

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
January 23, 2019

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, January 23, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Michael Bailey, Michael McNiesh, Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Tom Gilbert, and John Zimmerman, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Public Works Director Bob DePaola, Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins. Also in attendance was Code Enforcement Officer Donny Strawsburg, Cpl. Gary Conklin, TFC Jeremy Wills, Roger Wilson of Frederick County government, and 12 citizens.

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

1. MINUTES

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to approve the Town meeting minutes of January 9, 2019. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0-2, with Commissioners Tom Gilbert and Michael McNiesh abstaining.

2. POLICE STATES – CRIME MEETING

Cpl. Gary Conklin passed around the Town of Walkersville crime statistics for the past 3 years, noting the increases in patrol checks and traffic stops. He reported that there have been traffic control complaints at the new Rutters. Troopers are enforcing the no use of Sandstone Drive for trucks over a certain weight. He also reported that honking of horns is illegal, as well as utilizing the Rutters property to go to the traffic light rather than the stop sign on Sandstone Drive. He reported complaints against fast driving thru the Rutters lot. Last year he implemented a spreadsheet for patrol check requests and traffic complaints. He noted that troopers are willing to attend HOA and other group meetings, if invited. Commissioner McNiesh confirmed that the crime statistics are only applicable to within the Town of Walkersville town limits and not the surrounding area, which is served by the Frederick County Sheriff's office. Citizen Ron Layman asked if the watershed was included in the Resident Troopers' jurisdiction. The watershed is included in the Walkersville Resident Troopers work, with TFC Knowles working on it, in particular. The 911 dispatch has been notified that MD State Police, not Frederick County Deputies, will handle calls for the watershed property.

3. PERSONNEL MANUAL DISCUSSION – CDL DRUG/ALCOHOL TESTING

Discussion ensued on the possibility of amending the personnel manual to include drug/alcohol testing for all employees. Currently, CDL licensed drivers are required to be randomly tested through a consortium pool. Commissioners asked staff to find out if LGIT insurance rates would decrease if all employees were tested. They will determine if it would be cost effective to include everyone in the testing.

4. TRASH CONTRACT REEVALUATION

Discussion ensued regarding the service provided by our trash contractor, Ecology Services. Commissioner Zimmerman commented that there have been a few problems with the dumpster pick up at the fire company. The Town renewed the trash contract 6 months ago with the stipulation that service would be reevaluated in 6 months. It was noted that there seemed to be recurring problems every January with certain properties being picked up, resulting in residents needing to bring their trash to the Town Hall dumpster. An email from Ecology Services apologized for the inconvenience, gave a direct phone number for reporting problems, and promised to resolve them promptly. Burgess Weddle recommended keeping Ecology Services as the trash contractor, and there were no objections.

5. ROUTE 194 WIDENING DISCUSSION – RON BURNS

Mr. Ron Burns reported that the widening of Rt. 194 has moved to the State's 3rd Priority in road projects, and has the support of the Frederick County Executive. He noted that these projects can be in the planning stages for 40 years or so. This project has been around for 30 years. Route 194 records approximately 24,000 trips per day and the standard for expanding a road lies at 17,000-20,000 trips per

day. So it appears the widening project is long overdue. The State has planned the widening to Antietam Drive and discussion to implement the widening to Devilbiss Bridge Road occurred. The Burgess and Commissioners unanimously agreed and directed that the dualization should extend from Route 26 to Devilbiss Bridge Road.

6. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DECEMBER 2018 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael Bailey, to pay the attached bills and approve the December 2018 financial statements. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

7. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Tom Gilbert introduced Code Enforcement Officer Donny Strawsburg, who came to the podium and reported on his background and items he's been addressing since his start in late December.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis discussed the Welcome to Walkersville signs and noted she has a contact at State Highway. She asked if commissioners wanted her to pursue the process for permitting and location of the signs for the Town. They agreed to move forward on getting information for permitting the signs.

Commissioner Mike McNiesh asked if our franchise agreement with Comcast was exclusive and asked for a copy of the agreement in order to review it.

Commissioner McNiesh reported looking into speed cameras and determined that it was cost prohibitive for the Town. He reported that Frederick City pays a vendor \$30,000 per month for 6 speed cameras that are positioned throughout the city.

Commissioner McNiesh thanked the Code Enforcement Officer for work during the previous snow event and clarified that no one has been fined for not removing snow from their sidewalk, even though the claim was made on social media. He also recommended that in the future, no Town employees speak or have contact with minors, as that alleged claim was also reported.

Commissioner McNiesh asked for clarification on the Heritage Farm Park Building and having the Parks Committee develop rules for usage of the building. Commissioner Brodie-Ennis has suggested that other groups and organizations be allowed to reserve usage of the building rather than turning it over completely to the jurisdiction of GVAA. Parks will be asked again to develop the procedures for usage of the building.

Commissioner McNiesh would also like to discuss the repairs needed to the HFP barn as presented previously.

Commissioner Michael Bailey asked several questions on the presentation of the Water Fund financial statements. He thanked Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver for the handling of the Rock Creek School site planning at the recent Planning and Zoning meeting.

Commissioner Bailey asked what will be happening at the Manor House after the HFP Building is built. Commissioner Brodie-Ennis reported that the plan is to turn over the Manor House to the Boy Scouts for use for their Eagle Scout projects to renovate and rehabilitate the building. It will also eventually house some of the Boy Scout museum artifacts and items needing preservation.

Commissioner Bailey is still seeking vendors for the upcoming Farmers Market and asks that any interested providers of produce contact him directly.

Commissioner Bailey reported that he is reviewing the deleted Chapter 53, Economic Development Commission, of the Town Code. He will be drafting a new and improved chapter, addressing deficiencies in the previous committee, to create a new EDC.

Commissioner Bailey will be drafting a new ordinance to address the raising of chickens and keeping of bees within the Town limits.

Ms. Susan Hauver directed Commissioners to the Updates on Plans and Projects within the Town. Burgess Weddle reviewed them as follows:

- Walkersville Middle School lot consolidation plat: Middle School straddles two lots. Plat to consolidate approved by the PC 1/22/19, subject to conditions. Easements need to be accurately depicted. Need recorded agreement between Frederick County and FCPS for FCPS to access the middle school property through the old library lot (which could change ownership).
- Rock Creek School: Site plan went before PC 1/22/19. Voted to continue consideration. Noted concerns include flooding and stormwater management, traffic, screening, lighting, landscaping & specimen trees, bus parking, amount of parking provide for middle school, and open space on property.
- Dunkin Donuts/strip center: Site plan received. To be located on one of two commercial lots in front of Victoria Park (lot closest to Colony Village). PC agenda 2/27/19 (tentatively).
- Spring View Estates (Bell property): Phases 2 and 3 plat should be recorded 1/24/19. Still waiting for plat showing transfer of land to FCPS for soccer fields. Ryan Homes is the builder, might be applying for permits soon.
- Parkside: Waiting for utility poles to be moved by Verizon. Town still needs to acquire right-of-way from Guillen-Escobar to allow road widening along whole frontage of the development. Town Attorney Ian Bartman is working on it. Still need to finalize transfer of land to be added to Community Park (deed has been submitted).
- 7-11, Discovery Crossing: Hearing before Frederick County Planning Commission scheduled 2/13/19 (daytime). Watch on FCG TV.
- Biggs Ford Solar Center: Rezoning application recommended for denial by Frederick County Planning Commission. Hearing before Frederick County Council pending. FcPc also recommended that the standards set forth in the zoning code be re-evaluated/amended.
- Longley Green: Easements need to be finalized, then plat will be ready for Health Department signature, PC signature and recordation.
- Walkers Village Center lot subdivision: Plat approved to divide off the two story building near Glade Boulevard. Water easement document submitted.
- Fountain Rock Road/MD 194 intersection: Need help with bid documents (traffic engineer for project or Town engineer).
- Walkers Village sign: Possible zoning text amendment. No update.
- Mehring Ag preservation application: Working through Frederick County approval process. No update.
- Draft floodplain maps: Public information meeting pending. Need to notify affected property owners first.
- Century Center cricket facility: No update.
- Staley farm development proposal from Tom Poss: No update.
- Water Connection to Fountain Rock Park: Need an agreement document with Frederick County with terms. Tap fee?
- Water Capacity Management Plan: Drafted to satisfy Health Dept request (received by HD without comments). Staff concern about water usage that is unaccounted for. Wait to see what happens with new plant?
- Design Manual update: Town engineer working on streets and roads section.
- Board of Appeals: no pending cases. Need to schedule organizational meeting to orient newest board member.
- Comprehensive Plan update: Due in 2021; Dick Brady would like to start soon.
- Livable Frederick: Informational meetings on second draft to be held around the County in February, hearing March 6.

- Flooding on Pennsylvania Drive: No update from Ausherman/Fox & Associates (Mill Run developer).

Mr. Bob DePaola reported on the water line replacement in Glade Village. Comments were received from Frederick County that the water line is being placed too close to their sewer line, even though we are replacing the line in the exact location that it is now. Our engineers from Fox & Associates will relocate the lines using some 45° angles.

Burgess Weddle thanked the Town's Public Works for their work during the recent snow event and expressed gratitude that we have not received 36" of snow as in a previous year. Burgess Weddle reviewed the announcements for upcoming meetings and events:

- Tues., Feb. 5, 7:30 – Board of Appeals (if needed)
- Weds., Feb. 6, 7:30 – Parks Meeting
- Tues., Feb. 12, 7:30 – Planning Workshop
- Weds., Feb. 13, 7:30 – Town Meeting
- Tues., Feb. 26, 7:30 – Planning Meeting
- Weds., Feb. 27, 7:30 – Town Meeting

8. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

No citizens came forward.

The next meeting is Wednesday, February 13th, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Long Rollins
Town Manager