

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
May 22, 2019

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, May 22, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Michael Bailey, Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Tom Gilbert, Michael McNiesh (8:00 p.m.), and John Zimmerman, Public Works Director Bob DePaola, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins, Cpl. Gary Conklin, TFC Jeremy Wills, Ken Kellar of Woodsboro/Walkersville Times (7:38 p.m.), and 10 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 Tom Gilbert, to approve the Town meeting minutes of May 8, 2019. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

2. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Burgess Weddle changed the order of the agenda to hear citizen concerns first and await the arrival of Commissioner Michael McNiesh, so that he could participate in the budget discussions and adoption.

Charles Engle, 25 Fulton Avenue, asked why the dirty needle exchange, a function of government, had been pushed off on Glade United Church of Christ. He noted that police need to be present to monitor the activity and it should not be held in a residential neighborhood, i.e. Fulton Avenue. Burgess Weddle explained that a presentation by the Frederick County Health Department on exchange of used heroin needles had been presented but a location had not been offered at the Town Hall in Walkersville. Apparently the project had been offered a location at the church.

Bonnie Liens, 15 Fulton Avenue, and Dale Clabaugh, 8713 Antietam Drive, thanked the Town for support for the Run for the Books 5K sponsored on the Sunday after Walkersville Day. The run was a fundraiser for the Walkersville library. They especially thanked the maintenance department for opening the park early, opening, cleaning, and stocking the bathrooms, and being extremely efficient. FOWL plans to hold the event annually. FOWL = Friends of the Walkersville Library. They reported they ended up in the black and thanked the Town profusely for its support. Chad encouraged them to let us know what could be done to make things better.

Ken Kellar arrived at 7:38 p.m.

3. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis reported that she had participated in the Run for the Books and it was very well organized. She encouraged the Town to pay the \$500 Steeplechasers fee in the future.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis reported that the next Parks Committee meeting will be held June 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Community Park on Kenneth Drive.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert asked for an update on the status of Rock Creek School. He also asked that a Proclamation be done to congratulate the Walkersville Academic Team, who won the Baltimore region competition and placed 2nd in the county competition. Congratulations were also offered to the Unified Boys Track team that placed 2nd in the Maryland State meet.

Ms. Hauver reported that the Planning Commission will be meeting next Tuesday, May 28th, to review the revised Rock Creek School plans that were just received. She also noted the strip mall that includes Dunkin' Donuts is also on the Planning Commission agenda.

Mr. DePaola reported that the Georgetown Road portion of the Glade Village water line project has been completed and the house connections are in process. He also reported that the Water Treatment Plant block walls are in the process of going up.

4. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND APRIL 2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael Bailey, to approve the April 2019 financial statements and pay the attached bills. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

5. DESIGNATE OPEN MEETINGS ALTERNATE

Commissioners were notified that the Maryland Attorney General has an open meetings training requirement for public bodies. It also requires a list of designees to be submitted to the Open Meetings Compliance Board. Commissioners will review the training link, recommended for all to take, and an additional designee will be appointed at the next town meeting, June 12, 2019.

6. PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT TAX RATE

There were no public comments on the current tax rate of .16 per \$100 of assessed real property value. The Town has advertised a possible increase in the tax rate, up to .21. Commissioners agreed to move on to the public hearing on the budget.

7. WATERSHED SMOKE CONCERN

Burgess Weddle read the email concern of Tara Ryan regarding smoke generated by the Boy Scout campfires at the Walkersville watershed. Burgess Weddle will contact Mr. Ron Layman regarding what can be done about it.

8. PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 2019-03 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

Mitchell Brannen, 56 Maple Avenue, commended the Burgess and Commissioners on a fantastic job, and suggested consideration be given to increasing Commissioners salaries in the budget from \$18,000 to \$26,000 or from \$3,600 to \$5,200 per commissioner. He noted the amounts of hours spent by the commissioners doing their duties.

Burgess Weddle read the emailed comments of Ann Moldenhauer to be included in the public hearing record summarized as follows: 1) All requests for grants for philanthropic purposes should be required to be made in writing, 2) No money should be allocated for clothing for office staff, 3) Maintenance staff should be identified by a town identification badge, 4) the Town should pursue an additional resident trooper, 5) the notion that "it's always been done this way" should not apply to the business of running a town.

9. PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 2019-04 WATER FUND BUDGET

There were no comments on the Water Fund budget. Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis expressed her appreciation of the work of staff and the commissioners and the communication and compromises that have been reached. Commissioner Michael Bailey questioned the balancing of the Water Fund budget using reserves from the Water Fund savings and asked if passing the budget as is prohibits raising water rates or accepting another loan from the General Fund.

Commissioner Michael McNiesh arrived at 8:00 p.m.

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to adopt Ordinance 2019-04 Water Fund budget as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

10. ORDINANCE 2019-03 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Discussion ensued on the topic of clothing for office staff.

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tom Gilbert, to add \$125 per year per office staff for the purchase of logoed clothing purchased in bulk. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1, with Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis in opposition.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael McNiesh, to add \$500 to Community Donations for the Run for the Books hiring of Frederick Steeplechasers for their management of the race, and reduce Available for Capital Projects to balance the budget. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tom Gilbert, to adopt Ordinance 2019-03 General Fund budget, with the tax rate of .16 per \$100 of assessed real property value, as amended above. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

11. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Burgess Chad Weddle noted that he is happy to work with all the new commissioners and that their residences are located outside of old town, i.e. Glade Village, Auburn Farms, Deerfield, Gladetowne, and Fountain Rock. He encouraged them to embrace their learning curve and looks forward to utilizing the 8.5 million in reserves for the good of the community.

Commissioner Michael Bailey reported a pothole in front of 216 Cobble Way and asked what it would take to get ID badges for the maintenance staff. Mr. DePaola will have the pothole repaired and reported that the staff has badges and business cards.

Commissioner Michael McNiesh received a letter from Ms. Andrianni that he will forward to staff to address concerns.

Commissioner McNiesh asked if the town could move to a 3-month water billing intervals vs. the current 6-month billing. He noted that water leaks could be detected sooner. Staff will investigate and report the process to move to a 3-month billing.

Commissioner McNiesh reminded everyone that Memorial Day is for those who lost their lives serving our country and that it is inappropriate to thank a live veteran for their service on Memorial Day. Veterans' Day in November is for them.

Burgess Weddle announced that all 125th Anniversary merchandise is now on sale for ½ price. Also, a set of Walkersville coasters is included free with each purchase. He also noted there are books available entitled "A Tale of Two Cities" for sale at Town Hall.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis thanked staff Kelly Woods for mowing her neighbor's overgrown yard. She also requested that the yellow lines on Chaledon Drive not be repainted. If they are repainted, she wants all Walkersville streets to have yellow lines. A citizen in the audience interjected that when trucks are parked on both sides of the street, you must drive down the center of the yellow line. He also claimed the width of the streets is the problem.

Commissioner McNiesh asked the resident troopers present if the yellow lines were effective traffic controls. Cpl. Conklin responded that the street is definitely more narrow and there is little speeding.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Burgess Weddle reviewed the announcements:

- Mon., May 27 – Memorial Day Observed – OFFICE CLOSED
- Tues., May 28, 7:30 – Planning Commission
- Tues., June 4, 7:30 – Board of Appeals (if needed)
- Weds., June 5, 7:00 – Parks Meeting at Community Park
- 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 – Volunteers picking up litter, 9-12

- Drug Take Back Day at the Fire Hall 9-12
- Tues., June 11, 7:30 – Planning Workshop
- Weds., June 12, 7:30 – Town Meeting
- Tues., June 25, 7:30 – Planning Meeting
- Weds., June 26, 7:30 – Town Meeting
- Thurs., July 4 – Independence Day – OFFICE CLOSED

Commissioner Michael Bailey reviewed the request for funds for the girls' relay team that made it to Nationals.(2019 New Balance Outdoor National Championships) hosted by the National Scholastic Athletics Foundation. Consensus of the commissioners was to not donate to this cause.

13. CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Gundars Osvalds, 108 Challedon Drive, passed out his sign survey of properties in Walkersville. Burgess Weddle asked that this be placed on the meeting agenda for June 12.

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to hold a closed legal meeting to discuss property acquisition and a legal issue. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1, with Commissioner Michael McNiesh in opposition.

The next meeting is Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Long Rollins
Town Manager