

**Town of Perryville
Town Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Mayor: Robert R. Ashby Jr., Commissioners: Michelle Linkey, Pete Reich, Robert Taylor, Timothy Snelling, Town Administrator: Denise Breder, Planning and Zoning Director: Dianna Battaglia, Police Chief: Al Miller, Town Clerk: Jackie Sample.

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

The Town Meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Mayor Ashby.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Swearing in Ceremony was performed by the Clerk of the Court for the new Town Commissioner, Tim Snelling.

Consent Agenda Items: Motion was made by Commissioner Linkey and seconded by Commissioner Taylor to approve the Consent Agenda Items as written, which include the August 6, 2019 Town Meeting minutes, the August 20, 2019 Work Session minutes, and the August 20, 2019 Special Meeting minutes. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Mayor Ashby's Report -

Mayor Ashby performed the Swearing in Ceremony for a new Police Officer, Michael Reno, who had spent 25 years at the Baltimore City Police Department at various capacities. He also read a Proclamation for Constitution Week, which is September 17-September 23, 2019.

Commissioner Taylor -

Commissioner Taylor reported that 23 million gallons of water was treated coming into the Wastewater Plant and 21 million gallons was treated going out of the plant, and treated 9.7 million from the V.A. The Wastewater and Water Plants were in full compliance for the month of July and August 2019, with August lab results received to date. Amtrak has completed the tree removal along their Amtrak line, so they are no longer a threat to our intake. Mr. Smith has hired a new employee for the Wastewater and Water Plant.

Commissioner Linkey

Commissioner Linkey reported that the full DPW report will be on-line. She announced that we will be having Town Sweep on November 2, 2019 as part of the Green Team initiative, similar to the Riversweep, this will be in various locations in

town, with more information forthcoming. The Little League field, apart from the sod, should be completed on or around September 13th.

Commissioner Reich -

Commissioner Reich reported that at the last Planning Commission Meeting they approved a preliminary subdivision plat, the area where they are going to put in Great Wolf, and he attended the Outreach Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

Mayors Report

Mayor Ashby announced that some of the Commissioner assignments will remain, Commissioner Taylor will be Commissioner of the Water and Wastewater Plants, Commissioner Linkey will be Commissioner of Public Works and Parks and Recs, and Commissioner Reich will be Planning and Zoning. Commissioner Snelling will now be Commissioner of the Administrative Department and the Mayor will now be overseeing the Public Safety. We had the Lower Ferry event which was bigger than last year. He, along with Ms. Breder and Commissioner Linkey had a meeting with Cecil Avenue residents to work out some things and so they know where we stand. He attended the meeting along with Commissioner Reich regarding the subdivision for Great Wolf. He also attended the Ribbon Cutting for the Outreach Building, this program serves as a model for other programs throughout the County, through the leadership of Danielle along with her staff and Chief Miller and the Police Department. He reported that Friday night Havre De Grace and Perryville will have a football game at home, he believes that the kick-off is at 7 p.m. Saturday is Tap into the Tavern at 3 p.m. on the Rodgers Tavern grounds.

Commissioner Linkey inquired if anyone has heard the rumor that the V.A. was no longer going to have the C.L.C.

Ms. Breder responded that she had not heard that, but now she knows what to ask.

Commissioner Linkey commented that she had heard that they had been bidding out the Community Living Center project for a few years now and were going to build a new building for all the nursing home patients but believes that they are going to refurbish one of the buildings instead now.

Town Administrator Report - Denise Breder

Ms. Breder reported that we are working on a couple of programs with Empower Maryland with Delmarva Power for Grants. We sent one of our DPW Crewpersons to a two day Building Re-tuning Course at Cecil College, the course was \$700 dollars, but under the Energy Efficient Communities Program, the town applied for a grant reimbursement to cover the cost of the training, which would be 100%. Since there is a delay on the new Town Hall, the Public Works Supervisor met with a representative from

the American Energy Corporation to get a proposal for the Perryville Town Hall LED lighting and the benefits from the program. She, along with Ralph, Dianna, and Debra Laubach put together information for an application regarding an Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant for the Fire Station 16 water tie-in, since they have problems with their wells. One of the requirements through the USDA is that we must have a Public Hearing if we are potentially getting funding from them, which is scheduled for October 1st at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall meeting room and the Town Meeting will immediately follow. Saturday, November 2nd, we are using that as a kickoff to our Keep It Clean Perryville program, to continually go around town and clean areas throughout town and take more pride in the community. We got new t-shirts in last week for volunteers. The next Green Team Meeting is scheduled for October 9 at 5:30 p.m. She also wanted to point out that we now have battery recycling boxes in Town Hall, there are some on the back table up here and some downstairs at Town Hall. Some of the costs for the Keep it Clean Perryville, the Town Sweep and the battery recycling box is recovered by a Keep America Beautiful Grant. Ms. Breder, Ralph Ryan, and Commissioner Reich attended a CWEA training for MS4 at the Bel Air Armory on the 13th of August. Some representatives from KCI, one of our contractors met with Aaron Ashford to start the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for the Public Works Building. The project for sidewalks on MD 222 from Clayton Street to the High School has been put on hold temporarily while we are working to get the amendment to the Sustainable Communities Plan, otherwise the Town and the County would have to cover 50% of the construction funding, we are waiting on the State of Maryland for that approval.

Ms. Breder was asked by Mrs. Ruff to express her thanks on her behalf for the town allowing her to connect to their water system, she highlighted areas of Mrs. Ruff's thank you letter to the town. Mrs. Ruff is a resident who lives outside of town limits and came before the board and requested that the connection be considered due to water issues that they have endured for years. She specifically wanted to thank Mayor Ashby and the Town Commissioners, Aaron Ashford, the Public Works Supervisor, Dianna Battaglia, the Planning and Zoning Director, and Joe Tilley, of LECCO Pipeline and Excavating and Ronnie Carpenter, of Carpenter Engineering, LLC., who did some engineering for them.

Mayor Ashby announced that we are having a Hurricane Emergency Preparedness tabletop exercise for the Commissioners and Emergency Response Personnel. This will assist us in preparing for other emergency events that may occur and require evacuation.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Breder highlighted a portion of Ms. Laubach's report on her behalf. She reported that the Auditors have been here for the past two weeks and that everything went well and they have their report and it will be done on time, by October 31st, which is when it is due to the State and they will be here in December to make their presentation.

Police Report – Police Chief Al Miller

Chief Miller reported that American Legion Post 135 sent him a thank you letter for his assistance in providing a letter to them to submit along with a grant application that they were applying for to help them get a Security System for their building. He asked for the community to take a more active role in helping their Police Department better serve the community. They are willing to come to their HOA meetings or invite you to our Police Department and provide you with a list of what you can or cannot do if you witness something.

James Hansen, a resident of 531 Broad Street, brought up an issue that he had when he was at their department this morning talking to the secretary through the glass window and his treatment by one of the undercover officers which he felt was inappropriate.

Chief Miller responded that he would happy to meet with him in private and find out more information to be able to address the situation.

Outreach Program Report - Devon Catts, Activities Coordinator for the Outreach Program

Ms. Catts reported that the overall monthly attendance was 463, there were 61 active members, 0 referrals, and 9 new members. We had an extremely busy, fun, and exciting month over at the Outreach Program. Our junior staff completed their summer work program, funded by the Susquehanna Workforce Network, and we miss them terribly. They all worked so hard throughout the program and we are extremely thankful for the Susquehanna Workforce Network for providing the opportunity for some of our members to get real life work experience. This summer, as we have in the past, we were lucky enough to work with Cecil County Schools. They provided us with free breakfast and lunch for not only our members, but community members as well. We are forever grateful for their support and look forward to working with them again soon. Our members completed various community service projects throughout the summer. This month specifically, our members weeded and collected vegetables from the community garden, weeded the Perryville Elementary School garden, wrote letters to a police officers, and colored letters for service men and woman. Furthermore, some of our members volunteered their time for another nonprofit organization by the name of Cuz We Care. This organization helps families throughout Maryland by providing funeral expenses to families who have unexpectedly lost a child. Our members took this opportunity and flourished with it, to which we are so proud. To reward our members for all their hard work we took them to Hershey Park, The National Aquarium, and Kilby Cream this month. Additionally, this month, we hosted several events. First, we celebrated National Night Out along with our Police Department and Fire Department. This year we had record attendance and we are eagerly excited to begin the planning for next year. Thank you to everyone who came out, volunteered, and supported us with this event. We also hosted our first annual Stuff a Police Car event. At this occasion,

community members had the chance to stuff a police car full of school supplies. We met our goal and then some. With all the donated items, we were able to supply our members and other Perryville students with school supplies. Adding to our busy month, we hosted many summer themed activities at our new home. These include, slip n' slide Fridays, mafia Mondays, crafts with Ms. Jane, water balloon tosses, flag football, and backyard basketball tournaments. We also partook in the summer reading program hosted by the Cecil County Library. Weekly, the bookmobile arrived at Outreach and members were given the chance to receive a book they would like to read throughout the week. Three of our members received prizes for their excellence in reading. We plan to end this month with an "end of summer" party, which we hold every year. Here we will grill up some burgers and hotdogs, listen to music, complete crafts with Ms. Jane, and continue celebrating the great summer we had. Finally, we wrapped our summer up with the official opening and ribbon cutting of the new and improved Outreach Program. We would like to thank the Mayor, Commissioners, and Chief Miller for their outstanding support throughout the renovations and move. Also, specifically Aaron Ashford and his crew and Chris Thompson and his crew for the beauty that is our new home. If you have not yet, please come visit and see what a beautiful job all involved have done. Furthermore, everyone who had lend a hand in making this program grow and flourish into what it is today, thank you. Please go over to Facebook and give our page a like: [facebook.com/PPDOP](https://www.facebook.com/PPDOP). There you can find our monthly schedule, events, and any activities we are currently up to.

Mayor Ashby wanted to thank IKEA for all the extra supplies that they have given to the Outreach Program for the two buildings.

Planning and Zoning Report - Dianna Battaglia

Ms. Battaglia reported that the full report will be on the website, she highlighted a few items. The first-floor decking has been started on the Condo building. Our Code Enforcement position has been vacant, and a new person had been hired and started today and she will be introduced at next months meeting. As the Mayor mentioned earlier Saturday is our Tap into the Tavern Event.

Mayor Ashby asked what the status of the dedication of the road for Chesapeake Overlook was.

Ms. Battaglia reported that we are working through the punch list items, so the improvements can be made and working with Mr. Sussman to get the legal documents in place for us to get the dedication taken care of.

Commissioner Linkey inquired if she had any idea when the 5th Company Brewing LLC. would be opening. She also asked when the condos would be finished and when Tiki Lees would be opening.

Ms. Battaglia responded that we are hoping next year for the Brewing Company and she believes that the Condo HOA President had stated that they were anticipating about 12 to 15 months construction. She is waiting to schedule a meeting with Tiki Lees so that we can get their plans and find out exactly what they want to do, next year they should be open.

A resident in attendance inquired when the date of the Judicial Review was for the former Outlet Mall site.

Ms. Battaglia responded that it is scheduled for the 25th of this month.

The resident inquired what time it was going to be. Commissioner Linkey responded that it was going to be at 1:30 at the Circuit Court in Elkton.

From the Floor

Pat Stetina, with the Perryville Railroad Museum, reported that the window replacement for the museum is proposed to be done on the third week of September, four windows are to be replaced. Two windows will be on the Museum site on the North side of the building and two will be on the South side of the building in the Photo Gallery. They will be the same windows that are there so there will be no historical difference in the windows, and the building will be secured.

Mayor Ashby inquired if we had an update on the Railroad Monument for Lower Ferry.

Ms. Breder responded that it is all ready to be bid, she needs to get it out on the e - Maryland marketplace, probably within the next month and a half a couple of other things took precedence, the USDA application took quite a bit of time.

James Hansen, 531 Broad Street, asked the Mayor and Commissioners why the maintenance department for the town was not required to wear a safety vest while they are out of the vehicle and walking around the streets doing work. He inquired why it seems to be so much of an issue to get them to wear them.

Commissioner Linkey responded that they are required to wear safety vests when they are in a roadway, and since you had last spoken to Aaron, we have purchased new neon t-shirts when they are out and about in the summer months when it is hotter out so that they will be still be very visible if they do not have their safety vests on because of the heat. They are working on a policy to further document procedures and the ability to provide counseling and reprimands for that.

Carolyn Brown and Deena Reiber from Rustic Court expressed serious concerns over four homes on their small street with a cul-de-sac with 66 townhomes on it. We think some of them are group homes for the VA and we believe that one of them is a

halfway house for an addiction program. She commented that we know that drugs are being dealt out of at least one of the houses. She knows that the Town and the County both have guidelines and that none of these issues should exist in our neighborhood. They are asking for assistance from the Town to enforce these codes. One of the houses, believed to be the halfway homes, have four dogs including a Rottweiler and St Bernard and two other dogs which they walk around without leashes on them. We have encouraged the other residents that are also expressing concerns to continue to call the Police Department to no avail. She would like to get some guidance on what they need to do.

Mayor Ashby responded that some of her concerns would be deferred to Ms. Battaglia and some to Mr. Sussman.

Ms. Battaglia responded that she will research the various codes that we have to see what can be done. Further discussion ensued.

Mayor Ashby asked if Mr. Sussman had anything to add to these concerns.

Mr. Sussman responded that he is listening and taking it all in and would have to talk to Ms. Battaglia, some of his questions that come to mind, are if the dogs are licensed. He does not know enough about these homes and their occupants and their licensing to be able to define whether they are legitimately operating or not, that requires additional information. He will work with Ms. Battaglia to identify all of this and try to work out a course of action.

Ms. Brown inquired what the process is to get this started to make it official, Commissioner Reich responded that she just did.

Ms. Breder responded that we do have a process and a form if you want to make a complaint in the future and includes tracking so you can get hold of the Administrative staff to see who was following up on it. We will make sure that it gets put on-line if it is not already.

Ms. Reiber commented that she had called several weeks back to schedule a meeting with the code enforcement officer to see what could be done but did not get a response. She called again today and was told that a new person just started in that position and that we needed to file a complaint but was not sure what was against the law and what was not for this particular situation, so we know where we stand.

Mr. Sussman will follow up with Ms. Battaglia tomorrow and try to acquire what additional information is needed to address this issue accordingly.

Commissioner Linkey inquired if they have anything in their HOA bylaws that would address this issue.

Ms. Brown responded that they do, and they are moving forward with some of those.

PTO Report - Christina Aldridge - President

Ms. Aldridge reported on upcoming events at the Perryville Elementary School. On September 6 students will be participating in a school wide Panda Spirit Day, on September 17 there will be a food distribution at the school in the gym area from 4-5 p.m., and on September 18 there will be a Back to School Night from 6- 8 p.m. for parents and relatives to come to tour the school. They will be having a Halloween event coming up with the town and the Christmas event will be amazing, she will have more information coming up soon.

New Business

Susquehanna River Running Festival - Request from Dominic Corson for a 5k run on September 26, 2020 from Perryville to Havre De Grace and back.

Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Reich to approve the Susquehanna River Running Festival. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

600 Cole Street - Consideration of a water and sewer abatement request for 600 Cole Street.

Motion was made by Commissioner Linkey and seconded by Commissioner Taylor to approve the request for a water and sewer abatement for 600 Cole Street. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Mill Creek Restoration - Consideration of Mill Creek Restoration Plans.

Ms. Breder stated that this is a request to do the work to restore the fish passage at the Mill Creek Stream on the Town's property off of Reservoir Road. She stated if you decide to approve it, she would like to see a condition that says, to continue working with Town staff for the applicant to have a maintenance agreement.

Motion was made by Commissioner Reich and seconded by Commissioner Linkey to approve the Mill Creek Restoration plans contingent upon a maintenance plan agreement. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Board of Appeals Reappointments - Request for re-appointments of 4 current members of the Board of Appeals, Tim Parker, Wayne Kommalan, Mike Salmon, and William Malesh.

Motion was made by Commissioner Linkey and seconded by Commissioner Taylor to approve the Board of Appeals re-appointments as presented. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Planning and Zoning Reappointments - Request for a re-appointment of a current member, Henry Barrett to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Motion was made by Commissioner Linkey and seconded by Commissioner Taylor to approve the Planning and Zoning re-appointment as presented. **All in Favor: Motion Carried**

Christmas in the Park Event - Request to serve mulled wine and spiced cider at the Christmas in the Park Event.

Commissioner Snelling inquired how long the alcohol would be served.

Ms. Battaglia responded that it would be between 3-5 p.m.

Commissioner Reich inquired if there was going to be a designated area to serve alcohol.

Commissioner Taylor responded that this year that was not done at the Lower Ferry event.

Commissioner Linkey is hesitant with alcohol being served during a Christmas event which is more family oriented.

Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Snelling to approve the request to serve alcohol at the Christmas in the Park Event. **Three in Favor, 2 nays** (Commissioner Linkey, Commissioner Reich): **Motion Carried.**

Ordinance 2019-15 - Introduction of a Public Safety home ownership incentive Ordinance.

Mayor Ashby read the introductory paragraph of Ordinance 2019-15 Public Safety Home Ownership Incentive authorizing a monetary incentive for Perryville Fire Company active or lifetime members, or Perryville Police Officers, who own and reside in a home in Perryville Town limits.

Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Reich to adjourn the September 3, 2019 Town Meeting at 8:10 p.m. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



Jackie Sample
Perryville Town Clerk