

Town of Perryville  
Town Meeting Minutes  
January 2, 2024

Attendance: Commissioners: Michelle Linkey, Robert Taylor, Christina Aldridge, Town Administrator: George Patchell, Police Chief: Robert Nitz, Town Attorney: Fred Sussman, Town Clerk: Jackie Sample

Absent: Mayor: Matthew Roath, Commissioner: Timothy Snelling

The Town Meeting in its entirety can be listened to on the Town web site at [www.perryvillemd.org](http://www.perryvillemd.org).

The January 2, 2024, Town Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Commissioner Linkey.

**Pledge to the Flag**

**Approval of the Town Meeting Agenda**

**Motion** was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Aldridge to approve the January 2, 2024, Town Meeting Agenda as written. **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 December 5, 2023, Town Meeting Minutes, and the December 19, 2023 Work Session Minutes. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

**Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Linkey reported that she attended the Lower Susquehanna Heritage meet and greet held at Rodgers Tavern joined by members from other municipalities. She also attended the Christmas parade and Christmas in the park event. She also wanted to congratulate Corporal Speis for attending and graduating from SWAT School.

**Wastewater and Water Treatment Plant Reports**

Commissioner Taylor reported that they were in full compliance with MDE for Water and NPDES discharge permits for the month of November and December 2023 with the December lab results received to date. There was a major rain event on the 18<sup>th</sup> which caused the wastewater plant to be hydraulically overloaded, which was reported to MDE and the Health Department, there have been 3 episodes in the last month and a half due to the amount of rain that we have gotten. The denitrification project has come to a halt due to a disagreement with the contractor regarding bedrock at the plant which they are having difficulty getting through and they are wanting a lot more money for than what is in their contract. A mixer was pulled for SBR#2, the motor will need repaired and a new propeller for the spare motor was ordered so it can be installed.

Commissioner Linkey inquired if the Water Tower got cleaned out yet.

Mr. Patchell responded that MIDCO diving company had cancelled on us and are supposed to give us a date when they will be back in the area for cleaning of the Water Tower next to the casino. Mr.

Patchell stated for the water plant expansion project the notice to proceed was given to the contractor with the hope that the site will be mobilized in the next 30 days.

Charlene Hall, 1018 Frenchtown Road inquired if Great Wolf has exceeded their water usage.

Commissioner Taylor commented that they have not, he had a conversation with the Water and Wastewater Superintendent today asking how much inflow into the Wastewater Plant we have had percentage wise between before they were open and since they have been open and he stated that it was minimal, like 5%, without Great Wolf we would have overflowed there is no question.

### **Planning and Zoning Report**

Commissioner Aldridge reported that last month she was not here much due to health issues and traveling. She saw several pictures of the Christmas in the Park and the parade, and it looked like it was a great event. The Town is always looking for volunteers. We have a new Community Outreach Coordinator Ashley Hennessy, whose email address can be found online, and she is looking for volunteers. Rodgers Tavern Museum is still open on Friday and Saturdays from 10:30 am to 5:30 pm. Commissioner Aldridge inquired if it had been announced yet about the Cecil Lights Winter Nights.

Mr. Patchell responded that we have not put that on Facebook, but we are obviously still participating, our snowflake lights will be staying up on Aiken Avenue.

### **Public Works Report**

Mr. Patchell announced that DPW is continuing to monitor the water pressure and various flows in our vault system to make sure that we are not getting surges in our water distribution system. We hired a new employee who started just before Christmas, leaving just one employee short in that department.

### **Administrative Staff Report**

Mr. Patchell stated that we started with the sale of the boat ramp permits this morning, there were probably about 10 or 12 people in line at 8 am for the sale of the permits, around 20 out-of-state sold, and several in state. We are also in the process of putting together our calendars for recycling and trash for the upcoming year as well as the yard waste schedule. Mr. Patchell commented that the Christmas trees 6 feet tall or smaller are also being picked up on Mondays with the regular trash for the month of January.

Commissioner Linkey inquired if we mulch them.

Mr. Patchell commented that they are taken to the landfill and Cecil County Landfill has a separate section where they are collected and then mulched.

Commissioner Taylor mentioned that he had spoken to someone a couple of weeks ago that had mentioned that they use the boat ramp only twice a year, once in the spring to dock it for the summer and again on the fall to take it out. Commissioner Taylor suggested maybe looking at a different class of boat ramp stickers basically for a one time use at the beginning and end of the year for \$5 or something like that for consideration.

Jim Eberhardt, who resides at 445 Sumpter Drive, commented that he is one of those people that just put their boat in at the beginning and take it out at the end of the season. He has been told that what

you are actually paying for is to park your boat trailer there and that once you launched your boat and left the permit would not apply to someone like that.

Commissioner Linkey believes that what he is saying is that he would bring his boat down to the ramp and launch it and then someone would drive your trailer to another location so that it will not be parked at the boat ramp and not be charged.

Mr. Eberhardt responded that is what his understanding has been.

Mr. Patchell commented that typically our officers are looking for someone that has parked the trailer in the spot for a period of time and that they have a permit. He does not believe that they are looking for someone that is just launching a boat to see if they have the annual pass on the trailer at that time.

### **Town Administrators Report - George Patchell**

Mr. Patchell reported on the various projects that are going on. The Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project is about 95% complete. We are hoping by the end of this week, or the following week Pump Station 4 will be completed, and we will be pumping without the bypass pump at that Station, so after two and a half years that project will come to an end. As mentioned earlier, The Water Treatment Plant expansion project contractor M2 received a notice to proceed on December 15<sup>th</sup> with the hope for them to mobilize the site in the next 30 days. As Commissioner Taylor had mentioned we are having some difficulty at the Wastewater Treatment Plant with the ENR project, mainly getting the steel columns down in the ground because of the bedrock, we are meeting with the contractor in the next week or two to discuss our options. The Otsego Street renovation project survey is complete and our Town Engineer, Ralph Ryan, is in the process of putting together the plans for that project to hopefully be finished in the time frame of January 2025 to go out to bid. Kevin Pampuch from AECOM was here in December to discuss where we are as far as The Water Distribution study, we are near the end of the study. We are identifying some areas of the distribution system that need to be upgraded, as well as working on the various flow rates that we have in a couple of the vaults throughout Town. The hope is that the Route 222 sidewalk project will begin in April of next year to be completed in 2025. We are in the design phase for the Ice House Park shoreline project and recently filled out the necessary paperwork for the \$75,000 grant that we received through DNR Gateway Program. The compensation study kickoff was held on November 28<sup>th</sup> and we are in the process of getting various information from other municipalities for comparison.

Dianne Barrick, 412 Roundhouse Drive, questioned Otsego Street and the sidewalks on Route 222 being another whole year before anything starts on them.

Mr. Patchell responded that we are hoping to do it sooner but we are also dealing with the County on this because it will require us to do MS4, so we will have to go through the stormwater management process when we start digging through the State and the County which could take some time, but are hoping to get it engineered and done sooner than January.

Commissioner Aldridge inquired if there were any updates on our Circuit Rider.

Mr. Patchell responded that she has applied for several grants, and he wanted to thank the members of the board that provided letters for a grant that was done for the Outreach Program. She is also looking into the process of Susquehanna River Basin grants for us to be able to track our water consumption for our residents through an aerial antenna that would come off the top of the Town Hall

instead of our DPW having to drive down the streets and collect the data. It is a very competitive grant but one that she plans to work on in January.

### **Police Report - Chief Nitz**

Chief Nitz mentioned that his entire report can be found on-line. The officers issued 73 citations and 75 warnings for various traffic infractions along with 16 town parking citations and a total of 7 tractor trailers were stopped on Aiken Avenue for violating the road restrictions. There were 2 arrests for drug abuse violations, 5 DUI arrests and a total of 23 criminal arrests, prepared 34 reports, along with responding to 405 calls for service. There were 263 speed camera citations issued along Aiken Avenue for the month of December, slightly more, some of them have not shown up in the system yet. There were 34 calls for law enforcement for the month of December for Great Wolf Lodge. New Years Eve Great Wolf Lodge hosted a New Years Eve celebration and were anticipating 4,000 people in attendance and believes that they had every bit of that and requested an officer to be on hand for which they are being billed. There was only one incident that occurred during that time involving a disorderly intoxicated person. Chief Nitz gave some overall stats from 2022 compared to 2023-year end stats. In 2022 officers responded to 3,807 calls and 4,828 in 2023, about a 26 to 27% increase. Traffic citations were 355 in 2022, 598 this year, 600 warnings for 2022 versus 1,551 in 2023. DUI's have been pretty steady at 27 for 2023, he will have to go back and look at that number he thought there was more than that. He commented the drug citations are slightly down from 74 in 2022 and 52 in 2023, probably attributed to the new marijuana laws in July. The marijuana laws have inhibited our ability to get in a vehicle to search it, not being able to search it based on the odor of marijuana which led to other hard substances. The speed camera has seen a steady decrease since its inception in February, starting at about 630 to 650, which has dropped to 297 as of today, versus the 264 that I reported. The total for the 2023 year of the speed camera citations issued was 4,161 versus 1.3 million vehicles that traveled on Aiken Avenue in 2023, representing about 0.003%. He wanted to thank Danielle and her crew for everything that they did for Christmas.

Commissioner Linkey made note that we currently have two officers in the Academy and when they come out in August we will be fully staffed.

Commissioner Aldridge inquired if there was an update on the missing teen.

Chief Nitz reported that the teen was not a missing person, he actually ran away, and the case is still being actively worked on.

Ms. Hall, who resides at 1018 Frenchtown Road, asked if someone is high and pulled over how they differentiate if they are intoxicated with alcohol and impaired driving.

Chief Nitz explained that there are different tests for alcohol, such as the standard sobriety test, plus the standardized field sobriety test and additional battery of tests that they would have to go through the breath test giving them the opportunity to blow and it will indicate 0 because they are only testing for alcohol, at that point they can call for a drug recognition expert and if they are available they can come and run an additional battery of tests and then offer a blood test which they can refuse.

Ms. Hall commented that marijuana is now legal.

Chief Nitz responded that it is not legal to drive while being impaired, it is based on your observations and a battery of tests.

## **Outreach Program Report**

Ms. Hemling wanted to give a shoutout to her staff who stepped up to the plate while she was out for two weeks with a broken wrist. This year they helped 135 children with Christmas and 28 families with food. Our biggest donation was from Great Wolf Lodge, we received a \$15,000 donation from them. One of our other biggest donations was from Amazon. The Amazon warehouse in Aberdeen is basically giving us all of their returns, boxes that may have been damaged or something in the truck that gets oil, or something spilled on it, they would otherwise throw away. This particular warehouse is putting those things aside for us to take and Principio Methodist Church is storing them for us to auction off later in the year to benefit them and to assist us with giving to the kids for Christmas and some of that includes dried goods and foods and things like that which can be pushed off to the community as well. Great Wolf Lodge also extended a night to our kids who were adopted for Christmas, they were able to go to Great Wolf and have hot chocolate with Santa and go to the water park as well.

Ms. Hall wanted to let Ms. Hemling know that she is having a huge yard sale to benefit the Chesapeake Feline Association at the legion on January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> and if there is anything that she feels cannot be given away or auctioned off she would be happy to come pick it up if you had anything.

## **Treasurers Report**

Mr. Patchell stated that the full report will be on-line.

## **Public Comment**

Dianne Barrick, Roundhouse Drive, wanted to commend Chief Nitz, the day after the Christmas in the Park Event she was walking and found a debit card on the street. She had posted it on the Perryville community page which he happened to be monitoring and messaged her privately and was able to identify whose it was and return it and they were so thankful.

Jim Eberhardt, who resides at 445 Sumpter Drive, was here to thank the board for their service for the past year. He commented that you spend a great deal of time here and it is a commitment and he wanted to come and maybe give them an incentive for the new year and thank them for the job they do. He also wanted to bring up the volunteers, he is not sure how we recognize our volunteers. He is familiar with a gentleman named Mike Salmon who spent 15 years on the Zoning Appeals Board, and he moved out of Town this past year to Havre De Grace. He is not sure how you recognize long time or short-term volunteers but mentioned that we used to have a volunteer dinner.

Commissioner Linkey stated that we did use to have the volunteer dinners which basically stopped with COVID along with other things that have not restarted yet and we do have a lot of volunteers in the community and throughout and it would be difficult to do any of our jobs without them.

Mr. Eberhardt made note that he has seen something on-line that was posted by someone that is not here tonight talking about us being on the verge of a big surge in residential and commercial wanting to come into Town and a lot of people are asking questions. A lot of people are asking what is going on around the casino. The Wawa location was cleared, and you can read that on the sign but there is a lot of speculation on development. He inquired if we have annex applications to annex property into the Town now.

Commissioner Linkey responded that there is one that has not been applied yet, which Mr. Patchell confirmed that it had not been applied for yet.

Mr. Patchell stated that the water and sewer study was just recently done for 50 Mill Creek and that is the only other property that has come forward for annexation.

Mr. Eberhardt also stated that the big farm behind him between Sumpter Drive and St. Marks has been totally surveyed recently.

Mr. Patchell responded that we do know that the property has been sold but there has been nobody coming forth with an annexation request.

Commissioner Taylor responded that there has been nothing officially coming forward for development from Chesapeake Overlook other than Wawa, anything else would be pure speculation.

## **Old Business**

### **Budget Amendment Ordinance 2023-18**

Mr. Patchell stated that this Budget Amendment was introduced at the last Town Meeting. He read the introductory paragraph again for the record as follows: For the purpose of amending the adopted budget for the Town of Perryville for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, to appropriate for certain purposes certain funds and generally related to amendment of the Town's FY 2024 budget.

**Motion** was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Aldridge to adopt Budget Amendment Ordinance 2023-18. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

## **New Business**

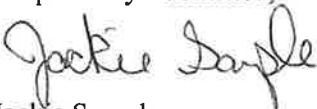
### **Ordinance 2024-01 Vehicles, Recreational and Commercial**

Mr. Patchell read the introductory paragraph on behalf of Commissioner Linkey as follows: Ordinance 2024-01 Vehicles, Recreational and Commercial purpose of altering certain regulations relating to the parking of certain vehicles on public property, including impoundment and penalties for violations; and generally relating to regulation of the parking of certain vehicles on public property in the Town of Perryville by repealing and reenacting, with amendments Chapter 75, Vehicles, Recreational and Commercial, Sections 75-1 through 75-4 Code of the Town of Perryville.

Commissioner Linkey commented that they are basically updating the definition and organizing the penalty steps. Mr. Patchell explained that the changes are in all capital letters.

**Motion** was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Aldridge to adjourn the January 2, 2024 Town Meeting at 7:34 p.m. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Jackie Sample,  
Town Clerk