

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
April 10, 2019

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Michael Bailey, Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Tom Gilbert, Michael McNiesh, and John Zimmerman, Public Works Director Bob DePaola, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins, MD State Police Resident Troopers Cpl. Gary Conklin, TFC Michael Meyers, TFC David Miller, Ken Kellar of the Walkersville/Woodsboro Times, and 5 citizens.

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

1. MINUTES

Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner John Zimmerman, to approve the Town meeting minutes of March 27, 2019. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Burgess Weddle gave a summary of the closed legal meeting on March 27, 2019 noting that the meeting was closed to discuss the acquisition of real property. In attendance was the Burgess and Commissioners and Ms. Rollins. No motions or decisions were made.

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to approve the closed legal minutes of March 27, 2019. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

2. UPDATE ON RIGHT TURN IN/RIGHT TURN OUT AT FOUNTAIN ROCK ROAD

Ms. Hauver reported that she is working with the engineer and staff accountant Ms. Morales-Matias to prepare the bid documents needed to proceed with the construction of the project.

3. SHA SIGN FOR TRUCKS ON SANDSTONE DRIVE

Commissioner Michael McNiesh reported on his meeting with Mr. Sam Delaurence of State Highway Administration. He noted that SHA is willing to place 2 signs, with 2 lines of text on each, regarding the prohibition of 5T trucks on Sandstone Drive. If approved by the Burgess and Commissioners there will be one sign northbound after the Sandstone Drive street sign. There will be one sign southbound in the vacant field prior to the traffic light at Rutters. If approved, it will take 6-8 weeks to get the signs placed.

4. COSTS FOR ONE OR TWO ADDITIONAL TROOPERS

Commissioner Michael McNiesh led the discussion noting he is attempting to get 24/7 police coverage for the Town. He stated that after consulting with Cpl. Conklin, the Corporal will contact the appropriate people to determine how much more coverage an additional trooper or two would contribute. Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis commented that she appreciates Commissioner McNiesh's due diligence on researching the costs for more troopers, but doesn't think we need additional coverage. Commissioner John Zimmerman affirmed that the Town already has 24 hour coverage as provided by the MD State Police barrack and the Frederick County Sheriff's Department when resident troopers are not on duty. Commissioner McNiesh disagreed with Commissioner Zimmerman's definition of 24/7 coverage and noted his appreciation of their difference of opinion.

5. MARYLAND STATE POLICE RESIDENT TROOPER REPORT – CPL. GARY CONKLIN

Cpl. Gary Conklin presented a Walkersville Resident Trooper report in response to a list of complaints presented at the last town meeting. He reported the following:

- The website is being updated with photos of the current 5 resident troopers
- If a trooper is on extended leave beyond 2 weeks, the position is filled by another trooper, per the contract between the Town and the MD State Police.
- There is also overtime available within the contract to cover open shifts.

- Complaint of slow response time on a 7-year old call for service could not be addressed, but average response times are far shorter due to the close proximity of calls.
- Fraud prevention for senior citizens presentation occurred in 2018.
- Community policing addressed:
 - o Annual National Night Out first Tuesday of August, includes working with the fire and rescue companies, photo ops, drug dog demonstrations, face painting, ice cream truck, hot dogs and drinks.
 - o 4 of the 5 resident troopers are bike patrol certified, approachable and visible in the community.
 - o Meeting with all business owners last year and creation of an emergency contact list for after hours contact needs. All troopers were assigned an area and involved in the face to face contact with business owners while creating the list.
 - o Attend Thursday bingo nights when on duty, if not involved in other calls.
 - o Events attended include annual Veterans Day Memorial, Christmas tree lighting in December, Santa Parade, 4th of July parade, Homecoming parade, Walkersville United Methodist church preschool event, library grand opening, United Methodist church Fall festival, Hometown Heroes event at the library
- Complaint that troopers are young, baby troopers:
 - o Average age of troopers is 31, youngest is 25.
 - o Average time on the job 6 years, least time is 4 years.
 - o All troopers have at least 2 years of full service experience.
 - o 3 troopers have prior or current military service.
 - o 1 trooper is a prior Mt. Airy resident trooper.
 - o 1 trooper is a Tier 1 member of the mobile field force.
 - o 2 troopers are on the path to becoming full time criminal investigators.
 - o 1 trooper is a prior Army Intelligence Analyst.
- Troopers training – full service vs. highway troopers
 - o MD State Police operates the most difficult and in-depth live-in academy in the state
 - o Handling the same types of calls on a daily basis as any other agency in the county.
 - o All resident troopers have full service experience, at least 2 years
 - o 384 hours of training over the past year between the 5 resident troopers, in addition to mandatory 2-day in-service. This includes trainings in auto theft, interview and interrogation, patrol rifle school, single officer response to active threat, auto theft task force, human trafficking, RAPID pawn records search, Operation Pipeline, MS13 gang, detecting fraudulent documents, traffic incident management, fraud investigations, bike patrol course, leadership development institute, foundations of leadership, bulletproof mind, NARCO terrorism, detecting misleading behavior, PDU leadership class, School Shield, and child safety seat recertification.
 - o Resolution of problem house, documentation, obtained charges for disorderly house, and reduced calls to the location.
- Traffic stops justifications:
 - o Helps locate and arrest criminals
 - o Enforcement of traffic laws promotes safety
 - o Visible deterrent, red and blue flashing lights

Commissioners were appreciative of the information and the clarification of the misinformation received at the last town meeting.

6. TREE TRIMMING AT HFP

Burgess Weddle reported 3 ash trees infected with ash borer need to be removed at HFP and are above the size able to be handled by town staff. Estimate to remove is \$11,000 and \$600 for a hackberry tree that also needs to be removed.

Commissioner Michael McNiesh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael Bailey, to spend \$11,600 to remove the ash trees and the hackberry tree. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

(It was learned subsequently that it is approximately 50 infected ash trees in 2 sections that need to be removed at a cost of \$11,000).

7. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND FEBRUARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tom Gilbert, to pay the attached bills. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

8. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Michael McNiesh reported that he has been in touch with the STEM teacher at WHS regarding students creating podcasts and video streaming of the town meetings. He noted there are several interested students and he will continue the dialogue with the teacher.

Commissioner McNiesh noted that he does not appreciate attacks on his integrity or having his motives questioned as reported in the Woodsboro Walkersville Times. He reported that Mr. Ken Kellar apologized for this portrayal and offered him a rebuttal in the next issue.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert would like the Town to put something on the town website encouraging volunteerism, especially volunteers needed at the fire and rescue companies.

Commissioner Gilbert expressed concern about a downed tree on Fulton Avenue behind the old hardware store. Ms. Hauver reported that our code enforcement officer has been working with CTC, the owner of the property, and the tree is already in the process of being removed.

Commissioner Gilbert reported that former commissioner Donald Schildt asked him to remind citizens of the ability to still purchase bricks to be installed at Memorial Park, with the name of a veteran inscribed.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis reported that she is humbled and grateful for all the prayers showered on their family during the birth and surgeries of her new grandson. She thanks everyone and reports that he is doing great!!

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis noted that she attended last night's Planning Commission meeting, the workshop with FCPS Rock Creek School. She expressed her concerns to members of the BOE and reports that Brad Young and Joy Schaefer will be attending the next Planning Commission meeting.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis thanked the maintenance department for trimming the trees and restoring the light on Glade Blvd.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis reported that the Community Park sign is looking sad and will need to be replaced. After the design of the Welcome to Walkersville sign, the park sign will be ordered and in conformance with the new sign.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis thanked GVAA for the removal of the cardboard boxes littering the Manor House porch and Commissioner Michael McNiesh confirmed that the tires had also been removed satisfactorily.

Commissioner Michael Bailey reported that he attended the Planning Commission workshop regarding Rock Creek School and also contacted the Board of Education in hopes that some of their members, particularly Lois Jarman, will attend the next meeting.

Commissioner Bailey reported that he has been in contact with Rutters requesting that fuel deliveries use the traffic light entrance rather than the Sandstone Drive entrance to their site. He reported that this request was based on citizens' complaints and reiterated that this is only a request; that legally the

deliveries can be made via Sandstone Drive. He reported that the executives of Rutters were very agreeable and even confirmed that they would notify all deliveries, not just fuel, to utilize the Rt. 194 light. He noted that Rutters works hard to be a good neighbor and thanked them again for their generosity in donating to local organizations.

Commissioner Bailey asked that the Town share the fire/rescue company requests for volunteer membership be shared on the Town's Facebook page.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis noted that there are 2 openings on the Parks Committee and applicants will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 18, 2019. She also requested that the new appointees be town residents, even though the Town Code does not specify that they must be. Commissioner Michael Bailey plans to draft legislation to insure that all committees and commissions within the Code be aligned in requiring appointees to be Town residents. This includes Parks Committee, Planning Commission, Board of Appeals, and Ethics Commission.

Burgess Weddle reviewed the announcements:

- Fri., April 19 – Good Friday – OFFICE CLOSED
- Tues., April 23, 7:30 – Planning Meeting
- Weds., April 24, 7:30 – Town Meeting
- Weds., May 1, 7:30 – Parks Committee
- Tues., May 7, 7:30 – Board of Appeals (if needed)
- Weds., May 8, 7:30 – Town Meeting
- Tues., May 14, 7:30 – Planning Workshop
- Sat., May 18 – Walkersville Day
- Weds., May 22, 7:30 – Town Meeting
- Mon., May 27 – Memorial Day Observed – OFFICE CLOSED
- Tues., May 28, 7:30 – Planning Commission
- Sat., June 8 – Bulk trash pickup for Town of Walkersville (in town) residents
 - Shred Day behind Town Hall 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon
 - Clean up Day 9-12
 - Drug Take Back Day at the Fire Hall 9-12

9. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Ron Layman, 24 W. Frederick St., reported to Mr. DePaola that he has a Scout, working toward his Eagle Scout award, interested in helping to install the stickers on the Town's drainage system. These are notifications that runoff hurts the Chesapeake Bay and is part of the Town's MS4 community outreach.

Mr. Layman reported that over 250 Scouts utilized the Town's watershed the past weekend. He also stated there are activities scheduled for this coming weekend and invited elected officials to come and take a four-wheeler tour of the property, noting the new fire road and that a forester is working to develop a tree cutting plan for the site. Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis asked for clarification on the requirements of forming a girls' unit within Scouting BSA.

Ms. Rollins reminded Commissioners that the budget preview will be on the April 24th meeting agenda.

Mr. DePaola reported that the Glade Village water line project has been started. He also reported that the first foundation in Spring View Estates is underway and will probably be the model home. He reported that the Discovery water tank has been cleaned and painted by our contractor, Utility Services.

Burgess Weddle reviewed the current pricing on the 125th Anniversary (2017) merchandise as follows: HP prints by Barry Richardson, down to \$50, Throws \$50, Golf shirts \$20, T-shirts \$17, Ornaments \$20, and Coasters \$15. He plans to set up at table on Walkersville Day and sell the items at reduced pricing to try to clear out some of the Town's stored inventory.

Burgess Weddle handed out Resolution 99-8, adopted December 8, 1999 and consisting of Rules of Procedure for the conduct of public meetings of the Burgess and Commissioners of Walkersville. He and the commissioners will work on updating the procedures and adopt a new resolution to modernize the Charter with current rules of procedure.

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 24th, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Long Rollins
Town Manager