

Town Commissioners Meeting
July 23, 2019 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by President Lou Wood at 6:00 PM. In attendance were Patricia Clements, Jeff Fields, Karl Fockler, Joe Letts, and Lou Wood. Also in attendance was Wib Pumpaly, Town Administrator.

President Wood introduced the first guest of the evening Cecil County Executive, Alan McCarthy. Dr. McCarthy was in attendance to update the citizens on happenings in the county and to listen to citizen comment and questions.

Gary Bott, representing the Charlestown Fire Company asked how the enterprise zone effects the funding for fire companies? Dr. McCarthy explained how the tax rates works with an 80% abatement for the first number of years with a declining abatement in subsequent years. Mr. Al Wein also explained specifically how the Wildcat project in Port Deposit work is structured in regards to taxing. Mr. Bott explained that with the increase in calls and the lower tax income it creates a hardship. Last year they ran 69 calls to Amazon and got reimbursed for 6 of the calls. This last June they ran 19 calls to Amazon alone. Dr. McCarthy stated that he will look into this to see why the reimbursement is not forthcoming. His understanding is that the employees are to receive health insurance which would pay for the runs. Mr. Bott stated that it seems to be that many of the employees are not covered by insurance. Charlestown Crossing is also increasing stress on our services. Dr. McCarthy stated that this seems to be a county wide problem of not being reimbursed for services. He asked for suggestions and he will take them into consideration and try to help bring about a solution. Commissioner Fields asked if Amazon could be asked for a donation as they are using up a large part of the resources.

Commissioner Fockler asked about the area of Holloway Beach which to his understanding is widely on septic systems with private wells. Would the county be willing to have conversations with the Town if the town would annex these areas to supply public water and sewer? Dr. McCarthy said the simple answer is yes. The county had previously asked about the supplying of sewer to the area. He does not think that digging up and supplying sewer without also supplying water and leaving contaminated wells is not a cost-effective solution. He welcomes further discussion on this matter.

Rosalyn Bott said that the annexation of Holloway Beach has been brought up many times. Could the county do the infrastructure improvements and then turn it over to the town? Dr. McCarthy stated that the residents only need to come forward and tell him what they want and he will start a discussion. Commissioner Fockler stated that a conversation with the residents would need to be a place to start. Mr. Jack Kronner asked when the issue becomes a health issue and needs to be addressed. Dr. McCarthy stated that the issue is funding at this point. He has identified these areas as priorities. Mr. Speakman stated that this area is in the critical area and impacts the bay more than inland areas. Can we go to the state for funding?

Mr. Ken Confalone asked about the area of the Beachcomber and if the county could look into the issue of its decline. Dr. McCarthy will pass this to the appropriate department for investigation.

Mr. Speakman asked about storm runoff from Red Rum Run after storms. It seems to leave a stain the color from sediment ponds from the quarries. He wonders if something could be done to get the quarries to do some abatement of the runoff. Dr. McCarthy stated that they would contact York Building to see if something can be done.

Commissioner Fockler stated that our main businesses are all marinas. What is the status of dredging of the river? Dredging would certainly help the businesses. The last time the North East River was dredged was in 2000. Dr. McCarthy stated that for the past couple of years we have been asking the Army Corps of Engineers to put the North East River on the schedule. The county purchased a dredge spoils site about twenty years ago. Letters to Senator Cardin and Van Hollen and Rep. Harris in support of dredging would be helpful. Commissioner Fockler stated that this is a county wide issue. Dr. McCarthy stated that the Conowingo Dam also contributes to much of the runoff in the county. Every major storm brings silt and debris to our shores. Commissioner Wood stated that this issue is critical for us as our Fire Boat sits in mud at low tide.

Commissioner Wood asked if the municipalities could “borrow” equipment if available from the county. Dr. McCarthy stated that he is willing to “share” any resources with municipalities that include such things as equipment, HR, Insurance, and IT. He did state that the county would have priority on equipment usage however.

Dr. McCarthy thanked the audience for their questions and comments and stated that this was the largest crowd to attend one of his town halls. He wants to keep the lines of communication open and asked anyone who has issues to let him or Mr. Wein know of their concerns. Together we can make Cecil County a better place.

The meeting was formally called to order by President Lou Wood at 7:01 The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Ken Confalone.

Commissioner Fockler moved to approve the minutes of July 9, 2019, seconded by Commissioner Letts. Approved 5-0.

Accounts payable in the amount of \$66,343.64 were presented for approval. **Commissioner Clements moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Fockler. Approved 5-0.**

Commissioner Wood brought the suggestion of a tree to be planted at the location of the one that fell at Long Point. Commissioner Clements suggested that the Green Team be asked to suggest a native tree to avoid mitigation that would need to be implemented if a non-native tree is planted. Commissioner Fockler suggests a White Oak that is the Maryland State Tree. **Commissioner Fields moved to have the Green Team look into and suggest a tree for the location, seconded by Commissioner Clements. Approved 5-0.**

The meeting was then turned over to Debbie Pfeil from KCI Engineering who have just finished a stormwater assessment and vulnerability study for the town. They assisted with seeking the grant funding, and this project was 100% funded. They have asked for an extension and received one to September.

She then went on to explain the projected vulnerability for storm surge and hurricanes. She provided maps that will be turned over to the town for reference. These maps indicate where our biggest problems will occur in the event of hurricanes and their rating, the results of sea rise, and storm surge.

Her associate went over stormwater assessment of inventory and inspection. They mapped electronically all of the points of our stormwater management. They also did a physical inventory, with pictures and rating each device. They then are able to identify those areas that need repair. He gave examples of structures that need to be addressed and explained the prioritization of them also. The full report will be available in the Town Hall.

She then opened up the floor for questions.

Questions and comments were voiced by many in the audience, with a number of them being for specific areas of town of concern with stormwater problems. KCI representatives asked that these individuals make sure that their areas of concern specifically are on the list being formulated by Ms. Janine Antoshak.

Period of Public Comment

Mick McMullen – he asked about an intersection near his home.

There being no further business for the evening, **Commissioner Joe Letts moved to adjourn, seconded by Jeff Fields. Approved 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Myers, Town Clerk

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Loucretia Wood, President

Approved 8-13-2019