

**Town of Perryville
Town Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Mayor: Matthew Roath, Commissioners, , Robert Taylor, Timothy Snelling, Christina Aldridge, Town Administrator: George Patchell, Assistant Town Administrator: Cathy McCardell, Police Chief: Robert Nitz, Town Clerk: Jackie Sample, Town Attorney: Fred Sussman.

Remote Participation: Michelle Linkey

The Town Meeting in its entirety can be listened to on the Town's web site at www.perryvillemd.org.

The March 7, 2023, Town Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Roath.

Pledge to the Flag

Remote Participation Request

Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Snelling to allow remote participation by Commissioner Linkey. **Roll Call Vote:** Commissioner Aldridge: Aye, Commissioner Snelling: Aye, Commissioner Taylor: Aye, Mayor Roath : Aye **Four in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Mayor Roath let the record reflect that Commissioner Linkey was attending by the way of speaker phone or other electronic means. He confirmed that Commissioner Linkey could hear him and the members of the board and others present could hear Commissioner Linkey and for the record to reflect that. All votes taken during the meeting in which the Mayor or a Commissioner participates remotely shall be by roll call vote. The presiding officer shall ask the remote participant for each motion or agenda item. The remote participant also may verbally request to be recognized in the same manner as any person present in person.

Mayor Roath asked for a moment of silence on behalf of former Commissioner Barbara Brown who was a Commissioner for the Town of Perryville for 16 years and the amount of the effect that she had on the community was significant and he was happy to get to know her while she was our commissioner.

Approval of the Town Meeting Agenda

Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Snelling to approve the March 7, 2023, Town Meeting Agenda as written. **Roll Call Vote:** Commissioner Aldridge: Aye, Commissioner Snelling: Aye, Commissioner Taylor: Aye, Commissioner Linkey: Aye, Mayor Roath : Aye **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Aldridge to approve the consent agenda as written, items consisting of the February 7, 2023, Town Meeting Minutes, the February 21, 2023 Public Hearing /Special Meeting Minutes, and the February 21, 2023 Work Session Minutes.

Commissioner Aldridge: Aye, Commissioner Snelling: Aye, Commissioner Taylor: Aye, Commissioner Linkey: Aye, Mayor Roath : Aye, **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Mayor's Report - Mayor Roath

Mayor Roath attended a Hard Hat Tour of the Great Wolf Lodge where they announced that they plan to open their doors on July 15th. Also on February 8th he attended the bi-monthly local business meeting at the Lion of Judah Bible Café. On February 9 he had a phone conversation with Robert Milner who is the Director of the Donaldson Brown Conference Center to share some of the upcoming events that they have going on and some significant renovation plans that they have for the buildings. They are also interested in the commercial growth that we have that we have coming. On February 11 he began assisting the Perryville Little League with a communication campaign to our local businesses regarding upcoming seasons and sponsorship options with significant support. On February 13 he attended a meeting with the County Planning Department to assess our processes to see if there are ways to make our processes more efficient and less time consuming, coming away from the meeting confident that we may be able to make things more efficient to those that are investing in our community. On February 16 and 17 he attended that Maryland Mayor Association Retreat in Annapolis. On February 23 he hosted a meet and greet event at 5th Company Brewing Company with Nadine Miracle, the General Manager of Great Wolf Lodge, she also later met our Town staff. On February 27 he was scheduled to attend the Cecil Chamber Reception Night in Annapolis, but unfortunately was unable to attend. He attended a meeting at the Principio Furnace Mansion, along with our other Commissioners to welcome Governor Wes Moore to our Town, he and his staff are looking forward to making their way back to our Town later this year. He reported that he also attended another meeting with Tiki Lee's to open up the line of communications with them to help expedite their ongoing process. He also met with a developer who is looking to put in a potential Annexation Application for residential development here in Town.

Commissioner Aldridge inquired if any of the other board members were sent an invite to the 5th Company Brewing Company meet and greet on the 23rd.

Mayor Roath replied that it was not a public or Town specific thing, he was asked to facilitate it and he did.

Public Safety Report

Commissioner Taylor gave a portion of the Public Safety Report for Commissioner Linkey who was to give the Fire Department Report since the Fire Chief was unable to attend tonight. The Perryville Fire Company had 35 Fire Calls for February, with 70 year to date, 182 EMS calls, with 190 year to date, and 50 training hours, with 88 training hours to date. All actively riding members completed annual training on Blood Borne Pathogens, HIPPA Compliance, and Hazardous Materials as required by OSHA.

New gas detection meters that were approved as part of the Town VLT grant process were received and placed in-service on the apparatus following training for the members. Still awaiting other items as part of that grant.

Putting the final touches on a SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) grant. This grant if awarded will provide funding to create a recruitment program using professionally produced video's and print material. In addition, it provides funding for personnel to attend training classes, personal protective equipment for new members, physicals for new members, and stipends for personnel who stand by the stations during designated times, allowing us to more rapidly respond to calls. The

grant program covers a four year award period and if awarded would be an approximate \$100,000.00 benefit per year (\$400,000.00 total) to the Department and the community.

We were notified by the selected vendor Pierce Fire Apparatus for the new ladder truck that our delivery date was pushed back from July of 2024 to January of 2025. This change is reported to be due to supply chain and labor issues.

The Board of Directors approved the purchase of the air compressor that I mentioned last month and the order was placed. The vendor has advised that expected delivery will be in 14-16 weeks. This is a slightly smaller delivery window than they previously quoted.

Replaced our on-site diesel fuel tank with a new tank. The old tank was rusting and the Board of Directors felt it was necessary to be responsible neighbors to our waterways and avoid the potential for a large spill of fuel that could enter Mill Creek. The new tank is 100 gallons larger than the existing tank which will allow us more flexibility in purchasing fuel in the future, potentially weathering temporary spikes in fuel prices.

Ariosa Plumbing completed installation of the back flow preventer at Station 16 which was necessary to make all final connections of the water pump. Preliminary pump testing was conducted and successful. Final pump testing will be done when the final connection is made within the next week. Once the final testing is complete, MDE will sign off on the project and release funds. The delay in achieving this step was due to the backflow preventer being on back order.

Commissioner Linkey's Report

Commissioner Linkey reported that she may not be able to stay on much longer it is getting loud where she is at and hard to hear.

Mayor Roath asked her to text Commissioner Taylor to let us know if she will be dropping off.

Commissioner Linkey reported that she attended a budget meeting with the Police Chief. She also attended the meet and greet with the Governor and thanked Commissioner Taylor for reporting on behalf of the Fire Department. She met with a citizen about an issue that will be on the Work Session.

Wastewater and Water Treatment Plant Reports - Commissioner Taylor

Commissioner Taylor reported that both the Wastewater and Water Plant were in full compliance with MDE and NPDES discharge permit for the month of January, 2023, and February 2023 with the February lab results to date. The Wastewater Influent monthly flow was 18.65 million gallons, with an effluent of 17.67 million gallons, with 6.02 million gallons at the Veterans Center. There was 8.6 million gallons of water processed at the Water Plant, with 8.7 million gallons of finished water, and 1.6 million gallons of backwash water. We are currently still waiting on a quote from Wickersham Construction to install the new decanter float at the Wastewater Plant. We are also getting a quote to potentially have a drainpipe installed at the same time in the SBR tanks for future cleanings, currently when we have to drain the SBR tanks we bring in a pumping truck and have to pump all of the water and waste out of the top of the tanks and into holding materials. If we have to drain the tank in order to install the decanter we would put a drain pipe in at the base of the tank to simplify and reduce the price of draining the tank in the future. In addition to Water and Wastewater he attended the meeting with the Governor at Principio with an interesting presentation by the Stewart's and appreciates a lot of what they are aiming to do. He

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also attended a preliminary planning meeting at the Police Department today for a potential tabletop for real life exercise with our current EMS, Fire, Police, as well as the Counties Emergency Services to look at what we would do as a Town if we have a potential disaster rail accident which has been in the news lately. Looking at how we would deal with it moving forward if something was to happen.

Planning and Zoning Report - Commissioner Aldridge

Commissioner Aldridge attended multiple meetings in the month of February, one of which was with a potential developer request. She attended the Great Wolf Lodge event on February 8th, along with a business meet and greet. February 21st she was in Annapolis for the Economic Development Day and is now a part of the Economic Development Association and is looking forward to the conference that is coming up in April to find out how we can expand on the Planning and Zoning and Economic Development for Perryville. On February 27 she attended the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting regarding the critical area ordinance that the State of MD just passed. The community activity committee is gearing up for events and Alisha is looking for volunteers for anyone who may want to serve on the activities committee. The first meeting will be held on March 20th at Town Hall at 3 p.m. and could use all of the volunteers that we can get. The Winter Lights Cecil Nights Countywide campaign ended on February 28th. The Town of Perryville hosted winter games that consisted of two social media scavenger hunts and one geocache and she wanted to thank the various Perryville Town businesses that participated and donated gift certificates and prizes.

Administration Report - Commissioner Snelling

Commissioner Snelling reported that he attended the Great Wolf Lodge event. Commissioner Snelling stated that a Police Officer was hired and will start on March 13th.

Town Administrators Report - George Patchell

Mr. Patchell reported that he met with the Susquehanna Basin Commission to discuss the current water allotment that the Town is provided by them which is 690,000 gallons per day which the Town has received since 1971. We are looking for ways to increase that amount in the future before we have to start paying mitigation fees for every 1,000 gallons. He took a site visit to the Bare Farms stream restoration project in Northeast which will give us the necessary MS4 credits to meet our requirements. He along with Debbie presented the Local Development Council the Town's multi-year expenditures for Local Impact Funds which is done every three years. We received approval from MDE to award the bid to Wickersham construction and Public Works will be approving that in their monthly meeting. Once the funds are secured the project will begin shortly which is being paid at 92.6% by MDE and that contract is under 7 million dollars. We received the permit from MDE to install the purcation system at the Pilot Tower which will reduce our Trihalomethane's from the water tower which will get rid of chemicals through that process to give us better drinking water.

Treasurers Report - Debra Sharpe

Ms. Sharpe reported that that the month of February was spent formalizing tour budget to the board for approval. She has been reviewing their requests. This year we are starting with a different format which we are segregating essential from non-essential items that could be delayed another year if necessary, to pick and choose projects for the upcoming year. We did do our three-year Local Impact budget presentation to the Development Council during the month of February and moving forward with our bond issuance which should be finalized this month as far as paper to be issued in the month of April.

Police Report - Police Chief Nitz

Chief Nitz reported that officers issued 28 citations and 71 warnings for various traffic infractions along with 11 parking violations. Still seeing a high volume of tractor trailers on Aiken Avenue, contacted IKEA to get with the guards at the guard shack to reinforce getting them to stay off of Aiken Avenue. He made note of a deficiency in signage and contacted SHA to put signage at the end of Route 7 at Coudon Boulevard to direct the trucks to Route 40. The officers also made 4 arrests for drug violations, with a total of 10 criminal arrests and just under 300 calls for service. The original report had 591 speed citations, which is now at 636 for Aiken Avenue for the month of February. The officers have issued several search and seizure arrests, one was for catalytic convertor theft which is increasing throughout the tristate area. May 6th we will be doing Fishing with the Fuzz for kids ages 6-12 at Sam's Marina. May 20th we will have our cookout with the cops at the Police Department. As Commissioner Snelling mentioned we have hired a new Police Officer to start on March 13th and will be starting a Compliance Training Class that is required which starts on March 27th. As of today March 1st through the 7th there are 111 speed camera citations.

Mr. Patchell commented that we will be discussing where the funds will go from those citations.

Mayor Roath was not expecting to have that many violations.

Chief Nitz responded that a lot of them are right at the 12 mph threshold and 54 was the fastest.

Commissioner Taylor hopes that eventually the word will get out and that number will continue to drop as people realize they are not going to get away with it.

Commissioner Snelling inquired of the tractor trailer violations have been repeat offenders.

Chief Nitz knows of at least two and they have received citations as well, they are all getting tickets now, they are not getting warnings anymore.

Mr. Patchell wanted to remind the public that the speed cameras are there because Aiken Avenue is a designated School Zone.

Outreach Report - Danielle Hemling

Ms. Hemling reported that they have been preparing for the 5K that will be next weekend. Last month we received recognition from our Police Department for our Christmas program and we had Hanimal Farm stop by to celebrate Valentines Day with a few animals. Miss Jane also stopped by and made crafts with the members for Valentines Day. Our Life Skills focused on Black History month.

Public Comment

Pat Stetina, from the Railroad Museum, gave an update on the progress of the renovation. They are currently putting personnel together for the permanent HO permanent display and we are currently in need of volunteer carpentry workers. We are having a slide show over at the museum this coming Saturday at 7 p.m.

Commissioner Linkey appeared to have no longer been remotely participating.

Old Business

Ordinance 2023-01 Chesapeake Overlook Property Disposition - George Patchell

Mr. Patchell explained that this was introduced in February for the purpose of authorizing and approving the conveyance of a certain portion of Chesapeake Overlook Parkway to the State of MD for continued use as a public road, the roundabout to be constructed by the current MDTA entrance.

Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Snelling to approve Ordinance 2023-01 Chesapeake Overlook disposition. **Four in Favor: Motion Carried**

Budget Amendment Ordinance 2023-03 -Debra Sharpe

Ms. Sharpe commented that this was introduced at the last meeting and is bringing in additional funds for the stormwater management permit for MS4 and recognizing grants and putting funds in the budget for Bond Counsel and preparing the Police Departments HVAC unit and also recognizing Police Liaisons Grant.

Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Aldridge to approve Budget Amendment Ordinance 2023-03. **Four in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Cecil County Library Story Trail - Rachel Wright, Associate Director

Ms. Wright presented the program that they planned to have at the Perryville Park which will be 18 story trail stations.

Commissioner Taylor verified that they will providing the supplies and our staff will install them.

Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Snelling to approve the story time at the Perryville Park. **Four in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Commissioner Aldridge has a 12-year old daughter who does not like to read that she was telling her about this new program and she is very excited for it to come.

Ms. Wright explained that these funds are coming through the VLT community grant and two installations are currently up and running through the MD State Library Grant., and the park we are working on now is Conowingo and we will work with you to get things up and running in the Spring.

5th Company Brewing Request for Lower Ferry Park fee reduction - George Patchell

Mr. Patchell explained that 5th Company Brewing is requesting to have a Renaissance Festival at Lower Ferry Park and also a request to serve alcohol in October at the park. He has provided the comments on the questions that you had at the Work Session after talking to them. They discussed the private security company that they will be hiring at the event on October the 7th.

Commissioner Taylor commented that the current fee to use the park would be \$3,000 and they are requesting a reduction. He inquired if there is a suggestion for clarification on what they would like it to be.

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Mayor Roath commented that right now it is \$3,000 for ticketed events, the overall lease of the property is actually \$300 for a non-ticketed events.

Commissioner Taylor inquired if there has been an ask on what they want.

Commissioner Snelling suggested a \$500 fee and maybe a refundable deposit.

Commissioner Taylor commented that sounds reasonable to him, he inquired if he is talking about \$500 for the weekend or for each day.

Commissioner Snelling commented that he would suggest \$500 for the whole weekend, but we could go \$300 for each day.

Commissioner Taylor inquired if we want to change the code rather than make it a one-time exception.

Mayor Roath commented that we would probably definitely want to bring that up at a Work Session.

Commissioner Taylor proposed making a motion to reduce the fee for this event to \$300 per day with a refundable security deposit and look at the Work Session to change the code for future events.

Further discussion ensued on the security deposit and potential damage with the fence or field or trash pickup.

Mr. Patchell stated that they are bringing in their own port-a-pots and their own security and are handling the parking.

Commissioner Taylor inquired what a reasonable security deposit would be, \$1,000 or \$2,000.

Mr. Patchell commented that it would depend on how many staff members we would need if there are any damages.

Commissioner Taylor would lean more towards \$1,000 because of the trees, etc. that are in the park and it is refundable if there is no damage. They were just requesting the portion from the roadway coming in down to Broad Street.

Mayor Roath suggested that we should go ahead with the whole property.

Commissioner Taylor agree with him on that but with that it also brings the band shell into play, if there is damage to the band shell.

Commissioner Aldridge asked for clarification that these agreements have to come through each time.

Mayor Roath responded that they do because the previous agreement lapsed.

Mr. Patchell commented that is correct, this is for the alcohol use as well as the fee reduction.

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Commissioner Aldridge commented that they still have to fill out the application and come before us for events.

Commissioner Taylor noted that by the location that they have mapped out it appears to be the L shaped patch of grass area. If they want to use the rest of the park he thinks that we should increase the security deposit at their discretion unless they only want this piece.

Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Snelling to reduce the festival fee to \$300 per day and with a \$1,000 refundable security deposit for this piece of the park and if they want to expand to the whole park then expand the security deposit to \$2,000. **Four in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Aldridge to serve alcohol at the Renaissance Festival in October. **Four in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Strategic Plan - George Patchell

Mr. Patchell stated that the Strategic Plan update meeting was held which was attended by the board, in front of you is the new strategic draft plan for your approval of the 2023-2024 Strategic Plan moving forward.

Mayor Roath thought that it was a useful process and was happy with the outcome of the document.

Commissioner Aldridge responded that it was a productive day and hopes to see more team building exercises more often.

Commissioner Taylor also thought it was useful for both collaborative and productive in what the board wants for the Town the next two years.

Commissioner Snelling likes the fact that the department heads are involved as well.

Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Snelling to approve the Strategic Plan for the Town of Perryville. **Four in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Election Board Reappointments Requests

Mr. Patchell stated that we have requests for reappointments to the Election Board from Mark Fayer, Sr. Terri Grove and Wayne Kommalan to the Election Board and Sheron Alexander as an alternate.

Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Aldridge to reappoint Mark Fayer, Sr., Terri Grove and Wayne Kommalan to the Election Board and Sheron Alexander as the alternate. **Four in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Snelling to adjourn the March 7, 2023 Town Meeting at 7:50 p.m. **Four in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



Jackie Sample
Perryville Town Clerk