

Town of Perryville
Town Meeting Minutes
August 1, 2023

Attendance: Mayor: Matthew Roath, Commissioners: Michelle Linkey, Robert Taylor, Timothy Snelling, Christina Aldridge, Town Administrator: George Patchell, Police Chief: Robert Nitz, Outreach Director: Danielle Hemling, Town Clerk: Jackie Sample, Town Attorney: Fred Sussman.

Remote Participation: Debra Sharpe

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

The August 1, 2023, Town Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Mayor Roath.

Pledge to the Flag

Approval of the Town Meeting Agenda

Motion was made by Commissioner Linkey and seconded by Commissioner Taylor to approve the August 1, 2023, Town Meeting Agenda. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Motion was made by Commissioner Linkey and seconded by Commissioner Taylor to approve the consent agenda as written, items consisting of the July 6, 2023, Town Meeting Minutes, and the July 18, 2023, Work Session Minutes. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Mayor's Report- Matt Roath

- 7/1-7/4 Celebrated Independence Day throughout the community and thanks to our friends at the Town of Charlestown, Mayor Martin, in Havre De Grace, and Mayor Klein and the organizers of the Salute to Cecil County Veterans for inviting him and his family for their event.
- 7/2 Stopped into a new business in Perryville named Grounded Coffee Company to congratulate them on their opening and sample their coffee and pastries. We continue to work with their ownership group to assist their interest in expanding their offerings at the location just outside Town limits. He also attended their business networking event on 7/13.
- 7/7 Met with Greg Hawkins from Kinetic Multi Sports, the organizer of the Diamond in the Rough Triathlon the day before his event and discussed next year's event and what he may see in our Town for the next event.
- 7/7 Met with Perryville Little League officials to discuss their season and the ongoing All-Star Tournament at Trego Field and reported that the tournaments went well.
- 7/8 Attended the opening day of another new business in Perryville the Susky River Beverage Company off of Frenchtown Road heading out of Town.
- 7/12 Attended a bi-monthly business group meeting at the Perryville Branch of Cecil County Library.
- 7/20 Hosted and provided a tour for the Maryland Municipal League delegation at Town Hall and discussed our Town our Government and our community and gave them a tour of our downtown shared the concept plans for both Lower Ferry Park and Ice House Park. After the tour we went to Great Wolf Lodge where the Town of Perryville hosted the MML Cecil/Harford Chapters quarterly dinner.

Mayor Roath reported that the large hump that was in front of Town Hall has been smoothed out so that people do not bottom out and next year plan to do it even better. The clock that used to sit out to the left of the left of Town Hall was moved to Lower Ferry Park.

Mr. Patchell commented that we are waiting on a sign to put on it that says Lower Ferry Park.

Mayor Roath also wanted to thank the DPW staff for their quick and decisive response to dirty water in the lower part of Beacon Point and remediating the issue quickly. He asked residents to please call Town Hall if they have dirty water or tinted water so that we can respond accordingly.

Mr. Patchell stated that tracking those houses is part of our water quality study that we are doing so it is important that you call Town Hall so that it can be properly charted as part of the study.

Administration Staff Reports - Commissioner Snelling

Commissioner Snelling reported that he attended the July 20 quarterly MML Cecil/Harford Chapter meeting that we hosted at Great Wolf Lodge. He wanted to thank George, Cathy, Dianna, and staff for heading that up. He attended the Town company picnic on July 21st. He attended the Wastewater Treatment Plant ENR project groundbreaking ceremony on July 27th. Town staff will be advertising for two full time DPW openings, along with one part time Economic Development opening. Staff has held one interview for the Police Department.

Town Administrators Report - George Patchell

Mr. Patchell reported that we received notification that we were awarded a \$75,000 grant from DNR's Gateway Grant Program for the design of Ice House Park shoreline restoration program. We had put in \$100,000 of Town funds for the \$200,000 necessary, so this puts us within \$25,000 of having the design phase completed for the shoreline restoration part of the park. He applied for the Community Parks and Playground Grant for the expansion of the Lower Ferry Park playground, so hopefully May of 2024 we will find out if we were awarded that grant. He met with Harold Riale of the Perryville Volunteer Fire Department to discuss the parade route for the 100-year anniversary for the Perryville Fire Department which will be held on September 16 beginning at 10 a.m. The projects that are currently taking place are the Sanitary Sewer Project for Great Wolf Lodge, pump station 1 and 2 are up and functioning properly. Pump Station 4's pumps have arrived, however, due to supply chain issues we are still waiting for the control panel for pump station 4 and are hoping to have it installed by September of this year and we have a backup pump if necessary. For the Water Treatment Plant Expansion project, it has been put back out for re-bid, bids were not submitted by the deadline of July 12th. so the project completion date will be moved back to March 2024. The Wastewater Treatment Plant Project groundbreaking ceremony was July 27, which was attended by the Mayor and Commissioners and the site is being mobilized on Monday with the hopes to have a shovel in the ground in a few weeks. You will notice there are markers up and down Otsego Street, the survey portion of the project has been completed and turned over to our engineer who will then do the engineering on the Otsego Street renovation project.

Treasurer's Report - Debra Sharpe

Ms. Sharpe stated that her full report can be found on-line. She reported that when they were doing their annual policy with LGIT they came across some Town owned properties that we believe were underinsured so we are working with LGIT to provide them with a list of those properties to have them reappraised, she does not think that it will affect us that much on the bottom line. In doing her year end closing it is coming to her attention that there is a bit of a disconnect between the accounting department

Mr. Patchell responded that it is around \$7,000 that has been collected.

Mayor Roath was inquiring about the number of citations.

Mr. Patchell responded that we started out at around 650, dropped to 600, then he thinks the lowest was in June.

Chief Nitz responded that there were around 2,700.

Mr. Patchell wanted the public to know that those funds that we are collecting are utilized as instructed by RedSpeed and the State Legislation for some sort of safety program for the Town. So, we are repairing and adding sidewalks throughout Town. Our first project was Frenchtown Crossing where we added an additional sidewalk piece underneath the railroad bridge so that those folks can walk safely without having to cross the road around that curve and some additional work will be done at a later date.

Outreach Program - Danielle Hemling

Ms. Hemling reported that the overall monthly attendance was 160 and there were 2 new members. Next week our teen member Zyier Martin will finish up his 6-week internship at Outreach. We are still doing breakfast and lunch for the next few weeks through the school system. We are finishing our summer programs and preparing for school to start. We have started our school drive and you can drop off donations at the Police Station or the Outreach building. We will be at the 1st Saturday event collecting supplies. The kids went to Hershey Park and have been fishing at the pier. They have picked up trash and worked on the community garden.

Public Comment

Pat Stetina, 1424 Superior Street, Havre De Grace, reported on the renovations at the Perryville Railroad Museum. The main line tracks have been attached to the top of the display; we are working on the tracks for the freight car to be put in. We will have a Roundhouse and the turntable in front of the Roundhouse will be motorized. The freight yard will have at least 7 or 8 tracks feeding out to the main line. There will be two switch towers, one will resemble one that is there right now and the other one is going to be on different parts of the boards, having two switch towers instead of one. He is trying to get an electrical substation put into the South of the tower. He is looking for opening day to be at least another month of month and a half. He encourages anyone that is interested in seeing what is going on to come over there, they are open from noon to four on Saturday and Sundays.

Dianne Barrick, 412 Roundhouse, is asking if yellow curbs can be painted on two sections in Town. One is the corner of Cherry and Evans which is right by the American Legion, if you are coming up Cherry and cars are parked at the end of that sidewalk, sometimes parked on the sidewalk, it makes it one lane and there is no place to duck off because you have already committed. The other one is Armstrong Court right by the stop sign, people park right up to the stop sign, the same issue its one lane coming in or out and you cannot always see.

Carolyn Brown, 601 Rustic Court, was there along with Alexia Ciboroski, 706 Rustic Court, to provide a little bit information on the sidewalks at Frenchtown Crossing, they went around and collected 47 signatures from their neighbors in support of doing the survey, but we may not have to do the survey and she will have Alexia explain.

Ms. Ciboroski stated that she works under the direct supervision of a licensed surveyor and has done that for five years now. It has come to her attention that they are trying to determine who owns the

Commissioner Taylor responded that it is not a personal reason, he applauds her for wanting to serve and had full intention of voting for her when she came up for a vote the second time for the Planning Commission and thinks that people who want to serve should have the chance to do so. When she came up for the Planning and Zoning Board a second time, she made an accusation against Commissioner Aldridge to get her to recuse herself with an accusation that was false. His personal opinion is making a false accusation against a commissioner to get her to recuse themselves and thinking that will persuade the rest of the board to vote for them is a lack of judgement that he feels is necessary for the appeals board. If Ms. Weih would come before us again for the planning board, he would be happy to vote for her for that provided she would not do something like that again, but that move made him doubt her judgement for a position as important as the Board of Appeals. He does not think she has the temperament and judgment to serve on the Board of Appeals.

Ms. Weih asked if she could comment, Mr. Patchell responded she could not.

Mayor Roath responded that this board is choosing to leave the board unmanned.

Budget Amendment Ordinance 2023-14 - Debra Sharpe

Ms. Sharpe stated that this is asking to pass Budget Amendment Ordinance 2023-14 previously introduced which is a retroactive budget amendment to recognize the additional income that we had received January through May and to fund some of the shortages that we had in a few of the accounts.

Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Linkey to approve Budget Amendment 2023-14.

All in Favor: Motion Carried.

New Business

United Way of Cecil County Request to Rental Fees for use of Lower Ferry Park

Melissa Tupp, 218 Chestnut Drive, the Executive Director of the United Way of Cecil County, are asking for use of the portion of Lower Ferry Park next to the brewery to host their kids cuts events and to get the fees waived. They are going to have games and things going on in the park during the kid's haircuts will be taking place inside the brewery. We have several barbers who will be donating their time to do the haircuts. There will also be free school supply giveaways and free lunches and things to do for the families.

Commissioner Linkey inquired if they have to call for an appointment or if they just show up.

Ms. Tupp responded that they can just show up.

Motion was made by Commissioner Snelling and seconded by Commissioner Linkey to approve the United Way event at Lower Ferry Park and to have the fees waived. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Donation Request from PVFD for 100-year anniversary - Mr. Patchell

Mr. Patchell stated that this was discussed at the last Work Session that the Perryville Volunteer Fire Department will be holding their 100-year anniversary community event on September 16, 2023, which will include a parade and they are looking for potential sponsors to make a donation to the event and there are various levels in which to donate. We had discussed donating \$1,000.