

TOWN OF SNOW HILL, MARYLAND

Life on the River

TOWN MEETING

SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Town Council of Snow Hill, Maryland was held at the Train Station at 200 Belt Street on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 with Mayor John C. Dorman presiding and was called to order at 7:00pm.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mayor John C. Dorman; Councilwoman Jenny Hall; and Councilman Michael Pruitt.

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Kelly Pruitt, Town Manager; Trish Goodsell, Asst. to the Town Manager; Karen Houtman, Town Planner; Michael Day, Economic Development Coordinator; Randy Barfield, Public Works Director; Jason Self, WWTP Superintendent; John Holloway, EMS Supervisor; and Cindy Byrd, Director of the Julia A. Purnell Museum.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG / INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by the invocation by Pastor Elbert Davis of Free Indeed Ministries in Snow Hill.

PROCLAMATION

A Proclamation for Constitution Week was read by Trish Goodsell and presented by Mayor Dorman to Mrs. Pat Arata. Mrs. Arata advised that there was going to be a "Bells across America" celebration on September 20, 2015 at 10:00am and asked that everyone in town ring bells, whether personal, church, etc.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion was given to approve the Town Meeting minutes for August 2015 by Councilman Pruitt and was seconded by Councilwoman Hall. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A motion was given to approve the August 2015 Financial Report by Councilman Pruitt and was seconded by Councilwoman Hall. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Kelly highlighted a community meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 6:00pm with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. DHCD staff will be present at the Snow Hill Middle School to discuss financial options to assist home owners with repairing or renovating their properties. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Councilman Pruitt asked if there had been anymore sewer issues during the sidewalk project downtown. Randy Barfield advised that there had only been the one.

Resident Charles Hall asked if citizens must attend the community meeting on Thursday in order to obtain an application. Kelly advised that she would have applications and information available at Town Hall.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Michael reported that he and Town Planner Karen Houtman are working together on a "Doing Business in Snow Hill" brochure.

The Octoberfest event, as well as the Scarecrow contest and Furnace Town's BBQ event are all proceeding on schedule.

Two merchants have expressed interest in establishing "pop up stores" in vacant space downtown during the holidays.

The Economic Development Committee will meet on September 23, 2015 at 3:00pm in the old Firehouse.

Exhibit space has been secured at the Welcome Center at the Virginia/Maryland border. Barry Laws will provide canoes, etc. for the display.

The Standup Paddle Board event will be called "Return to Goat Island" and appears to be becoming a big event.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Mayor Dorman commented that the recent backhoe fire was due to an electrical malfunction, not error.

Randy reported that the project to fix the storm drains behind the former Opera House is underway with TK Construction.

WWTP REPORT No questions or comments.

PLANNING & ZONING REPORT No questions or comments.

MUSEUM REPORT

Cindy reported that the Museum will have a display of antique bicycles on September 19, 2015 at the Mardela Springs Car Show at Wright's Market on Rt. 50 West. She encouraged everyone to attend.

Fiber Fest is scheduled for October 10, 2015. Vendors and volunteers are welcomed.

Julia A. Purnell's Birthday celebration will be held on October 24, 2015. Free admission and cake will be served.

FIRE / EMS REPORT No questions or comments.

POLICE REPORT No questions or comments.

OLD BUSINESS

No comments.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Fire Department Agreement

John Holloway, EMS Captain advised that he, along with Fire Chief Trey Heiser approached the Mayor and Council with a request for EMS paid staff to resume fire duties until a volunteer crew arrives. This is the procedure they used to follow. Volunteer response has declined during the work week due to many working out of town. They will use 1-2 EMS personnel to respond to the fire and 1 EMS person will follow in an ambulance. This will not affect EMS response time but should enhance fire response time.

Mayor Dorman advised that the workers compensation rate would double in cost with this change but the fire company would be responsible for 100% reimbursement. The agreement also has an opt-out clause added for both parties. He commented that he feels it is worth trying.

Resident Sylvester Bratten asked about the process of fire response versus EMS response to a call. John explained that if there were 3 EMS staff on during a work day, 1-2 would take the fire truck and 1 would take the ambulance. If a call for EMS was received, they would find a volunteer driver or one would come off the engine. They would not have to go back to the station to get an ambulance; they would take the one on the current scene.

Councilman Pruitt raised concern that if an EMS person was considered pump engineer they would not be allowed to leave the scene. John advised there would always be an ALS provider on the ambulance.

Resident Cindy Pritchard asked if Stockton and Girdletree have Fire and EMS. They only have fire fighters.

Town Council voiced confidence in John Holloway to oversee this process and feel that it will be managed well.

Resident Edward Lee asked if this required a Council vote. It does not require a vote due to being a policy, not legislation.

2. Ordinance No. 2015-07

Library Agreement

This Ordinance revokes and amends Ordinance No. 2010-03, which established a committee for the Snow Hill Library. The new terms are stated in the amended Ordinance regarding committee members, committee chairperson; and distribution of funds. This Ordinance will be presented for adoption at the October town meeting.

Mayor Dorman advised that persons serving on the committee will now be open to the 21863 zip code, not just the corporate limits of Snow Hill.

Resident Edward Lee acknowledged the Mayor and Council for pursuing this, as it is critical to begin looking at Snow Hill and providing concrete recommendations and demonstrations. He added that this is a great opportunity for young people and learning.

Resident Charles Hall asked who the committee members were at this time. He also asked if the Town ultimately had the majority vote. Mayor Dorman advised that the committee brings their ideas to the Council and it is ultimately the Council's decision on funding disbursement.

3. Business Loan – Kelly Deutsch, Vintage Pink Quilt Studio

Kelly Deutsch has submitted an application for a loan for \$10,000 to be used to purchase a long arm quilting machine. The cost of the machine is \$15,000 and will be used as collateral. She is waiting on final inspection by the Fire Marshall in order to obtain her Certificate of Occupancy.

A motion was given to approve the loan application, contingent on her receiving her Certificate of Occupancy, by Councilman Pruitt and was seconded by Councilwoman Hall. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried.

4. Board of Appeals Reappointment

The term for Carolyn Brown is scheduled to expire and she is willing to serve another term.

A motion was given to reappointment Carolyn Brown to the Board of Zoning Appeals Committee by Councilman Pruitt and was seconded by Councilwoman Hall. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Mayor Dorman reminded everyone once again about the community meeting on Thursday, September 10, 2015, 6:00pm. He has requested that all division heads be present to be introduced to the community.
2. DP&L plans to refurbish a 138kw line that will run from Virginia to Salisbury. They will be holding a Public Hearing on October 6, 2015 at the Snow Hill Fire Company for questions or comments.
3. The Worcester County Commissioners will be holding a hearing on September 15, 2015 at 10:30am to discuss the Solid Waste Management Plan in regards to mandating recycling at large events.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

1. Councilman Pruitt thanked everyone for attending, especially those that were new. He pointed out that Stanley Cylc and his wife were not present due to illness and he asked that Mr. Cylc be kept in prayer.
2. Councilwoman Hall commented that it was nice to see a larger turnout for the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. She added that they appreciate hearing input, whether negative or positive.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

1. Carolyn Brown asked for clarification on the recycling for large events. She added that the fireworks would be the type of event where it would be required.

