue, interjected his complaint at this time, noting that his trash can is never replaced where it starts out. He recommended checking the contract for specifics on whether the trash receptacle should be replaced on the sidewalk or in the street, as we've had complaints on both.

## 9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND MAY 2018 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

*Commissioner Gary Baker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell Winch, to pay the attached bills and approve the May 2018 financial statements. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.*

## 10. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Donald Schildt reported that we need to move forward on the additional wall at Memorial Park. He has walked the area with Graham and Skidmore and Bob DePaola and there is a diagram for a structure that will hold 150 more bricks. The 21 bricks honoring the victims of the AGAR 23 plane crash will also be included on the structure.

Commissioner Donald Schildt reported that the WHS Unified Sports teams have captured 3 championships in the past year in bocce, tennis, and track. He would like to honor them with a plaque. Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis suggested a sign be added to the structure that displays the football championship signs. Commissioner Schildt expects to receive an email on the specifics of the teams in order to recognize their successes in July.

*Commissioner Donald Schildt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell Winch, to hold a closed meeting to discuss a personnel issue and terms of a contract issue. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.*

Commissioner Donald Schildt reported that he has approached the Parks Committee with a request to install a Foot Soccer course to cohabitate with the 9-hole golf course at Heritage Farm Park. He noted that WHS is on board with the concept, that Middletown and McDaniel College both have facilities, and that he wants to get it started and completed as soon as possible. Parks Committee member Mitchell Brannen is scheduled to scope out the course at McDaniel to see what is involved. Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman explained the process and timelines that will occur in order for this dream to be accomplished.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis noted that the Town is still in need of 2 alternates to the Board of Elections. 3 supervisors were appointed, but due to the extended hours added to the polls, alternates are needed to man the booths.

Commissioner Russell Winch asked for an update on the valve to be installed near Lonza on Devilbiss Bridge Road. Mr. DePaola reported that it was installed prior to the first storm drain past the houses on PA Ave/Devilbiss Bridge Road.

At this point in the meeting, Burgess Chad Weddle presented the certificate honoring Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman being inducted into Maryland Municipal League's Hall of Fame. Service of 20 years as a Town Commissioner won her this award.

#### 11. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Deb Convoy, 21 Main Street, expressed her concerns that chickens are allowed within the Town limits. She noted that there are 2 chicken coops with approximately 3-4 chickens each right along her property line. She noted that after a rain the smell is intolerable. Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman reminded Ms. Convoy that Walkersville is an agricultural community and people are allowed to have chickens. Staff will look into the Code Enforcement options for this issue and see if there are sections that need to be addressed.

Tom Gilbert, 56 Hampton Place, reported that the sidewalks around town are deteriorating, especially around 26 and 28 Pennsylvania Avenue. He noted that there is liability to the Town if these sidewalks are not repaired and if someone gets injured. He asked that commissioners discontinue bickering regarding whose responsibility it is to repair the sidewalks and he also wondered why there is no sidewalk in some areas of town, particularly on Maple Street, from the old pharmacy to Frederick Street. Staff will report the deteriorating sidewalk issue to Code Enforcement for citation if needed and check on a sidewalk ordinance.

Ken Kellar, of the Woodsboro Times, reported that Emmitsburg has an ordinance regarding chickens in town and includes how many are allowed, setbacks from the property lines, and licensing. He also questioned if there was a probation period for the trash contract issues. Mr. Kellar also reported that the speed signs newly installed in the school zone on Devilbiss Bridge Road are inconsistent in both directions. Staff will contact Frederick County for input on the signage on their section.

Burgess Weddle reviewed upcoming announcements and dates to remember:

- June 26 – Planning Meeting
- June 27 – Town Meeting
- July 4 – Independence Day – Office Closed
- July 11 – Town Meeting
- July 24 – Planning Commission
- August 1 – Parks Committee
- August 8 – Town Meeting
- August 13, 4:30 – Deadline to file Certificate of Candidacy
- August 22 – Town Meeting
- August 28 – Planning Commission
- September 10 – Town Election

Mr. David Ennis notified staff that a signage plan would be forthcoming from Frederick County regarding Devilbiss Bridge Road.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. Next meeting will be June 27<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Long Rollins  
Town Manager