

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING #15-05**  
**October 6, 2005**

Council President Donna Turner called the October 6, 2005 meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:04 p.m. in the clubhouse meeting room at Symphony Village. The following members and staff were present: Mary McCarthy, Council Vice-President, Norman Pinder, Member, Royden Powell, Town Manager, Steve Kehoe, Town Attorney, Lt. Teat, Acting Chief of the Centreville Police, and Jane Saulsbury, Administrative Aide.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting - The minutes were reviewed and accepted as printed by motion and second of Mr. Pinder and Mrs. McCarthy, respectively; all being in favor, the motion passed.

Mrs. Turner thanked Symphony Village for their hospitality and for inviting the Town Council and citizens to hold this meeting at their clubhouse. Dick Smith, County Commissioner was recognized in the audience, as well as the many residents of Symphony Village who were in attendance

Appearances

Richard Lindsay, Bob Kiel and Dave Greenwood of the State Highway Administration The representatives of SHA were thanked for coming to discuss some concerns the Council has with traffic and traffic control devices. The following concerns were discussed:

1. The Town would like to see a traffic light installed at the intersection of Coursevall Drive and Route 213 South at the Centreville Business Park. Mrs. Turner stated she would like to see something in writing affirming that installation of this light is approved and imminent. Mr. Kiel reported they have looked at that entrance and the one at McDonalds and they agree that traffic warrants a light. Mr. Lindsay said they want to monitor traffic at both entrances, consider what future development is proposed for the business park and look at the area proposed on the south end of the complex where a third entrance is proposed. Mr. Pinder requested they do all of this and proceed as soon as possible.
2. Mrs. Turner asked if the speed limits at the north and south ends of Town could be lowered from 55 mph to 25 mph. SHA thinks that is too big a transition in a rural area, but the request is still under consideration. Mr. Lindsay said that when North Brook and Symphony Village are built-out, traffic lights at those entrances will be considered. He noted that traffic lights could also cause accidents.
3. Council requested to know what the history of maintenance is for Route 304. Mr. Lindsay provided them with a cop of a 1958 agreement whereby SHA repaved Route 304 and the Town agreed assume responsibility at that point. Mrs. Turner stated the Town would like SHA to take it over and suggested a workshop for further discussion.
4. The Town has been requested by numerous citizens to have crosswalks marked at the following intersections: North Commerce Street and Broadway (between Farmers Bank and the barber shop), North Commerce and Turpin's Lane and South Liberty Street and Fayette Streets. Bob Kiel will meet with Mr. Powell to look at the requested areas. It was asked if the Town could maintain/paint the crosswalks. Mr. Lindsay advised that SHA would do it.
5. The Council would like to see historic sign markers placed at the north and south ends of Town identifying Centreville as a historic town, similar to those identifying Chestertown to the north as a historic town.

Mrs. Aileen Minor, South Liberty Street, wished to discuss truck traffic through Centreville. She noted the study that found there are 358 trucks in one day. She questioned the criteria used to formulate the data. Mr. Lindsay replied that in addition to determining how many are traveling through, they look at truck safety, weight, etc. He noted that "trucks have a right to use the roads, too."

Mrs. Mary Margaret Goodwin, North Commerce Street, asked what time of day did the survey start. It started at 5 a.m. She noted that the truck traffic seems to begin about 3 a.m.

Cpl. Kim Conley, National Night Out Cpl. Conley reported on the National Night Out event, which is a national event, held each year on the first Tuesday in August. She said the event was held at no cost to the Town and that \$1000 had been received in donations from local businesses. In addition to free hot dogs, and drinks, entertainment included a "Moon Bounce" and a water-dunking booth. The goal of the event is to bring people out and create an awareness of community safety. Cpl. Conley was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for her dedication and hard work.

#### Business

Memorandum of Understanding RE: Update of the Centreville Community Plan There is a County grant of \$40,000 to assist in the update which will be accomplished by a committee including the Centreville Planning Commission, a county planning representative and others. The public is also encouraged to participate.

Penn Station Property Mr. Kehoe advised he has called George Fabula and that the contract for the purchase of the property was due September 5, 2005. Nothing has arrived to date. Once the Town purchases the land, the railroad tracks will be removed.

Hiring of Chief of Police The applications of eleven applicants are being reviewed. Mr. Pinder suggested there be a time limit for the process, perhaps the end of this month. The field will be narrowed to three or four at which point interviews will be done.

Maryland Municipal League Report Mr. Powell will attend the Fall Conference to be held in Ocean City on October 20 and 21. Mr. Pinder may also attend.

Queen Anne's County Municipal League The Council members have met with the County and a quarterly meeting was proposed so that the County and municipalities can communicate and work cooperatively on issues of mutual concern. The next meeting will be held on October 15 or 16. Mrs. McCarthy will attend the first annual meeting of Stories of the Chesapeake on October 14 at the Tidewater Inn in Easton.

#### Correspondence

Judge Clayton Carter wrote to the Town expressing his dismay about the maintenance of the cemetery and the condition of Chesterfield Avenue. Mr. Powell explained the ordinance governing grass and stated the Town is working on improving the appearance of the cemetery. Maintenance of Chesterfield Avenue is the Town's responsibility and a repaving schedule will be discussed at the Town's next workshop. A letter will be sent to Judge Carter with an answer to his concerns.

A letter from a group of Little Kidwell Avenue citizens requested a crosswalk at the intersection of Kidwell and Green Streets for students crossing over to the high school. This request will be given consideration.

A thank you note was received from Mary McCarthy for the flowers celebrating the birth of her son Bobby.

#### Report of Department Heads

Mr. Powell reported on the following topics:

1. Fire hydrant replacement is complete on South Liberty Street. A new six-inch lateral was part of the job, correcting some infiltration.
2. Borings have been done on Ridgeview Avenue to determine if existing soil is compatible for installation of the road. The road will be one-way from the Commerce Street side, with two-way access to Ridgeview Court from South Liberty. Mr. Pinder stronger urged that the road be done before issuing occupancy permits.
3. URS presented their proposal for the Infiltration & Inflow Study at a Council workshop held October 5. Various methods of testing will detect the degree of inflow and enable the Town to plan a capital improvement program to repair and replace lines where necessary. The cost for the study is \$138,000. One way of funding the study is applying a \$200 assessment to all new building permits. This fee is currently being charged and has generated \$20,000 to date. This will be discussed in depth at a workshop on the topic. The Town is also revisiting allocation fees. Mrs. Turner requested that a written allocation policy be formulated. It is expected this can be done in the next 30 to 60 days. The Capacity Management Plan is the foundation for this policy, but the Town Council has ultimate authority.
4. A request has been received from the County Administrator to designate free parking for County employees near the Liberty Building. Mr. Powell and Paul Comfort will discuss this further. Dick Smith stated he is opposed to the suggestion.

Centreville Police Department Report Lt. Teat read the status report for September and advised that employee had attended the Chief's Challenge. Mr. Pinder asked Lt. Teat to check on some properties where grass hasn't been cut and exceeds ordinance regulations.

Town Web Site It was reported that Jeff Rank, volunteer Webmaster for the Town, is resigning due to increasing work and home responsibilities. It is hoped the Town might find someone interested in volunteering their time for this project. Mr. Pinder suggested that Mr. Rank be recognized for his service. This will be discussed further at a workshop.

#### Citizen's Forum

Mr. Ed Novak asked about the status of an emergency plan for notifying citizens in situations of crisis or emergency. Mr. Pinder reported that a meeting would be held to discuss the Emergency Alert System with the County.

Mrs. Eileen Minor asked what the Town Council plans to do regarding the Virtual Weigh Station. Mr. Powell advised he will follow-up with Mr. Czorapinski of the Motor Carrier Division

of the State Highway Administration.

A number of Symphony Village residents in the audience remarked on the very bad smell of the drinking water. Mr. Powell advised that it needs to be determined if the problem is systemic. This problem tends to occur at the end of a distribution line; limited circulation increases the problem. There is also an issue with iron and discolored water at times. This can be cleared up with the addition of a neutralizer. Mr. Powell said he would work with individual homeowners to resolve specific problems.

Mr. Dan Worth, South Liberty Street, asked how staffing is going for position vacancies with the Town. Council advised that a new finance officer, Mrs. Lori Peddicord, was hired and began work on September 6, 2005. Position descriptions are being developed for Public Works Director and for an administrative assistant to Mr. Powell. A pool of candidates will be developed for hiring of future police officers.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. by motion and second of Mrs. McCarthy and Mr. Pinder, respectively, and by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Saulsbury, Administrative Aide