

MINUTES

BOARD OF TOWN COMMISSIONERS

April 1, 2019

The regular meeting of the Board of Town Commissioners was called to order on Monday, April 1, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 39 N. 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
Trish Heidenreich, Director of Economic Development
Stephen Kline, Director of Public Works
Michael Krantz, Director of Administration
Lisa Moody, Director of Finance
Kevin Small, Director of Planning
Charles Keenan, Town Counsel
Joan Suitt, Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Charles Moore, Chief of Police

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chair Burdette called for approval of the Agenda.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Richards moved and Commissioner Hopkins seconded the motion that the minutes of the Board of Commissioners' meeting held on March 18, 2019 and March 26, 2019 be approved as submitted.

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

Nays: None

The motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS:

Proclamation - Kite Day, April 13, 2019

The American Kitefliers Association was founded by the late Robert M. Ingraham in 1964 and its purpose is to educate the public in the art, history, technology, and practice of building and flying kites.

This is the fourteenth (14) year the Town of Bel Air has coordinated the Kite Day Festival with volunteers and staff in bringing this family-fun activity to Rockfield Park and giving away hundreds of kites to kids of all ages.

On behalf of the Bel Air Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Chmielewski declared April 13, 2019 Kite Day in the Town of Bel Air and encouraged all Town residents to go fly a kite!

Proclamation - Arbor Day, April 13, 2019

The quality and health of the urban forest enhances the Town's landscape. Providing tree, shrub and pollinator plantings to expand the urban forest is the goal of Arbor Day 2019 sponsored by the Bel Air Tree Committee with the cooperation of the Department of Natural Resources, Forest Services, the Harford County Forestry Board, and the Harford County Master Gardeners.

On behalf of the Bel Air Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Einhorn proclaimed Saturday, April 13, 2019 Bel Air Arbor Day and called upon the citizens of Bel Air to recognize and participate in the special observance.

Commissioner Einhorn advised during the Farmers Market tree seedlings will be distributed and Master Gardeners present to answer questions. Commissioner Einhorn presented the Proclamation to Michael Simini, member of the Bel Air Tree Committee for 15 plus years.

Student Achievement Award - Thomas Kerfoot

Thomas Kerfoot is a senior at the John Carroll School who has a passion and drive for serving his community and leading others to do the same.

Thomas works tirelessly to raise funds for Juvenile Diabetes organizing Bull Roasts and school wide events to raise awareness and funds for Juvenile Diabetes research. In addition, Thomas has earned 300 volunteer hours during his time at John Carroll. He is the President of the Service Club, attended two mission trips to the Dominican Republic to help build homes and volunteers with John Carroll's Admissions Office as part of the Patriot Hospitality group. Thomas also has leadership roles as the business manager of the school newspaper, performing in theater productions, and singing in John Carroll's acapella group, Bella Voice.

On behalf of the Bel Air Board of Commissioners, Chair Burdette thanked Thomas for achieving an excellent work ethic and caring for other. Chair Burdette presented Thomas with a Student Achievement Award and encouraged his continued commitment to excellence.

Certificate of Recognition - Bel Air Police Department Explorer Post 9010

Commissioner Hopkins is proud of the two Explorers being honored tonight and where they are headed. Commissioner Hopkins stated our Explorer Program is very successful and introduced Officer Rick Krause, leader of the program.

Explorer First Class Joshua Phillips

Officer Krause informed Explorer First Class Joshua Phillips is a Senior at Bel Air High School, a member of the track team, and always there to help people. Officer Krause advised Joshua has enlisted and began Air Guard pre-training throughout his senior year. Joshua will begin basic training for the US Air Guard this June.

TSgt. Jessica Hiett, Recruiter US Air National Guard advised Joshua will be part of the 175th Wing and work on the A-10 Aircraft. TSgt. Hiett

stated Joshua is an awesome student, has shown to be a leader and is very proud of him.

Joshua thanked his parents, especially his Dad who is Air Force, his sister and friends. He also thanked Office Krause for his leadership and what has been learned.

Explorer Captain Brett Sperl

Officer Krause advised Explorer Captain Brett Sperl began as a camper during Youth Camp and now a member of the Explorer program for six years achieving the highest rank of Captain. Officer Krause stated Brett is a leader and can always be counted on. Brett has joined the US Marine Corps and will report April 15th.

Staff Sgt. Low, US Marine Corps, met Brett almost a year ago and advised he is a tremendous young man. Staff Sgt. Low is proud of Brett during the process and knows he will do great things for the Corps.

Brett thanked his family for the support and Officer Krause for his leadership. Brett also thanked his girlfriend and parents, the Explorers and Recruiter.

Commissioner Hopkins applauded and admired the dedication and commitment displayed by Joshua and Brett to the Town of Bel Air, and most of all to the Town of Bel Air Police Department Explorer Program.

On behalf of the citizens of the Town of Bel Air and the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners, Commissioner Hopkins presented a Certificate of Recognition to Joshua Phillips and Brett Sperl for their accomplishments and encouraged them to continue the commitment to excellence. Commissioner Hopkins looks forward to watching their careers.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 1128-19 Town Administrator's Budget for Fiscal Year 2020

Commissioner Richards moved and Commissioner Hopkins seconded the motion that proposed Resolution No. 1128-19, providing for the receipt of the Town Administrator's Budget for Fiscal Year 2020, be received by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

Mr. Bane, Town Administrator, reported the budget for Fiscal Year 2020 is balanced and includes no cuts in services. There is no increase of taxes; remaining at 50¢ per \$100 of assessed real property and \$1.16 per \$100 of assessed personal property. Mr. Bane advised the proposed budget also includes the necessary capital improvements to the Town's facilities and infrastructure. Mr. Bane advised the missing diagrams and charts usually presented with the budget will be available for review at the first Budget Work Session on April 4th, 4:30 p.m. at Town Hall conference room.

Mr. Bane thanked Department Heads for their hard work on their budgets and a special thanks to Ms. Moody, Finance Director, who spent many long hours over the past several months putting the budget together.

Commissioner Einhorn recognized Mr. Bane and Ms. Moody for their efforts and mentioned taxes not having been increased since 2004. Commissioner Einhorn does not know of another Town our size in the country that could say this and stated it takes a lot of work on everybody's part to make that happen.

Chair Burdette called for the vote.

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

Nays: None

The motion carried.

Appointment to the Elderly and Needy Citizens Committee - Peggy Mannone

Commissioner Richards moved and Commissioner Hopkins seconded the motion that the reappointment of Peggy Mannone, for a term of three (3) years, to the Bel Air Committee on the Elderly and Needy Citizens, effective immediately, be approved by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

Commissioner Chmielewski informed Peggy Mannone does a fantastic job and currently is the Secretary for the committee. Commissioner Chmielewski recommends her appointment.

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

Nays: None

The motion carried.

Appointment to the Economic and Community Development Commission - Todd Boyle

Commissioner Richards moved and Commissioner Hopkins seconded the motion that the reappointment of Todd Boyle to the Bel Air Economic and Community Development Commission for a term of three (3) years, effective immediately, be approved by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

Commissioner Richards reported Todd Boyle is a tremendous asset to ECDC and looks forward to his continued service to the Town.

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

Nays: None

The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mary Jean Veran, English Country Manor, 202 H Thames Way, Bel Air, Md. is concerned with the traffic light at Gateway and Boulton taking a long time to turn green even when no traffic is traveling on Boulton Street. Ms. Veran has asked the Town to fix the situation but nothing has been done.

Commissioner Richards thanked Ms. Veran for her time and advised that this will be looked at.

Mr. Kline, Director of Public Works, heard Ms. Veran called this afternoon and went to the traffic signal and found it was operating 100% efficiently. Ms. Veran does not agree.

Commissioner Einhorn noted the light has saved a lot of time for the residents in English Country Manor especially during the holidays. Ms. Veran continued having concerns with the light especially at 8:00 a.m.

Commissioner Richards appreciates Ms. Veran's comments and advised Mr. Kline will also check the signal at 8:00 a.m.

Fran Johnson, 124 Archer Street, is unable to attend Monday's meeting concerning the Police Department expansion. Ms. Johnson feels that no tax increase in 15 years is something not to celebrate but that we should be a little embarrassed because of having to squeeze services and staff. Ms. Johnson has been involved with the Town for over 25 years and stated small incremental increases are needed as it adds up to real money. Ms. Johnson informed the Police Department needs a better facility and in fact all the Town staff needs better facilities.

Ms. Johnson admitted once being skeptical of the new police facility and realized the space is needed for the police to do their jobs. Ms. Johnson reminded about the nationwide crisis with people not respecting police forces.

Ms. Johnson stated if the tax increase is not done this year it will have to happen soon and is concerned it could be a "whopper". Ms. Johnson commented an increase is the responsible thing to do and this is the time to do it.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Chair Burdette notified:

March 19th - Commissioner Einhorn and Chair Burdette attended the Bel Air Elementary School Patriot Program celebration and participated in the evening assembly. The guest speaker was Bel Air Volunteer Fire Department's John Stansfield. Chair Burdette stated we are proud of our Bel Air Bulldogs and all of their accomplishments.

March 21st - Chair Burdette attended a birthday soiree for Major General Randy Taylor. According to the invitation - he is "Internationally celebrated for his wars fought, revolutions started, alligators castrated, governments run, tigers tamed, bars emptied, assassinations plotted and networks penetrated." Major General Taylor will be leaving Harford County for another assignment in June but we hope he will be back to retire and live in Harford County.

March 23rd - Town Administrator Bane, Chief Moore and Chair Burdette attended a delicious breakfast at the American Legion Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Memorial Post 55 as the post hosted a visit from the American Legion National Commander, Brett P. Reistad. Chair Burdette advised the Town of Bel Air is very proud of our local Post located on Bond Street. Chair Burdette advised Post 55 has offered help to the Town of Bel Air.

March 25th - Town Administrator Bane, Chair Burdette and with help from Mr. Krantz, Director of Administration, Josh Forth and Donna Driver hosted 25 Cub Scouts from Pack 807 to teach them about local government and how Bel Air is making this a better world. The parents were just as interested as the children and appreciated our time. Chair Burdette informed the

children enjoyed sitting on the dais, talking into the microphones and using the gavel.

March 28th - Chief Moore, Town Administrator Bane and Chair Burdette attended the 2019 Boys and Girls Clubs of Harford and Cecil Counties Youth of the Year Award dinner. Chair Burdette stated they are an amazing group of future leaders and speeches were excellent. This year's winner is Katherine Butterfield from the Bel Air Club who will be honored at a Town Hall meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Signature on file

Susan U. Burdette, Chair
Board of Town Commissioners

Signature on file

Michael L. Krantz, Town Clerk