

**Town of Perryville
Town Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2020**

ATTENDANCE: Mayor: Robert R. Ashby Jr., Commissioners: Pete Reich, Timothy Snelling, Town Administrator: Denise Breder, Finance Director: Debra Laubach, Planning and Zoning Director: Dianna Battaglia, Police Chief: Al Miller, Police Lieutenant: Robert Nitz, Police Sergeant: Dale Hoffman, Police Officers: Gerald Morgan, Richard Huffstutler, Michael Reno, Former Lieutenant: Keith Budnick, Outreach Director: Danielle Hemling, Town Attorney: Fred Sussman, Town Clerk: Jackie Sample.

Absent: Commissioner Linkey, Commissioner Taylor

Mayor Ashby stated that there will be remote participation with Commissioner Taylor later in the meeting and he will be called at the appropriate time.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The Town Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Ashby.

Approval of the Town Meeting Agenda

Mayor Ashby asked if everyone got a chance to review the agenda and if so if there were any changes or additions to the agenda. There were no changes, so they were approved as written.

Consent Agenda Items: Mayor Ashby asked if there were any changes or additions to any of consent agenda meeting minutes, which are the January 7, 2020 Charter Amendment Resolution 2020-01 Term Transition Public Hearing Minutes, the January 7, 2020 Charter Amendment Resolution 2020-02 No Challenger Election Public Hearing Minutes, the January 7, 2020 Town Meeting Minutes, the January 21, 2020 Work Session Minutes, and the January 21, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes. There were no additions or changes, so the minutes were approved as written.

Mayor Ashby asked Chief Miller to come forward, along with Officer Hoffman. Chief Miller wanted to thank the Mayor and the Commissioners, along with the Town Administrator for their support of the Perryville Police Department. Chief Miller promoted Corporal Hoffman to the rank of Police Sergeant, he started in 2007 and became a detective in 2010, he was promoted to Corporal in September of 2019. Corporal Hoffman started the police bicycle unit, along with the bicycle registration, he established policy for the Neighborhood Watch Program, and was a training officer for the younger officers and currently oversees our fingerprinting and i.d. sections. Chief Miller pinned Corporal Hoffman with a new badge and presented him with a certificate for his new status as a Sergeant.

Mayor Ashby asked Sergeant Nitz and former Police Lieutenant Keith Budnick to come forward. Chief Miller promoted Sergeant Nitz to the rank of Lieutenant, he started in 2011 and was promoted to the rank of Corporal in 2016, then to the rank of Sergeant in 2018. He graduated from the Greater Chesapeake Law Enforcement Executive Development School in 2015 and graduated from the Cecil Leadership Development School in 2019 and graduated with his bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland in 2019. He started our first youth panel with Danielle Hemling, the Outreach Director, and he participates in Shop with a Cop and Fishing with the Fuzz. Former Lieutenant Budnick pinned Sergeant Nitz with his new badge and Chief Miller presented him with his Certificate of Appointment as Lieutenant.

Commissioners Report

Commissioner Reich's Report -

Commissioner Reich stated the full Planning and Zoning report will be on the website. Last week he presented a Proclamation from the Town of Perryville on behalf of the Mayor to a teacher who was retiring after many years of service whose name is Stephen Chrismer.

Commissioner Snelling

Commissioner Snelling reported that he attended the Perryville Fire Company banquet on January 11 along with the Mayor and fellow Commissioners. Ms. McCardell has reported to him that the parks position has been filled along with the public works crewman position. She also stated that the code enforcement position was open, and they are still reviewing the job description. On-Site is currently setting up ESET antivirus software in all of the computers owned by the town. He is in the process of setting up meetings to meet with office staff on a monthly basis, along with the Town Administrator.

Mayor Ashby's Report -

Mayor Ashby reported that he attended the quarterly casino meeting and he also attended Cecil Night in Annapolis for the first time. He attended the Fire Company Banquet and our 2020 events meeting with office staff and a Lego meeting at the Good Shepherd School, he also participated in Hot Wing Roulette at the Casino, which proceeds benefit Human trafficking and the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Domino's Pizza that was on Saturday.

Christina Aldridge – Perryville Elementary School PTO President

Ms. Aldridge stated that February is Heart Association month and the PTO is promoting a Jump Rope for Heart Challenge through February 14. Students are able to go on-line and pick out one of three challenges to work toward achieving to raise funds for the Heart Association. Family Fitness night is coming up on February 19th from 5-7 p.m., a free for families event that includes Martial Arts, Jazzercise, an obstacle course, and a mindfulness group with food provided by Subworks and paid for by the PTO toward the end of the event. We will be sponsoring a Dad's breakfast, or whoever the child wants to join them, on February 28th. In an effort for the Perryville Elementary School to seek their Green School Certification the students

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are sorting trash from recycled materials from the classroom and cafeteria every day and are learning on how to recycle at home and get their community involved.

Town Administrators Report - Denise Breder

Ms. Breder reported that February 11 at 10:00 a.m. is our next Leadership meeting for the Department heads and if you have anything that you would like to be discussed please let her know before then. The next Green Team Meeting is March 11 at 5:30 p.m. here in this room which is a committee for sustainability and environmental practices and we would love to have new members. The Greenway Committee, which is about walking, biking and hiking trails in the Heritage area is March 25th at 10 a.m. in the conference room in the back.

Treasurer's Report - Debra Laubach

Ms. Laubach stated that her whole report can be found on-line, but she had some items she wanted to highlight. We are still working on the Enterprise Lease agreement that we and our Attorney are comfortable with and have been finally able to compromise on one that should go into place very soon. We also produced a trash RFP which has been posted and the cutoff date is February 14. We have received a lot of participation and questions and it appears that at least 4 contractors are very interested in submitting a proposal. We just did our first addendum where we addressed all of the questions that had been asked so far. She also met with PNC who are changing their pricing structure for many of their different accounts, we discussed the different ways that we can minimize the costs for the overall town for the future. She is also looking at different vendors to possibly reduce the service fees that we get charged every month for people using credit cards. We previously had a contract with a company named Agera, who was our electric distributor, they were the cheapest one at the time under the Maryland bidding process but have recently filed bankruptcy and no longer can service us. We recently have received huge increases in our electricity bills especially at the Water Plant and Sewer Plants. We are now in the process of trying to find another discounted supplier to replace them, which she will discuss later in the meeting.

Mayor Ashby reported that there was nobody here from the VA or the Fire Department tonight.

Outreach Report - Danielle Hemling

Ms. Hemling reported that the overall attendance was 633 this month with 77 active members and we provided 359 meals this month. The members spent some time outdoors this month taking advantage of the warmer days. The members sent letters to the men and women combating the Australian brush fires. Members also participated in a Charity Miles run for the Australian Fundraiser, the World Wildlife Fund, and the American Red Cross. Members also put together care packages to send to locals who have recently been deployed, and some of the members participated in the American Food Bank Distribution at the Perryville Elementary School. We donated books that our children were not reading to a non-profit organization called Better World Books, which donates to underfunded libraries. Ms. Jane came twice this month where she, along with some of the members, did watercolors and nail and string art. Ms. Lynn

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did origami with the kids teaching them how to make various animals. As the month ended, we were lucky enough to find a staff member to take the over the vacant Activities Coordinator position whose name is Kayleigh Nesbitt and she will be starting this coming Monday. We will introduce her next month. Ms. Hemling has been working with Ms. Laubach, Ms. Breder, and the Town Attorney to look into getting a 501c fund designated for Outreach. This would be creating a separate board or foundation that would be able to apply for funds. The board would be made up of Town individuals, but we would also want an Ex-Officio on the board, such as one of one of your Commissioners or the Mayor. She just wanted us to be aware and okay with this before moving forward.

Commissioner Reich responded that he would be honored to sit on that board if the rest of the board was okay with that, which Mayor Ashby agreed to if we get to that point.

Police Report - Police Chief Al Miller

Chief Miller announced that our PNC Bank in Perryville was robbed last Tuesday and less than a week later the suspect has been placed in custody in Delaware thanks to the Perryville Police Departments investigative work and our allied police agencies. Today at the Police Department we hosted training for our local Police Departments, the Rising Sun and Northeast Police Departments. In 2018 the Perryville Police Department received the Governors Award. Our Police Department has come a long way over the years thanks to our residents, the Mayor and Commissioners, the Town Administrator, our Attorney and everyone else involved. The two gentleman promoted earlier will be the future of the Perryville Police Department since his tenure will be on the way down next year. Sergeant Nitz and Officer Morgan received letters from the States Attorneys Office and from the House of Delegates for their exceptional work. In November the Bel Air Police Department requested that Corporal Hoffman sit in on their interview board in Bel Air for their Police Department for their Corporal's position.

Commissioner Snelling and Commissioner Reich wanted to thank the Chief and the Police Officers for the job that they do for the town.

Planning and Zoning Staff Report - Dianna Battaglia

Ms. Battaglia stated that her full report will be on-line, she reported that a lot of seeds have been planted for different businesses in town and we will see activity soon, and she will leave it at that. We did have the Dominos which opened recently, and he has 17 other locations through the Eastern Shore, so we are excited about what else this may be able to bring here. The Rodgers Tavern Museum is opened every Thursday from 12-4 p.m. and the first and third Saturday of the month from 12-4 p.m., and we are looking to have a lot of events down there.

Commissioner Reich asked for her comments on the condition of the former outlet property.

Ms. Battaglia reported that it looked like a bomb zone. We had received some complaints from people about the condition there at Heather Lane. Ms. Battaglia assisted in picking up trash along Heather Lane with a group called Cecil Cares, so we have somewhat

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taken a personal interest up there to keep it clean. When we got complaints about the former outlet site, we arranged to have an inspection of the site with the owner who has the entrance locked. We contacted Cecil County who is our building authority and also had two officers go with us. They opened the gates and let us go down there and got out their vehicles and waited there while we walked through the property. She was in shock at the condition of the buildings which used to house the outlet stores. There was not an intact pane of glass and we took some photos. The property is not fenced so there is no way of keeping people out of there and we did not pursue looking that hard to establish if anyone was living there or not. The County issued a letter to the property owner that they have 90 days to either secure the premises or demolish it. The owner was not happy about that, according to an article in the paper they stated that they left it that way for the town so that it could be used for training. There was one time that she is aware of that the Fire Company used it for training which was a while ago and she is not aware of any agreement for use for training. The Fire Company is not in charge of our buildings and we wanted to assure the health, safety and welfare of our community and that we get that taken care of. We have another business up there, the former KFC that we are trying to market and get control of the trash people are dumping. She is waiting on getting a schedule with the developer for the former outlet property who wants to come in with a plan, and she does not know what that plan is so stay tuned.

Commissioner Reich thinks that you also need to make the town people aware that this is private property and you cannot go on it without permission or without a warrant.

Ms. Battaglia stated that it is private property and Heather Lane is private, it is not a Town road.

Ms. Aldridge inquired if once the developer comes in with the plan if the public will get a chance to speak on it.

Ms. Battaglia responded that the Planning Commission will have a meeting of whatever plan they bring in and it will be posted accordingly. The third Monday of the month is when the Planning Commission meets if they have something to be discussed, she said to look for them to possibly be on the March agenda because she has heard that they wanted to submit something for that meeting.

Commissioner Reich made note that it will not come before our board unless they are asking for a Zoning change.

Mayor Ashby wanted to reiterate that he had directed Ms. Battaglia to call the County to go up there and inspect for the general health and safety of the residents, wanting it shuttered or torn down. If that outlet was to catch fire it borders County properties along with houses in Perryville. We finally got Bob's 3 Cs property condemned and the owner has submitted for demolition permits, so that will be another condemned property tore down.

Mayor Ashby asked if there was anyone to speak from the floor, and if so to state your name and please keep your comments under three minutes.

From the Floor

Don Harmer introduced himself, he is a Candidate for County Council District 5, and is the Chairman of the Board of the Cecil County Parks and Rec and a member of the Planning Commission, and is familiar with a lot of the things that you are talking about. He has worked with Commissioner Snelling on the liquor board in Annapolis and different things over the years. He wanted to introduce himself and put a face to his name in the event anyone has questions during his campaign about what he has done or what his objectives are for the County. He is impressed tonight with how organized you are, he has been trying to work his way around to all of the different town meetings, and that the County and the Towns should all be working together.

New Business

5th Company Brewing

Mayor Ashby stated that we have a request for consideration of a request for an easement for 5th Company Brewing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Reich and seconded by Commissioner Snelling to approve the easement for 5th Company Brewing. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Snelling asked if this was going to be a permanent easement.

Ms. Battaglia responded that we have not gotten the agreement yet, she asked if he has a preference.

Commissioner Snelling wanted to know if it was just while this business was in operation.

Ms. Battaglia responded that you can tie it to the business and if the business changes hands she can work with Mr. Sussman to ensure that we get an agreement that is in the best interest of the town. She is waiting for them to provide that so that he can review it.

Ms. Breder asked if you can tie it to the use and not just the business itself.

Mayor Ashby thought that is what this easement was when we last discussed this, that it was specific to the use.

Mr. Sussman responded that to his knowledge no easement agreement has been prepared yet so he believes this is here for information to the Mayor and Commissioners and you would still have to approve the final easement document after it has been prepared.

Commissioner Reich asked to withdraw his motion and restate it.

Mayor Ashby asked for a motion for 5th Company Brewery consideration of an easement.

Motion was made by Commissioner Reich and seconded by Commissioner Snelling for consideration of an easement for 5th Brewing Company. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

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Mayor Ashby moved the last two items on the agenda up next so that the Budget Amendments and Local Impact needing super majority votes are last.

IT Contract for FY 21&22 - Debra Laubach

Ms. Laubach stated that we had received a proposal from our current IT supplier for two years, increasing the monthly charge in both the Police Department and rest of the town by \$550 a month. Ms. Laubach felt that this was a very fair increase considering the amount of work that they do for us.

Motion was made by Commissioner Reich and seconded by Commissioner Snelling to approve the contracts for IT services. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Little League Agreement

Mayor Ashby asked for a motion for approval of the Little League Agreement.

Motion was made by Commissioner Reich and seconded by Commissioner Snelling to approve the Little League Agreement between the Town of Perryville and the Perryville Little League. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Mayor Ashby noted that we will not need remote participation now because Commissioner Taylor has arrived.

Amendments for Budget Amendment Ordinance 2020-02 - Ms. Laubach

Ms. Laubach reminded the board that she had stated at the Work Session that there was going to be an adjustment to this Budget Amendment as originally presented because we had just discovered that we needed to budget in \$3,400 for an actuary study to be done, which is required every two years.

Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Reich to adopt the amendment to Budget Amendment Ordinance 2020-02 as written. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Reich to adopt Budget Amendment Ordinance 2020-02 as amended. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Local Impact Budget 2021-2023 Ms. Laubach

Ms. Laubach stated that this was presented and discussed at the last Special Meeting and she is requesting for a motion to be approved as presented.

Motion was made by Commissioner Reich and seconded by Commissioner Taylor to approve the Local Impact Budget for FY 2021-FY 2023. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Ms. Breder wanted the board to be aware that on February 24th she and Ms. Laubach will be going to the Cecil County Government to present this Local Impact Budget to the Local Development Counsel and they may or may not have comments on it. She believes they have 45

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days from the presentation to make their comments and once they get through that process it will come back and be incorporated into our full budget for FY 2021, for the first year.

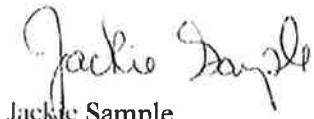
Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Reich to adjourn the February 4, 2020 Town Meeting at 7:52 p.m. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Mr. Maggiore inquired if there was anything in any of these amendments that effects the Reservoir or Reservoir Road.

Ms. Breder responded that Budget Amendment 2020-02 incorporates the cost to do the survey.

The original motion to adjourn the February 4, 2020 Town Meeting was stated again by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Reich at the same time of 7:52 p.m. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jackie Sample".

Jackie Sample
Perryville Town Clerk