

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
March 27, 2019

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, March 27, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Michael Bailey, Michael McNiesh (late), Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Tom Gilbert, and John Zimmerman, Public Works Director Bob DePaola, Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins. Also in attendance were 20 citizens.

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 John Zimmerman, to approve the Town meeting minutes of March 13, 2019. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0, as Commissioner McNiesh had not yet arrived.

2. PROCLAMATION 2019-04 – CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH (APRIL)

Burgess Chad Weddle read Proclamation 2019-04 proclaiming April 2019 as the Month of the Young Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month. Ms. Kristin Dunn, Forensic Interviewer, with the Child Advocacy Center came forward and introduced “Heiress”, a facility dog. She noted that the Child Advocacy Center served 237 families in 2018, 15 of them from Walkersville. She explained the blue pinwheels as a symbol of Child Abuse Prevention and reviewed dates and locations for activities acknowledging Child Abuse Prevention in April, particularly April 5 “Wear Blue Friday”, where everyone is encouraged to wear blue in support of Child Abuse Prevention.

3. REQUEST FOR TOWN'S PARTICIPATION WITH ANNUAL CHRISTKINDLMARKET – BONNIE LEINS

Ms. Bonnie Leins presented the history of the Christkindlmarket event that has been planned for the past 2 years by a committee of 4 people. The committee is requesting that the Town government consider making the Christkindlmarket an annual event that is sponsored by the Town of Walkersville. As a town event she requests that:

- The Town obtains an event liability policy
- The Town advertises the event in Town publications
- The Town receives vendor applications
- The Town purchases two road banners
- The Town hangs the road banners and removes and stores the road banners after the event.
- The Town financially supports the advertisement of the event
- The Town identifies one person as a liaison to the Christkindlmarket committee

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to make the Christkindlmarket a Town sanctioned event with \$600 allocated in the budget, to be scheduled on the first Saturday of December, and to appoint a liaison between the Town and the committee. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

4. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND FEBRUARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael Bailey, to approve the February 2019 financial statements and to pay the attached bills. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0-1, with Commissioner Michael McNiesh arriving and abstaining from the vote.

5. AWARD BID FOR WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT IN GLADE VILLAGE

Commissioner Tom Gilbert noted that the amount budgeted for the water line replacement was \$543,152. Commissioner Michael McNiesh asked if we had ever worked with any of the other contractors other than the low bidder. Mr. DePaola reported that we had.

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael McNiesh, to award the bid for Glade Village water line replacement to the low bidder JHG Contractors in the amount of \$838,716.40 per staff recommendation. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

6. EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 2019-01 – TO AMEND THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET TO LOAN MONEY FROM RESERVES TO WATER FUND TO PAY SEWER CAPACITY FEE FOR NEW WATER PLANT

Commissioners Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis and Michael Bailey thanked Commissioner Tom Gilbert for his work on the ordinance. Burgess Weddle explained that the passage of the emergency ordinance would make it effective tonight.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to adopt Emergency Ordinance 2019-01 to loan funds from the General Fund reserves to the Water Fund to pay Frederick County the additional sewer capacity fee required for building permits for the new water plant construction. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

7. PROMISSORY NOTE – WF TO GF FOR SEWER CAPACITY FEE

Commissioner Tom Gilbert passed out his overview of the terms of the promissory note with the General Fund loaning funds from its reserves to the Water Fund. Principal payments are deferred for the first year, with interest only payments due in 2 payments 6 months apart. The remainder of the loan will be amortized over 30 years, for a total of 31 years for the note life. The interest rate will be adjusted every year on the anniversary date of the note, March 27th, with the rate being that of the MLGIP rate on the last day of February, adjusted upwards to the next ¼%. The final payment will be due March 28, 2050.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael McNiesh, to approve the promissory note pending the wording matches the above terms as presented by Commissioner Gilbert. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

8. ORDINANCE 2019-02 – TO AMEND THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET

Budget amendments to the General Fund included the loan of \$1,900,000 to the Water Fund and an allocation to the Walkersville Branch of the Frederick County Public Library of \$2,500 for food for the summer lunch program.

Commissioner Michael McNiesh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael Bailey, to adopt the General Fund budget as amended. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

9. COMMISSIONER CONCERNS

Commissioner Michael Bailey thanked all those who came out to the maple syrup making event, noting about 70 people showed up over the two weekend dates. He also he brought samples for everyone to try. He would like to see the activity budgeted to celebrate the Spring Equinox, and not to compete with the Cunningham Falls event.

Commissioner Michael McNiesh reported that Mr. DeLaurence of SHA has been receptive to moving the signs from Sandstone Drive to Rt. 194, notifying trucks not to turn on Sandstone Drive. He plans to meet with Mr. DeLaurence to discuss hanging “No Trucks on Sandstone Drive” sign onto Rt. 194.

Commissioner McNiesh has contacted WHS and BHS regarding student work study candidates being available to produce podcasts, and live streaming to youTube of the town meetings.

Commissioner McNiesh noted that there is a bunch of tires piled up at the football field in Heritage Farm Park and asked could they be cleaned up or stored if they have a use for GVAA football. He also noted that the Manor House has at least 12 cardboard boxes decorating the side porch and would like them removed if they are trash. Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis reported that she would bring this up at the Parks Committee meeting next Wednesday with GVAA representatives.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis asked that the Town submit an official comment regarding the Comprehensive Plan and Livable Frederick per an email from Mr. Crum. She would like it to be noted that the Monocacy River is the natural boundary between Frederick and Walkersville. Burgess Weddle will draft a letter notifying the Town of Walkersville's intention in the long term to stay on our side of the Monocacy River and our anticipation that Frederick City will stay on the other side and not annex into the city across the river.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis asked the status of a new hire for administrative work. Ms. Hauver and Ms. Rollins are working on the job description.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis reported on her meeting with Commissioner Gilbert and State Highway Administration regarding the location and design of a "Welcome to Walkersville" sign. She will contact Shannon Baum for the design and cost and hopes it will be a simple design on the Town seal.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis reiterated the concern of the Gladetowne HOA regarding street lights on Glade Blvd. She asked that the Town recheck if the lighting is town responsibility and if the trees could be trimmed or another street light added.

Commissioner Michael Bailey noted his review of the GVAA agreement and the inclusion of a Town liaison with GVAA. We need to assign someone to attend their meetings and add this item to a future agenda.

Commissioner John Zimmerman reported that the 800# listed on the Talk of the Town is not a correct phone number for contacting the fire company for catering events and reservations. He provided the correct number to be incorporated into the newsletter.

Commissioner Zimmerman reported that the hole by Parkside on Biggs Ford Road is getting deeper and deeper. Mr. DePaola responded that Mr. Tom Poss has been notified and plans to get the repair done.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert asked for clarification regarding pod casts and live streaming. Commissioner McNiesh explained that a pod cast is a pre-recorded downloaded recording of our meeting that people can access anytime after it is posted. A live stream is in real time, being present off site.

Commissioner Gilbert asked all commissioners to poll their communities to see if people continue to want delivery of the free newspapers that are thrown in the yards, streets, and sidewalks. He would like to notify the carriers to not litter up the town. There was some question about the legality of the request.

Commissioner Gilbert asked if there was a group email way to notify residents of changes to an agenda, particularly in reference to the cancellation of the Rock Creek School plan being deleted from the Planning Commission agenda recently.

Commissioner Gilbert asked the status of the right turn in/right turn out implementation at Fountainrock Road and Sheetz. We will ask Ms. Hauver for a report when she gets back.

Mr. DePaola reported that the boring under the railroad tracks has been completed for the new water plant connection.

Mr. DePaola reported that the Discovery water tower has been drained in anticipation of the power washing and painting scheduled for next week.

Mr. DePaola reported that the paving is complete in Spring View Estates and that houses will be under construction in the near future.

Burgess Weddle reviewed the announcements:

- Tues., April 2, 7:30 – Board of Appeals (if needed)
- Weds., April 3, 7:30 – Parks Meeting
- Tues., April 9, 7:30 – Planning Workshop
- Weds., April 10, 7:30 – Town Meeting
- Fri., April 19 – Good Friday – OFFICE CLOSED
- Tues., April 23, 7:30 – Planning Meeting

- Weds., April 24, 7:30 – Town Meeting

Coming Soon: Sat., May 18 – Walkersville Day

10. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Susan Rice, 96 Sherwood Drive, noted that she appreciates the time and service of the commissioners and wants a discussion on public safety in Walkersville. She reported that our website includes the photos of 2 troopers who are no longer here and that we have 5 resident troopers. She feels they are road troopers, and not trained to be resident troopers. They're not familiar with what they should be doing. Ms. Rice reported that the Sheriff's Department deputies have Walkersville as area 3 and that our troopers don't know how to run a call. She would like to see a comparison of hours worked, hours on leave, hours in court and see what we are paying for. She feels they are not quick, timely, or satisfactory. They need to be community friendly, to step up and give us more service. She will be meeting with Sgt. Dale Smith and Cpl. Gary Conklin in the future to express these concerns.

Burgess Weddle notified Ms. Rice of previous meetings and hearings where the citizenry came out in force in favor of continuing to contract with the State Police resident trooper program. Comparisons were done to show the costs of employing resident Deputy Sheriffs or Maryland State Police resident troopers and the required increase in the tax rate to maintain them. Again, the citizens overwhelmingly wanted the troopers. He reported that in recent meetings with Sheriff Chuck Jenkins, Sheriff Jenkins is trying to meet the mandate of placing an officer in every school in the county and would therefore be unable to staff the Town program for 2-5 years.

Commissioner John Zimmerman reported that he has called upon the troopers 10 times and their response time was within one minute.

Commissioner Michael Bailey thanked Ms. Rice for expressing her concerns and noted that public safety is very important to the commissioners. He noted that we'll review the visibility of the troopers and check on the education and training they receive. He reported that their desire is to serve the community.

Commissioner Michael McNiesh thanked Ms. Rice for her concerns and reported that he has reviewed our budget and the budgets for various towns throughout the county. He noted that the county cannot accommodate our need and that comparing the costs that others pay to have their own department proves that we are getting a good value for the amount that we pay. He reported that the resident troopers have been very responsive in his experience and he believes we have good coverage.

Commissioner Michael McNiesh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tom Gilbert, to hold a closed legal meeting to discuss the acquisition of property. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 10th, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Long Rollins
Town Manager