

MINUTES

BOARD OF TOWN COMMISSIONERS

February 6, 2023

The regular meeting of the Board of Town Commissioners was called to order on Monday, February 6, 2023, 5:30 p.m. at Bel Air Library, Bel Air, Maryland.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Kevin M. Bianca, Chair
Commissioner Mary F. Chance
Commissioner Paula S. Etting
Commissioner Erin S. Hughes
Commissioner Donna L. Kahoe

STAFF PRESENT: Edward Hopkins, Town Administrator
Trish Heidenreich, Director of Economic Development
David Hughes, Deputy Chief of Police
Stephen Kline, Director of 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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Kahoe moved and Commissioner Etting seconded the motion to approve the Agenda as written.

Ayes: Commissioners Chance, Etting, Hughes, Kahoe and Bianca

Nays: None

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Kahoe moved and Commissioner Etting seconded the motion that the minutes of the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners' meetings held January 10, 2023, January 17, 2023, January 18, 2023, and January 19, 2023 be approved as submitted.

Ayes: Commissioners Chance, Etting, Hughes, Kahoe and Bianca

Nays: None

Abstained: Commissioner Hughes - January 17, 18, 19, 2023 meetings

The motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS:

Appreciation of Mike Blum for the Christmas Parade

Chair Bianca reported Mike Blum has worked tirelessly for 13 years to bring the Bel Air Christmas Parade to life, and without his hard work and dedication we would not be able to celebrate one of the year's best days in Bel Air.

This year, Mike worked his magic to draw record breaking crowds to both the parade and the event afterwards in Shamrock Park.

Chair Bianca stated our Town, and all those thousands of people who come from all over to watch the best Christmas Parade in Harford County, owe you a huge debt of thanks. On behalf of the Bel Air Board of Commissioners, Mike Blum was presented a gift basket as a token of thanks for the amazing work you do in making the Town of Bel Air Christmas Parade such a successful, fun, and family event.

Mike Blum is honored and privileged to run the Christmas Parade and thanked Ms. Heidenreich, Director of Economic Development and the Commissioners who sought him out many years ago for assistance. Mr. Blum thanked the Commissioners, Mayor Bianca for leading the parade, and Town Administrator Hopkins for emceeding at Shamrock Park. Mr. Blum also acknowledged Chief Moore, Steve Kline, Director of Public Works and their staff for their fantastic job during the event.

Bel Air Police Department Promotions

Sergio D'Alto to Sergeant

Sergeant Sergio D'Alto was a volunteer fire fighter and EMT in his home state as well as a full-time dispatcher for his local police department.

Sergeant D'Alto moved to Maryland in 2004 and during his tenure with the Bel Air Police Department received numerous commendations, to include the lifesaving award. He has also held ancillary positions as a Crisis Negotiator, Police Union secretary and as a member of the Strategic Planning committee. In 2012, Sergeant D'Alto was promoted to the rank of Corporal and continued working in the patrol division.

The Town is excited to see Sergeant D'Alto take the next steps in his career and serve our citizens. On behalf of the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioner, Chair Bianca congratulated Sergeant D'Alto and presented him a Certificate of Promotion.

Jonathan Kauffman to Corporal

Corporal Jonathan Kauffman joined the Bel Air Police Department in 2006. From 2006 to 2012 Corporal Kauffman was assigned to the midnight shift as a patrol officer. From 2013 to 2020 Corporal Kauffman and his canine Blitz, served not only the citizens of Bel Air, but often times the surrounding communities as well. During that time Corporal Kauffman and his trusty partner were responsible for multiple criminal apprehensions. After canine Blitz's retirement in 2021,

Corporal Kauffman returned to midnight shift as a patrol officer where he served until promoted in January, 2023. He is now assigned to shift one.

Corporal Kauffman has received the Life Saving award not just once, but twice, the Meritorious Service award, the DUI Enforcement award four times, as well as several unit citations and certificates of merit. Corporal Kauffman also had the honor of serving nine years as the police union vice president and four years as the president.

The Town is proud to have such a dedicated officer serving our citizens and looks forward to Corporal Kauffman's next steps. On behalf of the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners, Chair Bianca congratulated Corporal Kauffman and presented him with a Certificate of Promotion.

John Ganovski to Corporal

Corporal Ganovski began his law enforcement career as an officer with the Baltimore City Police Department in 1994, serving as a patrol officer and on the special operations and narcotics squads. In 2008, he was promoted to sergeant serving as a supervisor in operations and a patrol supervisor in the Southwest and Northeast Districts. During his time with the Baltimore City Police Department, John earned two Bronze Stars for valor and four Lifesaving Awards. John was the Maryland State Police Officer of the Year in 1998.

In 2014, John retired from the Baltimore City Police Department and joined the Bel Air Police Department. Despite already being once retired, Corporal Ganovski has not slowed down here in his service to our citizens. Corporal Ganovski has made criminal cases in narcotics, organized retail theft and counterfeit money, just to name a few. During his time with the Bel Air Police Department, Corporal Ganovski received awards such as Meritorious Service Award and Lifesaving Award. Corporal Ganovski also serves as motor officer and is often found teaching newer officers the lessons he learned over thirty years in law enforcement.

Corporal Ganovski takes his role as a mentor and role model seriously, and the Town looks forward to seeing what he accomplishes in his new role. On behalf of the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners, Chair Bianca congratulated Corporal Ganovski and presented him with a Certificate of Promotion.

Keith Smithson to Corporal

Corporal Keith Smithson began his career with the Bel Air Police Department in 2008 when he spent two years volunteering as an auxiliary police officer. Corporal Smithson was also a dispatcher with the Harford County EOC and the Bel Air Police Department from 2008 to 2010. In 2010, Corporal Smithson became a Baltimore City Police Officer, where he served in the Southeast District for two years. Corporal Smithson earned the Commissioner's Excellence Award there. In 2012, he transferred to the Cecil County Sheriff's office, serving as a patrol deputy for four years.

In 2016, Corporal Smithson came back to the Bel Air Police Department as an officer. He has established himself as an expert on traffic enforcement, writing

over 4,700 citations and warnings. Corporal Smithson was assigned to a dedicated traffic unit in 2020 and is recognized as Maryland Traffic Safety Specialist. He also serves as a negotiator on the Harford County Crisis Negotiation Team and as a field training officer. During his time with the Bel Air Police Department, Corporal Smithson has earned the Chief's Exceptional Service Award twice, the Critical Incident Award, and the Maryland Chiefs of Police Traffic Safety Award. In his free time, Corporal Smithson serves as a firefighter with the Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company.

Corporal Smithson's life has been one of service to the citizens of Bel Air and the Town is fortunate to have him here working hard on behalf of the Town. On behalf of the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners, Chair Bianca congratulated Corporal Smithson and presented him a Certificate of Promotion.

Chief Moore notified these officers have a pedigree and background to not only exceed the expectations of the rank but above it. Chief Moore is proud of them for taking the time to study and prepare for the test. Chief Moore extended gratitude to the families for enduring this process. The Town is extremely privileged to have candidates who are experienced, talented and have the desire to fulfill the promotion process. Chief Moore thanked the Commissioners, Town Administrator and Directors for their support in the promotion process. Chief Moore stated the Bel Air Police Department and the community are fortunate to have them.

A reception was held at the Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NEW BUSINESS ITEM:

Chair Bianca informed the Town is allowing public comments on new business items on the agenda.

Vince McHugh, 422 E. Broadway, Bel Air, Md. thanked the Commissioners and the Town Administrator for incorporating these comments because it generates visibility for citizens plus educates us. Mr. McHugh stated this is a good start and, in his opinion, there is more to be done.

Mr. Tim Smith, 401 Franklin Street, Bel Air, Md. inquired why a standard RFP for the sewer contract was not completed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Award of Contract- Tree Removal and Trimming Services

Commissioner Hughes moved and Commissioner Kahoe seconded the motion that the bid prices, terms, and conditions of Harford Tree Experts and Landscaping, Inc., 2911 Beechwood Lane, Fallston, Maryland as provided to and accepted by Harford County Government Contract No. 23-054 for On-Call Tree Service be also accepted by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners for a contract not to exceed \$40,000.

Chair Bianca is pleased funds are being saved.

Ayes: Commissioners Chance, Etting, Hughes, Kahoe and Bianca

Nays: None

The motion carried.

Sewer Line Root Control Maintenance Contract

Commissioner Etting moved and Commissioner Chance seconded the motion that the unit price bids of Duke's Root Control, Inc., 1020 Hiawatha Blvd., Syracuse, NY 13204, to apply a chemical root control agent designed specifically to control sewer line tree root intrusions as submitted to and accepted by City of Baltimore Bid No. B50005627 Chemical Root Application and CCTV Inspection of Sanitary Sewer Systems for a project not to exceed \$35,000.00 be accepted by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

Ayes: Commissioners Chance, Etting, Hughes, Kahoe and Bianca

Nays: None

The motion carried.

Reappointment to the Economic & Community Development Commission Christopher Streett

Commissioner Chance moved and Commissioner Hughes seconded the motion that the reappointment of Christopher Streett to the Bel Air Economic & Community Development Commission for a term of three (3) years, effective immediately, be approved by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

Ms. Heidenreich, Director of Economic Development, advised Chris Streett was honored to accept the invitation for another term on the Economic & Community Development Commission. Mr. Streett recently was re-elected Chair of the Commission.

Commissioner Chance appreciates the individuals who serve on this commission because they keep economic development alive and well in the Town of Bel Air.

Ayes: Commissioners Chance, Etting, Hughes, Kahoe and Bianca

Nays: None

The motion carried.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chair Bianca notified:

- Town of Bel Air joins others across our Nation in honoring Black History Month, and to honor accomplishments of black Americans in every endeavor throughout our history.
There are a number of events across the county, including a virtual presentation on February 14th at 12:30 p.m. by the Historical Society on the history of the Havre de Grace Colored School, and "Integration Now" a new

exhibit that explores race and civil rights in Harford County, held at the Hays-Heighe House on the campus of Harford Community College.

- Valentine's Day Dinner, February 14th at Rockfield Manor, catered by Lib's Grill. Seating is still available and tickets available at rockfieldmanor.com.
- Family Fun returns to the Bel Air Armory and kicks off on Saturday, February 18th at 10:45 a.m. with the Mayhem Magical Circus. Tickets are free as this series was made possible through the Bel Air Arts and Entertainment District with a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council. Tickets available on the Town's website.

Chair Bianca thanked the staff of Harford Community College for inviting him to ArtsFest 2023. It was a wonderful event that showcased amazing talent of the professors and staff of HCC.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Etting advised the Planning Commission reviewed a revision for the drive-thru at Shops at Harford Mall. The applicant informed of now having one window and only needs one drive-thru lane.

Commissioner Etting informed the Planning Commission reviewed the annexation of property on Tollgate Road. The applicant is insisting on jumping the road.

Mr. Keenan, Town Counsel, notified the state is saying this cannot be done.

Mr. Small, Director of Planning, advised the Town is required to send the annexation plan to the state and county. Mr. Small reviewed the steps for annexation into the Town that includes reviewing zoning and compliance of the Comprehensive Plan.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

APPROVED: February 21, 2023

Signature on file

Kevin M. Bianca, Chair
Board of Town Commissioners

Signature on file
Michael L. Krantz, Town Clerk