

Town of Perryville
Town Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2023

Attendance: Mayor: Matthew Roath, Commissioners: Michelle Linkey, Robert Taylor, Timothy Snelling, Christina Aldridge, Town Administrator: George Patchell, Town Attorney: Fred Sussman, Finance Director: Debra Sharpe, Police Chief: Robert Nitz, Outreach Director: Danielle Hemling, Acting Town Clerk: Tara Blevins.

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

The May 2, 2023, Town Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Roath.

Pledge to the Flag

Approval of the Town Meeting Agenda

Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Linkey to approve the May 2, 2023, Town Meeting Agenda. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Linkey to approve the consent agenda as written, items consisting of the April 4, 2023, Town Meeting Minutes, and the April 18, 2023, Work Session Minutes, and the April 18, 2023, Closed Session Minutes, and the April 26, 2023, FY 2024 Budget, Public Hearing and Budget Introduction Meeting Minutes. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Police Training Grant Award Presentation by LGIT

Mr. Lee Gaby, from LGIT presented Chief Nitz with a \$3,450.00 check for the Trauma-Informed Care Program from a Risk Management Grant Program they offer. Mr. Gaby congratulated Chief Nitz and stated he was very pleased to be able to award this.

Oath of Office New Police Officers

Chief Nitz introduced Officer James Bush and Officer David Ford to the Mayor and Commissioners. Mayor Roath then sworn in James Bush and David Ford.

Mayor's Report- Matt Roath

- 4/3 Perry Point Veteran's Village Tour
- 4/4 Met with Mr. Patel to discuss 61 and 63 Heather Lane
- 4/5 Met with DPW and Perryville Little League to discuss Trego Field
- 4/5 Attended the Local Business Meeting held at 5th Company Brewing
- 4/7 Attended the Town of Perryville Easter Egg Hunt
- 4/14 Welcomed Senator Ben Cardin to Town of Perryville and toured Great Wolf Lodge as well as other areas around town.
- 4/18 Attended a Zoom meeting hosted by Constellation Energy regarding the Conowingo Dam and efforts to clean up debris on the North Side.
- 4/25 Met with Brigitte Carty from Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway.

- 4/26 Met with DPW to discuss the Reservoir Road property and take inventory of the property.
- 4/26 Attended a zoom call with Maryland Municipal League to go over the legislation recap.

Public Safety Report – Commissioner Linkey

Commissioner Linkey explained that she had attended the Perryville Little League Parade and River Sweep and also attend some of the meetings with the mayor. Commissioner Linkey explained that she attended the River Sweep that was at the Perryville Community Park and Lower Ferry, as well as the Boat Ramp and Garrett Island and we picked up about 2 tons of trash and 22 tires. She thanked everyone that came out and Chick-fil-A for providing lunch for the volunteers. May 20th will be Chief Nitz's cook out from 11-2 so please come join us for this event, and this weekend is Fishing with a Fuzz on Saturday from 10-12.

Fire Station 6 & 16 Report - Chief Brad Willis

Chief Willis reported that there were 51 fire calls, 156 YTD and 152 EMS calls for April with 460 YTD. All required training has been completed. Chief Willis stated that Perryville Outreach brought 4 kids to the fire house to go over equipment and teaching the kids what we are all about. Attended the Great Wolf Lodge tour going over their pool system. We have purchased new equipment for elevator rescues we will have some training coming up this weekend. We have completed all the ladder testing, annual pump testing, SUVA testing and all the equipment passes with the total cost \$11,465.78 which we are required to do every year. We provided Easter Eggs baskets for the Town of Perryville's Easter Egg Hunt and also helped with that event and we really enjoyed that.

Mayor Roath asked about softball tournament. Chief Willis replied that he didn't have all the information on that but you do need four females on the team and there are 15 teams at \$200 a team. This event will be held Saturday, July 22. The is a fundraiser and the funds will go towards the costs of the Perryville Fire Company's 100 Anniversary.

Commissioner Taylor stated that he thought their board voted to approve the Pasta Dinner to be held the night before the Susquehanna Running Festival on September 23, 2023. Chief Willis replied yes that was approved and we are going to get a conference call set up for planning.

Wastewater and Water Treatment Plant Reports – Commissioner Taylor

Commissioner Taylor explained that all reports are online. The water plant was in compliance with MDE regulations and the wastewater plant was in full compliance with the NPDES Discharge permit for the month of April. One thing he would like to point out is a violation we received from MDE this month. This violation was given by MDE personnel who were not our normal inspector and he came for a site visit, not site inspection, and then proceeded to give us violations. When we do a backwash or maintenance clean on the filters, this can sometimes lead to a spike in turbidity, or cloudiness, in the water. This is something that is monitored and has been for two decades. The group from MDE are saying that these spikes are not being recorded in a manor that they approve of. We are setting up a meeting with MDE to discuss this and will report back once they have the meeting. This is something we haven't received a violation on in over 20 years.

Another issue was Great Wolf was supposed to fill their pools this week but instead filled them two weeks ago with less than 24 hours' notice causing the water plant to work unscheduled overtime, but we did maintain the water levels in the tower.

Steven Jacobsen, Vice President Development for Great Wolf, apologized to the Board on behalf of their contractor they should have given you guys more notice. The material that lines the pools is called Diamond Bright and due to supply chain issues, it came in late. Mr. Jacobsen expressed that Great Wolf would cover the overtime due to this issue and he could set up a meeting with Mr. Patchell to discuss but they are willing to step up and do the right thing.

Planning & Zoning Report – Commissioner Aldridge

Commissioner Aldridge explained that April was a pretty busy month. Attended the meeting and lunch that was at the Perryville American Legion, April 5th attended the local meet and greet for local business owners at 5th Company Brewing. April 14th attended the meeting with Senator Cardin. Commissioner Aldridge explained that herself and Ms. Dianna Battaglia, Planning & Zoning Director, attended the MEDA (Maryland Economic Development Association) Conference in Cambridge. Commissioner Aldridge expressed her excitement on all she learned at the conference and all the new things coming. This Saturday is the first, First Saturday Farm and Flea Market from 2-5 at Lower Ferry Park and she will be attending Fishing with a Fuzz.

Public Works Report – Mayor Roath

Mayor Roath stated that the full report can be found online.

Administration Staff Reports – Commissioner Snelling

Commissioner Snelling explained that on April 5th attended the local business meeting held at 5th Company Brewing, April 14th attended the meeting with Senator Ben Cardin. On April 15th attended the Perryville Little League Parade and opening ceremonies. On April 20th attended the Maryland Municipal League Local Chapter Meeting in North East. Commissioner Snelling also stated that we still have open positions for a Police Officer and DPW.

Town Administrators Report – George Patchell

Mr. Patchell explained that the Town's Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage Plan has been submitted to FEMA to be finalized. The SI/SD plan is necessary for residents to qualify for FEMA Insurance. Completed and filed the Annual Emergency Action Plan for the Perryville Water Supply Dam with the Maryland Dam Safety Division. Mr. Patchell also explained that he assisted in the Railroad tabletop with CCES, Chief Nitz and PVFD representatives to discuss rail emergencies. Mr. Patchell explained that the Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project is 70% completed with pump station 1 and pump station 2. Pumps are being installed and should be completed by the end of May. Pump Station 4, pumps have arrived, however due to sever supply chain issues the control panels for pump station 4 will not arrive until August 2023. The WWTP ENR Project is scheduled to begin June or July and once the groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled, he will let everyone know the details. The TRS System which will be installed in our Pilot Water Tower is scheduled to begin in the next 4 weeks.

Treasurer's Report – Debra Sharpe

Ms. Sharpe stated that we did settle on the bond that we've been applying for and the terms turned out much better than what we had anticipated. We were able to get \$2,250,000 for 20 years, the interest comes in 3.286 and we got premium pricing so we will only have to pay back \$2,019,000 that discounts the principal amount.

Commissioner Linkey thanked Ms. Sharpe for all her work on the budget.

Police Report – Chief Nitz

Chief Nitz reported the officers have issued 60 traffic citations and 74 warnings for various traffic infractions along with 4 parking citations. A total of 9 tracker trailers were stopped on Aiken Avenue so that is a slight decrease from last month. We had 10 drug arrests, 23 criminal arrests with 1 juvenile arrest, prepared 40 reports, and responded to 335 calls for service. As of this morning, there is 510 speed camera citations with a total of 1,700 have been issued and 872 have been paid and closed since February 1, 2023.

Chief Nitz explained one case highlight for the month. On April 19, 2023, Officer Speis was on a routine patrol when he observed a vehicle operating with an equipment violation. He performed a lawful traffic stop on the vehicle. As a result of the traffic stop, Officer Speis apprehended the driver for an outstanding warrant. Through further investigation, he identified a second subject who gave him a false name as well as recovered a significant amount of illegal drugs which were packaged in a manner consistent with drug sales/distribution. Both offenders were taken into custody and charged accordingly with possession with the intent to distribute CDS. This goes to show that a simple vehicle infraction by a highly skilled and trained police officer can lead to so much more. This type of work is a testament to the hard work that officers of this department engage in daily.

Outreach Report – Danielle Hemling

Ms. Hemling reported that Fishing with a Fuzz is coming up this weekend, we have about 20 kids registered so far. The Perryville Legion is also donating food for this event. We took the kids to Adventure Aquarium last week they really enjoyed that. Ms. Hemling met with Melissa Tapp, the United Way Director to talk about different things we would like to see in Cecil County and what we can work together on. Still doing horseback riding program at Freedom Hills, Ms. Jane stopped by for crafts, and we took some kids to the Fire House to teach them about fire fighting and stuff that goes on there. Outreach also attended in River Sweep.

Public Comment

Pat Stetina, representing the Perryville Railroad Museum, reported that we now have all the materials and permits necessary to build the display now we just need to get everyone together to get it done. The Museum will not close during construction. We are thinking it will take 3 to 4 weeks to complete. Mr. Stetina reported that, May 12, 2023, is the next National Railway Historical Society Perryville Chapter, meeting held at the Havre De Grace American Legion.

Old Business**Ordinance 2023-10 FY2024 Budget, Tax Rate, and Fiscal Plan**

Ms. Sharpe explained that she is asking for a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-10 which is our budget for fiscal year 2024.

Commissioner Taylor stated that this amount of a rate would be \$3.70 on each \$100,000 of your value of your home and he also asked about the funds for Chesapeake Feline Association previously discussed.

Commissioner Linkey asked if that was \$2,400 per year for Chesapeake Feline Association. Ms. Sharpe replied yes.

Motion made by Commissioner Taylor to approve Ordinance 2023-10 FY2024 Budget, Tax Rate, and Fiscal Plan and it was seconded by Commissioner Aldridge.

Discussion: Commissioner Linkey asked about the employee salaries and requested 6% COLA and 4% merit for pay increases. Ms. Sharpe agreed she would prefer 6% COLA and 4% merit because she would like to have the merit to compensate for them doing a good job. Ms. Sharpe has also spoken to other department heads that agree with the 6% COLA and 4% merit.

Motion made by Commissioner Linkey to amend the salary distribution to 6% COLA and 4% merit and this was seconded by Commissioner Aldridge. 4 in Favor, 1 Nay (Commissioner Taylor). **Motion Carried.**

Motion made by Commissioner Taylor to approve Ordinance 2023-10 as amended and it was seconded by Commissioner Aldridge. 3 in Favor, 2 Nay (Commissioner Linkey and Commissioner Snelling) **Motion Carried.**

Resolution 2023-02 FY2024 Local Impact Budget Amendments

Ms. Sharpe explained that after discussions and redistribution of the local impact fund and we need to make one minor change, to reallocate by decreasing by \$50,000 under Sanitation, "Inflows and Infiltration Improvements and Add line item under Sanitation entitled "Sewer Salaries" in the amount of \$50,000 for FY 24.

Motion made by Commissioner Taylor to approve Resolution 2023-02 and it was seconded by Commissioner Linkey.

All in Favor: Motion Carried.

New Business

Great Wolf Lodge Sewer Credit Request

Mr. Patchell stated this is to introduce Ordinance 2023-09 for the purpose of providing certain adjustments to sewer system usage charges payable by Great Wolf Lodge; and generally relating to charges for usage of the sewer system of the Town of Perryville by Great Wolf Lodge.

Commissioner Taylor stated that this specifies that Great Wolf would get a 500,000 gallon per quarter credit from the sewer charges for evaporation rates and they are not charged sewer for that separate irrigation system that is metered.

Commissioner Aldridge stated she would like to make it clear that this is for the sewer and not their water. She would also like to clarify how our town residence can get a pool abatement which is to contact townhall and we do offer a pool abatement.

FY2024 Water and Sewer Meter Size and Rate Schedule

Mr. Patchell explained Ordinance 2023-08 for the purpose of repealing existing schedules and adopting a new schedule of water and sewer system usage charges; establishing the effective date of such new usage charges; and generally relating to charges and fees for the water and sewer systems of the Town of Perryville and the rates will be attached to this ordinance. With the increase for water being 2.5% and sewer increase being 5%.

Commissioner Taylor explained that a rate study was done two years ago but we didn't increase rates. But the time is right for the increase to get our fiscal houses back in order.

Budget Amendment 2023-07

Ms. Sharpe explained that this is an introduction for Ordinance 2023-07 for the purpose of amending the adopted budget for the Town of Perryville for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30,

2023, to appropriate for certain purposes certain funds and generally related to amendment of the Town's FY 2023 budget.

Lower Ferry Rental Fee Structure

Mr. Patchell explained Resolution 2023-03 to approve certain rules, regulations, conditions and fees for the rental of Town of Perryville's Lower Ferry Park and facilities. Mr. Patchell explained the following changes.

1. Rental fee for the rental of the park or any portion of the park - \$300 per day
2. Security Deposit for the use of up to 50% of the park - \$1,000 for the entire duration of the ticketed event
3. Security Deposit for the use of more than 50% of the park - \$2,000 for the entire duration of the ticketed event

Motion made by Commissioner Taylor to approve Resolution 2023-03 and it was seconded by Commissioner Snelling. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

At 7:54 p.m. Commissioner Taylor made a **motion** to adjourn the May 2, 2023 Town Meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Linkey. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted:

Tara Blevins
Acting Town Clerk