

**Town of Perryville
Town Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2021**

ATTENDANCE: Mayor: Robert R. Ashby Jr., Assistant Town Administrator: Cathy McCardell, Police Chief: Robert Nitz, Police Lieutenant: Michael Reno, Police Corporal: Gerard Morgan, Police Officer: Themis Speis, Town Clerk: Jackie Sample.

Remote Participation: Town Commissioners: Michelle Linkey, Timothy Snelling, Robert Taylor, Christina Aldridge, Town Administrator: Denise Breder, Finance Director: Debra Laubach, Town Attorney: Fred Sussman.

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

The February 2, 2021 Town Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Ashby.

Mayor Ashby announced that since the Commissioners are attending remotely, after discussion he would individually ask people for comments or motions and everything will be a roll call vote. Mayor Ashby asked that the record reflect that Commissioner Linkey, Taylor, Snelling, and Aldridge will all be attending via speaker phone. He confirmed with each of them individually that they could hear him, and he confirmed that he could hear them and that all votes taken during the meeting will be by roll call vote.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of the Town Meeting Agenda

Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Snelling to approve the February 2, 2021 Agenda as written. **Roll Call Vote:** Commissioner Linkey: Aye, Commissioner Taylor: Aye, Commissioner Snelling: Aye, Commissioner Aldridge: Aye, Mayor Ashby: Aye, **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Linkey's Report -

Commissioner Linkey thanked DPW for continuing to take care of the roads during the storms. There are still two vacancies in their department, one for Public Works and one for the park.

Mayor Ashby asked the board members individually if they had any questions of Commissioner Linkey's report, which they did not.

Commissioner Taylor's Report -

Commissioner Taylor reported that we got a letter back from the SRBC, in regard too, our overflow that we experienced a couple of months ago and they accepted our explanation for the overflow and there will be no fines for the violation. We also met the required numbers for January testing and were under the nitrogen limits for 2020 so we will be receiving a \$60,000 grant from MDE for that.

Mayor Ashby asked the board members individually if they had any questions of Commissioner Taylor's report, which they did not.

Commissioner Snelling's Report -

Commissioner Snelling reported that he had a meeting with Ms. Battaglia, the Planning and Zoning Director, this afternoon. He was unable to attend or participate in the January Planning and Zoning meeting. His understanding is that it involved a discussion regarding possible text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. There is a target date for 5th Company Brewery, which is Memorial Day. He also wanted to add that Charles Hicks has been working with the business owners in town and is continuing to do that and is doing a great job and wanted to thank him for that. The Planning and Zoning full report will be on-line.

Mayor Ashby asked the board members individually if they had any questions of Commissioner Snelling's report, which they did not.

Commissioner Aldridge's Report -

Commissioner Aldridge reported on the Administrative Department. that the W-2's have been processed. She reported that we have a park opening and have hired two new Police Officers, one starting January 4th and the other on January 18. The Water and Sewer billing extension was granted at the last meeting for due dates. 64 door hangers went out and 24 residents were shut off on January 19, 2021, 29 leak letters went out to various residents. The 4th quarter 2020 billing went out January 20, 2021 and are due February 22, 2021. 4 data logs were prepared for residents. There are 16 new payment plans and 2 new meters were installed.

Commissioner Linkey asked if she said that water was shut off.

Commissioner Aldridge reported that yes 24 residents were shut off on January 19th.

There were no other questions from the remaining board members, Mayor Ashby asked Ms. McCardell if she had anything to add regarding the water shut offs.

Ms. McCardell responded that Governor Hogan's office had not renewed the Executive Order regarding water shut offs and we had 24 residents who still had not paid anything and had payment plans, which is why they were shut off.

Mayor Ashby's Report -

Mayor Ashby reported that through him the Town of Perryville had sent 3 officers to Washington DC to stand guard at the Inauguration, the 3 officers were Corporal Morgan, Officer Pierson, and Officer Huffstutler who did an outstanding job. Mayor Ashby received a recommendation back from who invited us that we will be invited 4 years from now at the next Inauguration since they did such an outstanding job of representing our town. He asked Chief Nitz if he had anything more to add to this.

Chief Nitz stated that the 3 officers participated in the 59th Inauguration of the President of the United States. The officers were able to experience that with various other agencies throughout the country. Our officers were represented as part of the Lancaster-Cecil Counties Multijurisdictional 59th Presidential Inaugural Task Force.

Swearing in Ceremony

Chief Nitz introduced the new officer Themis Speis, who is a 10 - year veteran who previously worked for a Pennsylvania Police Department. In that time, he attended SWAT training and various other training. He currently lives in Pennsylvania and is currently looking for a place to move closer to town.

Mayor Ashby performed the Swearing in Ceremony for the new Police Officer Themis Speis.

Chief Nitz gave a summary about Mike Reno, an existing officer, who was a 26-year veteran who retired from the Baltimore Police Department with various assignments during that time. He had leadership roles with both the Baltimore Police Department and the US Army and has exhibited a lot of informal leadership roles leading to him to taking this more formal step into being appointed to Lieutenant for our Department.

Mayor Ashby performed the Swearing in Ceremony for Michael Reno as a Lieutenant.

Treasurer's Report - Debra Laubach

Ms. Laubach announced that the full report will be on-line. She stated that they have been able to review all the financial statements through December and brought them current and has done an analysis on revenue and expenditures. We will be under budget this year, and she will be presenting that at the next Work Session if there is time, along with a report that will be easier for the Mayor and Commissioners to follow and find useful for their department. We have been staying on top of the grants and submitting reimbursements as they came due, however, the turnaround time for getting the money has been slow. Cecil County owes us for two of the COVID reimbursements and we are owed a couple from the State of Maryland, but they will eventually come in. Because of COVID we have accelerated our schedules for the budget this year and want to make sure that everything has been done and has been reviewed and that the Commissioners have had plenty of time to look at all the numbers. We have scheduled meetings

with department heads and if everything goes as scheduled, that should be complete by next Friday. She will be sending out tentative times and days to all the Commissioners so that they can pick which days to start having budget meetings.

Mayor Ashby asked the board members individually if they had any questions of Ms. Laubach's report, which they did not.

Police Report - Chief Nitz

Chief Nitz stated that his full report can be found on-line. Chief Nitz reported that the first round of the COVID vaccinations have been distributed and approximately half of the department have received the vaccination. Maryland is currently in Phase 1C of distribution of the vaccinations. We have continued to assign an officer to assist Pastor Sheppard and the Outreach Department to deliver non-perishable food items to those in need. In addition to Officer Speis, we hired one other officer who started on January 18th, and we are waiting on some uniforms and preliminary training to take effect before we do the swearing in, which should be next month.

Mayor Ashby asked the board members individually if they had any questions of the Chief's report.

Commissioner Snelling inquired if the officers that attended the Inauguration were requested from some government office, or did we volunteer the services of our officers.

Chief Nitz responded that it was a result of some connections that Mayor Ashby had that we were invited to participate. It was originally supposed to be the Lancaster County Inaugural Task Force, once the offer was extended to us it became the Lancaster-Cecil County Inaugural Task Force and it was a fully funded trip between the Metropolitan Police Department and the US Secret Service. They picked up the bill for both regular salary, overtime, and their lodging in DC while they were there for four days.

There were no other questions from the remaining board members.

Outreach Report -

Chief Nitz reported that the biggest thing is that we partnered with the Outreach Program for distribution of the non-perishable food items. Ms. Hemling is continuing to operate as a satellite office for Cecil County Public Schools for educational purposes.

Mayor Ashby asked the board members individually if they had any questions of the Outreach report, which they did not.

Commissioner Taylor asked if he could bring up a point while we are waiting for possible questions from the floor. He believes that if your water is disconnected, we charge a fee to turn it back on, he asked for clarification from Ms. McCardell. Ms. McCardell responded that is correct, the fee is \$35. He wanted to get a sense of what the remaining board members feel about the possibility of setting up a time period to waive re-connection fees since people are hurting because

of the Economic crunch caused by the pandemic so that they can get caught up with their payment plans.

Mayor Ashby responded that this is a good thought, this would have to be brought up at a Work Session.

From the Floor - remote questions

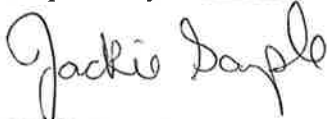
There were no questions or comments from the floor.

Commissioner Linkey wanted to let the board be aware that she will be going to Kentucky sometime soon, she is on baby watch, but will let us know when she will be out but will be able to connect on-line.

Mayor Ashby wanted to announce that Ms. Breder is back, not full fledged in the office, still working from home, but she is back on-line with us.

Motion was made by Commissioner Snelling and seconded by Commissioner Aldridge to adjourn the February 2, 2021 Town Meeting at 7:28p.m. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

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

Jackie Sample
Perryville Town Clerk

