

MINUTES

BOARD OF TOWN COMMISSIONERS

April 15, 2019

The regular meeting of the Board of Town Commissioners was called to order on Monday, April 15, 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

ABSENT: Patrick T. Richards

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

L. Jesse Bane, Town Administrator
Rachel Deaner, Deputy Director of Finance
Stephen Kline, Director of Public Works
Michael Krantz, Director of Administration
Charles Moore, Chief of Police
Kevin Small, Director of Planning
Charles Keenan, Town Counsel
Angela Robertson, Grants/Economic Development
Joan Suitt, Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Trish Heidenreich, Director of Economic Development
Lisa Moody, Director of Finance

Chair Burdette called for a moment of silence in honor of the people of Paris and their loss at Notre Dame Cathedral.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chair Burdette called for approval of the Agenda.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Hopkins moved and Commissioner Einhorn seconded the motion that the minutes of the Board of Commissioners' meeting held on April 1, 2019, April 8, 2019 and April 9, 2019 be approved as submitted.

Ayes: Commissioners Chmielewski, Einhorn, Hopkins and Burdette

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Richards

Abstained: Commissioner Hopkins - April 8, 2019 and April 9, 2019 meetings

The motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS:

Certificate of Recognition - Dr. Dyann R. Mack, Harford County Public Schools

Commissioner Einhorn informed today is Patriot Day and tonight he will be talking about the Patriot Program at Bel Air Elementary School. One of our enjoyable moments is to honor and recognize someone who has achieved outstanding performance bringing recognition to the Town. Commissioner Einhorn stated sometimes it is in the world of sports, sometimes when someone saved a life, a Boy Scout attaining Eagle Scout or a student who made an impact at school. Tonight, we will honor and show appreciation for the work and leadership in the education field. This person has had a tremendous effect on our children during their elementary years. She graduated from Joppatowne High School, attended Lincoln University receiving a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, M.Ed., Educational Leadership at Loyola College, and Ed.D, Educational Leadership at Walden University. Some of her awards were Honorable Mention from Harford's Best in 2017, member of Harford Leadership Academy 2017, Harford's Best in 2018 and Maryland Assistant Principal of the Year. Commissioner Einhorn is honored to present Dr. Dyann Mack whose new title at the Board of Education will be Elementary Director of School Performance.

Dr. Mack asked the students from the SGA of Bel Air Elementary School to come forward to keep her grounded. Dr. Mack has had the pleasure to be Principal of Bel Air Elementary School for seven years and in the beginning told the staff she wanted to get the school on the map.

Dr. Mack informed one of our accomplishments is the Patriot Program that is teacher led with students working hard to complete the requirements of learning American history and how to become a good citizen. New at Bel Air Elementary is an expansion of the Program to include all students from Pre-K to 5th grade having the opportunity to become a Patriot. Teachers begin requirements in the classroom and students go home to continue that work, plus participate in community service.

Dr. Mack thanked the Town of Bel Air for recognizing the efforts of Bel Air Elementary School and the support given. Dr. Mack also thanked the teachers, staff, PTA, parents, students and her family. Dr. Mack commented, "As I leave Bel Air Elementary School, I am confident that they will continue to be the Heart of Bel Air."

On behalf of the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners, Commissioner Einhorn presented Dr. Dyann Mack with a Certificate of Recognition for her dedication, service and outstanding leadership.

Dr. Mack also received gifts from the Town of Bel Air.

PUBLIC HEARING:

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

Town Administrator Bane deferred to Ms. Deaner, Deputy Director of Finance for a presentation.

Ms. Deaner reviewed budget highlights of the FY2020 General Fund.

The total General Fund expenditures increased 1.6% with the majority of the budget for public safety (38.9%) and public works (28.4%). The budget also includes General Government, Salaries, General Expenses, Capital Improvement, Benefits, Debt Service and Community Support.

Ms. Deaner advised of seeing a Department increases due to benefits now being encompassed into each department.

Salaries: Request for a Merit step increase and 1% COLA for employees. Also included is a request for a position change from contractual to part-time.

General Expenses: Majority for Public Works, Police Department and Technology. The numbers are similar to FY2019.

Capital Improvement: \$58,104 decrease from FY2019.

- Armory - requesting front entrance improvement and new movie screen
- Town Building - requesting replacement of salt shed roof, replacement of emergency generator at Planning/DPW building
- Planning/Zoning - requesting Way Finding signage, Pedestrian Connection
- Technology - requesting hardware and software additions
- Police Department - requesting three vehicle replacements and new motorcycle
- Transfer to Capital Reserve
- Streets/Highways - requesting street, curb/ramp projects and street sweeper

Benefits: Includes Social Security, Medical Insurance, Pension Plans, and Workman's Compensation. The Town offers a deductible health plan and pays 100% of the premiums.

Debt Service: Principle interest from purchases and JCI Energy Project. Seeing a significant savings in energy and debt paid with those savings.

Community Support:

Bel Air Downtown Alliance
Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company
Parks & Recreation
Appearance & Beautification Committee
Cultural Arts Committee
Independence Day Committee
Boys & Girls Club

The Town provides a large amount of in-kind community support to the Downtown Alliance and Rockfield Manor plus various other non-profit organizations.

Ms. Deaner informed of other revenues:

- Real Property Tax remains the same at \$.50 per \$100 assessment
- Personal Property remains at \$1.16 per \$100 assessment
- Highway User Funds become permanent
- Police Protection Grant
- License/Permits
- Harford County tax rebate
- Red Light Camera Program
- Other miscellaneous revenues

Chair Burdette called for public comment. There were none and she then called for Commissioner comment.

Commissioner Einhorn inquired if benefits are passed to a spouse when an employee/retiree dies.

Mr. Krantz, Director of Administration, advised it depends on the person's vested service in the pension plans. Any life insurance with the Town goes to beneficiaries.

Commissioner Hopkins thanked Ms. Deaner for the great overview.

As there were no further comments, the public hearing was closed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 1129-19 - Tentative Budget Fiscal Year 2020

Commissioner Hopkins moved and Commissioner Chmielewski seconded the motion that proposed Resolution No. 1129-19, providing for the adoption of a Tentative Budget for the Town of Bel Air for Fiscal Year 2020, be adopted by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

Ayes: Commissioners Chmielewski, Einhorn, Hopkins and Burdette

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Richards

The motion carried.

Resolution No. 1130-19 - Annual Planning Commission Report

Commissioner Hopkins moved and Commissioner Einhorn seconded the motion that Resolution 1130-19, the Planning Commission 2018 Annual Report, be accepted by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

Chair Burdette advised this is an excellent report as it is every year and is used for speeches and reports.

Ayes: Commissioners Chmielewski, Einhorn, Hopkins and Burdette

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Richards

The motion carried.

Award of Contract - Printing and Mailing Services for Tax and Sewer Billing

Commissioner Hopkins moved and Commissioner Einhorn seconded the motion that the contract with Office Depot, Inc., to piggyback the National IPA/Omnia Partners Cooperative Purchasing Consortium Contract #R171404 for printing and mailing services for sewer and tax bills in the amount not to exceed \$51,000, be approved by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners for the period April 19, 2019 - June 30, 2020.

Commissioner Chmielewski informed electronically means residents can go on-line to pay their bill through the service. Ms. Deaner also advised bills can be received on-line.

Commissioner Einhorn asked, if using a credit card, would there be an extra fee. Ms. Deaner stated a convenience fee will be charged by the credit card company.

Ayes: Commissioners Chmielewski, Einhorn, Hopkins and Burdette

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Richards

The motion carried.

Reappointment Planning Commission

Commissioner Einhorn moved and Commissioner Hopkins seconded the motion that the reappointment of Keith Powell to the Planning Commission, for a term of five years, effective immediately, be approved by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

Commissioner Hopkins stated Mr. Powell is very effective and approves the reappointment.

Chair Burdette advised Mr. Powell has volunteered for several years and has excellent knowledge.

Ayes: Commissioners Chmielewski, Einhorn, Hopkins and Burdette

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Richards

The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. French Poole, Giles Street, was asked a question from an acquaintance on why he is not able to vote in Town elections when he owns property and pays taxes in Bel Air. Mr. Krantz informed only residents of the Town can vote. Mr. Keenan, Town Council, reported the municipal law was established and controlled by the State. Town Administrator Bane notified this has been tested in Federal Court and ruled a violation.

Commissioner Chmielewski informed during the Commissioner's retreat Commissioner Richard brought the issue up to our attorney as several people had the same question.

Chair Burdette commented during the MML Conference this becomes a big conversation across the State.

Mr. Poole read the poem he composed.

They awake most days well before dawn.
They climb from their warm bed
And put a Blue suit of Armor on.

They strap a defensive weapon upon their hip.
Praying to come home with the same full clip!
They gather up their Gold Shield,
Used to identify them while out in the field.

They head to the kitchen for a quick bite to eat,
Before heading out into the street.
Every day they apply all they have learned,
While putting at risk all they have earned.

They kiss their family goodbye.
Walk out the front door and wonder?
Will today be the day I die!
Those courageous men and women in Blue.
They put it all on the line with all that they do!
Could You?

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hopkins attended the Greater Bel Air Community Foundation dinner along with Town Administrator Bane, Commissioner Chmielewski and Commissioner Einhorn. It was a great event.

The prior week, Commissioner Hopkins and Chief Moore attended a dinner at General Taylor's house. General Taylor will be going to another assignment in June but Commissioner Hopkins feels General Taylor will return to Harford County.

Commissioner Hopkins notified of being sick and unable to attend the input meeting for the Police Department. Commissioner Hopkins stated the entire Board knows how I feel and I'm prepared to move forward with the next step to get this Police Department built. Commissioner Hopkins reminded, we have talked about it, held public meetings, did our homework and is time to stop talking and start doing something.

Commissioner Chmielewski advised the Kite Festival was well attended and those attending had a beautiful day. Mr. Krantz was recognized for his great effort.

Chair Burdette notified of the following:

- April 5th - Chair Burdette, Town Administrator Bane and Commissioner Chmielewski attended the ribbon cutting for John's Men's Clothing on Pennsylvania Avenue owned by a mother-daughter team. The shop brings a line of men's casual and business-casual clothing and accessories to downtown. The tag-line for their business is "Work Hard. Play Hard. Dress Easy". Chair Burdette wished them much success and stated everyone is thrilled there is a men's shop in downtown.
- April 12th - Chair Burdette and Chief Moore attended the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Harford County Child Advocacy Center (CAC). This celebration was planned to coincide with National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

CAC has helped countless children and their families deal with allegations of child abuse and neglect. They have a standing team of social workers, detectives, prosecutors, medical and mental health

providers, victim advocates, and other heroes who collaborate for the prevention, intervention, investigation, prosecution and healing of child maltreatment. Chair Burdette is proud to say that Chief Moore serves on the 2019 CAC Executive Board.

- On April 26th - Welcome One Emergency Shelter for the Homeless is holding its annual Basket and Bags Bingo. This year Longaberger Baskets and Vera Bradley, Michael Kors, Coach and more handbags will be awarded. The new location is at St. Matthews Church in Town.

Commissioner Chmielewski informed the Downtown Alliance has changed its 1st Fridays to 4th Fridays effective this month.

Commissioner Chmielewski advised there were a lot of events going on Saturday and Commissioners could not attend all. Chief Moore advised Deputy Chief Peschek attended the Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company's Award Banquet. Bel Air Lions Club also held its Bubble Soccer Tournament.

Commissioner Chmielewski advised Sunny Day Cafe raised the most funds for the Lions Club and asked everyone to thank them for that.

Town Administrator Bane informed the Bel Air Cup was awarded but will be on display at Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at at 8:29 p.m.

Signature on file

Susan U. Burdette, Chair
Board of Town Commissioners

Signature on file

Michael L. Krantz, Town Clerk