

MINUTES

BOARD OF TOWN COMMISSIONERS

February 4, 2019

The regular meeting of the Board of Town Commissioners was called to order on Monday, February 4, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 39 North Hickory Avenue, Bel Air, Maryland.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan U. Burdette, Chair
Amy G. Chmielewski
Philip L. Einhorn
Brendan P. Hopkins
Patrick T. Richards

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

L. Jesse Bane, Town Administrator
Charles Dawson, Deputy Director Public Works
Michael Krantz, Director of Administration
Lisa Moody, Director of Finance
Charles Moore, Chief of Police
Kevin Small, Director of Planning
Charles Keenan, Town Counsel
Joan Suitt, Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Trish Heidenreich, Director of Economic Development
Stephen Kline, Director of Public Works

Laura Easton, the first female Boy Scout in Harford County, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chair Burdette called for approval of the Agenda.

Commissioner Richards moved and Commissioner Einhorn seconded the motion to approve the Agenda as written. The motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS:

Promotion of Officer First Class Kayhla Hendren to Corporal

Commissioner Hopkins expressed this is a special time for the Bel Air Police Department. Corporal Hendren is the first female supervisor at the Bel Air Police Department and her promotion is well deserved.

Corporal Kayhla Hendren is a 12 year veteran of the Bel Air Police Department, starting her law enforcement career with the Baltimore City Police Department in 2004; and, in 2007 began employment with the Town of Bel Air. In November, 2013 Corporal Hendren was seriously injured after being struck by a vehicle while directing traffic. After three years of rehabilitation and four surgeries, Corporal Hendren returned to full duty in 2016. In recognition of her efforts in recovering from the injuries, she was named the VFW Officer of the Year in 2017. Corporal Hendren has distinguished herself as an excellent investigator and brought convictions in numerous complex cases, some in multiple jurisdictions. Corporal Hendren also helps officers with their investigations, lending her expertise behind the scenes.

Commissioner Hopkins informed Corporal Hendren finished at the top of the promotional process, thus earning her promotion. Corporal Hendren's leadership abilities will add strength to the Department and the personnel she leads.

Commissioner Hopkins' advice to Corporal Hendren is to make a decision and stick with it the best you can. Commissioner Hopkins stated the Town Commissioners have 100% faith in you and commented this is not the end, you will rise further in the Department and may one day become Chief.

On behalf of the Bel Air Town Commissioners, Commissioner Hopkins congratulated Corporal Hendren and presented a Certificate of Promotion.

Chief Moore came to the Bel Air Police Department when Corporal Hendren was on restricted duty noticing some frustration on her part and soon realizing it was based on the doctors saying she had met maximum medical improvement. Chief Moore advised during his career officers received medical retirement for less injuries than Corporal Hendren. Chief Moore has respect for Corporal Hendren who accomplished coming back to work, earning awards, being dedicated and now the first female supervisor of the Bel Air Police Department.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Richards moved and Commissioner Einhorn seconded the motion that the minutes of the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners' meeting held on January 14, 2019 be approved as submitted.

Ayes: Commissioners Chmielewski, Einhorn, Richards and Burdette

Nays: None

Abstained: Commissioner Hopkins

The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Easement Agreement - Townes at Bynum Run

Commissioner Richards moved and Commissioner Hopkins seconded the motion that the Public Access Easement Agreement between TOR Bynum Run, LLC, the Owner, and the Town of Bel Air be approved by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

Ayes: Commissioners Chmielewski, Einhorn, Hopkins, Richards and Burdette

Nays: None

The motion carried.

Addendum of Bulk Road Salt Contract

Commissioner Hopkins moved and Commissioner Richards seconded the motion that the Contract Addendum No. 2 and any subsequent Addenda between Eastern Salt Company, Inc., 134 Middle Street, Lowell, Massachusetts and Harford County Government to supply bulk road de-icing salt be accepted by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

Ayes: Commissioners Chmielewski, Einhorn, Hopkins, Richards and Burdette

Nays: None

The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. John Stump, 523 E. Broadway, congratulated the Town of Bel Air for being one of the safest cities in Maryland and thanked the Town Commissioners for the opportunity to speak. Mr. Stump is a member of the Citizens Advisory Board for the Bel Air Police Department and serves as the Director of Operations for the Baltimore Guardian Angels who patrol the streets of Baltimore City by being visible to deter crime. Mr. Stump stated we are at war; the war on crime and the police work, day and night, keeping people safe.

Mr. Stump reminded about the meeting regarding the new police building with very few people attending. Mr. Stump feels people need to be brought up to the 21st Century because the bad guys are getting ahead of the police departments. Mr. Stump does not know the cost to make sure people are safe but stated crime prevention is not cheap. We are safe for the moment but running out of time. One recommendation made by Mr. Stump was to develop a partnership with the citizens of Bel Air and the Police Department.

Mr. Stump commented if the Town of Bel Air would have voted on the new police building several years ago the cost would have been much less and every day you wait it will cost more. Mr. Stump stated we have to give the Police Department what is needed now or we will fall behind and be at risk.

Chair Burdette thanked Mr. Stump for being on the Advisory Board.

Ms. Fran Johnson, Archer Street, applauds what has been said and endorses the new police building. Ms. Johnson knows to provide the police building it will be a budgetary challenge and recommends considering a tax increase. Ms. Johnson noted in the past the Commissioners were very proud of not introducing a tax increase but times and service needs have changed. Ms. Johnson stated it will be hard for seniors on a fixed income plus the cost of the recent water increase and suggested keeping the tax increase low for the next several years. Ms. Johnson knows the elderly citizens in Bel Air will feel the pinch of a tax increase but a modest increase is needed.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Einhorn had the opportunity to attend a training program through the Sheriff's Office on helping people who are stressed. The program is held every few months in different parts of the county and Commissioner Einhorn encouraged attending the worthwhile program.

Chair Burdette viewed some of the training on television.

Commissioner Einhorn attended the student Jazz Night at John Carroll High School that included students from Bel Air High School. Commissioner Einhorn continues to see wonderful opportunities for the citizens to attend.

Chair Burdette informed of recent events:

- December 18th - Bel Air Holiday Home Tour to benefit SARC. Several Harford County celebrities opened their beautifully decorated historic homes in downtown Bel Air. Commissioner Richards and his wife, Deanna, offered their home as part of the tour. Chair Burdette advised the comments were positive, acknowledged the time for preparations and the support to SARC.

Commissioner Einhorn recognized Town Administrator Bane for being instrumental in being one of the original planners for the SARC program.

- January 17th - Commissioner Chmielewski attended the Downtown Alliance membership meeting.
- January 17th - Harford County Chamber presented County Executive Barry Glassman's State of Harford County address in which he gave an overview of Harford County's progress in 2018 and his plan's for this year.
- January 17th - The Greater Harford Committee and the Harford County Chamber of Commerce held a reception in Annapolis. Chair Burdette thanked Ms. Heidenreich, Director of Economic Development, for setting up the Town's booth and talking to legislators and guests about the Town of Bel Air.
- January 18th - Town Administrator Bane and Chair Burdette were guest readers at the Harford County Public Library Bel Air Branch's 3rd Annual Fair Tale and Superhero Festival. Chair Burdette was dressed as Dorothy and shared the Wizard of Oz and Mr. Bane appeared as Batman and was told he was awesome and phenomenal by all the kids.
- January 25th - Chair Burdette attended the investiture of Diane Adkins-Tobin as Associate Judge of the Circuit Court. Judge Adkins-Tobin is a friend of Chair Burdette and a kind and brilliant woman. Speakers from fellow judges/co-workers to her son and daughter explained how hard she has worked and how committed she has been to training new attorneys and, as an attorney, supporting children of violent domestic and sexual abuse, gaining their trust in hundreds of cases.
- January 31st - Town Administrator Bane, Ms. Heidenreich, Director of Economic Development, and Chair Burdette represented the Town in Annapolis to receive the Maryland Historic Trust Preservation Award for "Project Excellence: Community Impact" for Armory Marketplace. Chair Burdette explained it is the Academy Awards for Historic Preservation in Maryland. Chair Burdette thanked all who worked to make this such a successful project and more will be said during the next Town meeting.
- February 2nd - Chair Burdette attended the Baltimore Architecture Foundation's Groundhog Day Motown Mansion Party. It was held in the Gilded Age mansion in Baltimore City that dates back to 1891. Chair Burdette informed of parking seven blocks away from the event and walked the distance in ice, slush and snow. Chair Burdette noted Baltimore City does not have to shovel sidewalks and this made her appreciate the Department of Public Works for its efforts in Town.
- Commissioner Chmielewski attended the Havre de Grace Ice Festival held January 19th and 20th. It was a great event with many attending.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Signature on file

Susan U. Burdette, Chair
Board of Town Commissioners

Signature on file

Michael L. Krantz, Town Clerk