

**MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS OF POOLESVILLE
March 18, 2019**

Call to Order:

Commissioner Klobukowski called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Commissioners Dickerson, Brown, Radigan and Cook were in attendance as well as Town Attorney Jay Gullo and Town Manager Wade Yost.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION:

Commissioner Brown motioned to adjourn to a closed session pursuant to 3-305(b)(1)(i) of the General Provisions of the Maryland Annotated Code for the purpose of personnel matters to include positions on the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Planning Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Radigan. Motion carried 5-0.

Call to Order:

Commissioner Klobukowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Commissioners Dickerson, Brown, Radigan and Cook were in attendance as well as Town Engineer John Strong, Town Attorney Jay Gullo and Town Manager Wade Yost.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Brown lead the pledge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Hans Riemer addressed the Commissioners and audience. He reinforced the idea that no bridge will be built to Leesburg and that the County's Draft Budget had funds set aside for studies on the construction of a community center, health offices and a satellite police station.

Commissioner Klobukowski announced the closed session was for the appointment of Pillar Garret to the Board of Zoning Appeals and Cal Sneed to the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Brown reported that he testified in Annapolis on Saturday in favor of the Grape Crush Facility and that he had a meeting scheduled in the morning at PHS.

Commissioner Radigan announced the HMD Speakers Series was a success.

Commissioner Dickerson reported that Helping Hands and Rebuild Together were in need of skilled workers on April 27th.

Commissioner Cook reported that she would be testifying on legislation to require more stringent lead levels at schools.

Commissioner Klobukowski reported the following:

During the 14 March Legislative Committee Conference Call, we were told:

The Maryland Comptroller informed MML that 4th Quarter Income Tax Receipts were significantly down from what was forecasted; however, the amount of the difference was not provided.

It appears that the Wireless Technology bills in the House and Senate are going to an interim study and not a task force. If there is not change to this, it will result in no Small Cell Antenna installations legislation being passed this year, but we can expect to see some form of legislation again next year. It also means that for this year, we do not have to worry about accommodating any changes to our Small Cell Antenna Installation Ordinance required by a state law.

I was part of a Montgomery County MML Chapter delegation (Suzanne Ludlow/Manager Takoma Park, Bridget Donnell Newton/Mayor of Rockville, and Mr. Ron Sherrow/Councilmember Chevy Chase View) that met with Councilmember Katz, his Chief of Staff Lisa Mandell-Trupp, and Mr. Gene Smith/County Council Staffer concerning Tax Duplication.

Councilmember Katz spoke of the different routes by which municipalities receive revenue such as the State Highway User Revenue and State Income Tax.

He repeatedly asked us to “recognize” that the 17% State Income Tax municipalities receive is a disbursement of County funds received by the County from the State.

Unsure by what he meant by the need for the municipalities to “Recognize” the 17% State Income Tax we receive, he was asked to define “Recognize”, he said let us call it an “Acknowledgement”. One attendee’s later comment is very apropos, “I did conclude at the time that the word “recognize” had meaning well beyond what I would find in Webster’s dictionary. I think it’s time to hear the details of the new definition.”

He acknowledges that our use of the Income Tax Revenue we receive not only benefits our residents, but also visitors to our municipalities from all over when they use our parks, streets, and sidewalks and visit municipality unique venues, but he gives it no weight in this argument.

We all know how volatile Income Tax revenue can be for both the county and municipalities. The Council needs to recognize that for some municipalities, this state authorized revenue is critically important to their municipality’s operation. The amounts received vary widely among the county’s municipalities according to each’s size and population. The latter is impacted by a fluid economy, population movements, and demographic trends. The loss of older, usually more affluent members of communities can have a real impact on a municipality income tax stream, for they may not be replaced by residents who are as affluent.

We must also remember that the County can impose many other taxes which municipalities cannot.

Councilmember Katz and staff said that the County Code would need to be amended in order to allocate property tax dollars to tax duplication reimbursements for: policing, recreational and other services; however, the current law states Tax Duplication payments are “designed to reimburse municipalities within Montgomery County for public services provided by municipalities which would otherwise be provided by the county”.

He continues to say that he wants to put this to bed and has agreed to seriously work on tax duplication as it applies to police departments (Gaithersburg, Rockville, Takoma Park, and Chevy Chase Village). We would expect a resolution of the other Tax Duplication areas be taken up with great alacrity afterwards.

OPEN FORUM:

Resident Patrick Ishii discussed concerns about the cell towers located on the water tower. He also discussed concerns with the crosswalks on Fisher Avenue.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Dickerson motioned to approve the minutes of March 4, 2019. Seconded by Commissioner Radigan. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Water/sewer Budget Discussion

Town Manager Yost provided employee salary and rate structure comparison data to the Commissioners. Comparisons were with the City of Rockville and WSSC. It was very clear from the comparison sheets, that the Town’s salary ranges were well below the other two. Yost recommended a 10% increase, which does not match the others, but closes the gap.

The chart below shows the rate comparison.

Gallon Tiers	Poolesville	Gallon Tiers	Rockville	Gallon Tiers	WSSC
0 - 30,000	10.62	0-22,500	15.20	0 - 7,200	11.89
30,001 - 40,000	14.62	22,501-45,000	18.08	7,201 - 14,850	13.3
40,001 - 50,000	15.75	45,001-67,500	22.61	14,851 - 24,750	16.09
50,001 - up	16.52	67,501 +	27.07	24,750 +	20.26

Town Manager Yost also provided a background on the number of expenditure cuts had been implemented and a % increase scenarios to determine how much of an increase would be needed to balance the water and sewer fund.

After a lengthy discussion, the Commissioners decided that the required 8% rate increase needed to balance the fund would be reduced to a 6% increase.

Ordinance No. 212 – Small Cell Technology

Commissioner Klobukowski opened the discussion by introducing the Planning Commission’s approved Ordinance. The Commissioner discussed a few details with the Town Attorney and then Commissioner Dickerson motioned to set a public hearing for April 1, 2019. Seconded by Commissioner Radigan. Motion carried 5-0.

American Water Works Company

Commissioner Klobukowski discussed a call that he had received from the subject company to take over the operations and control of the water and sewer system. After a brief discussion, the Commissioners decided that they would not pursue this idea at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT:

Town Manager Yost reported:

1. Well 11 - Potomac Edison is installing the electric. We will now begin accessing the site and hopefully grade/pour foundation soon.
2. 2019 Paving - Bids were opened, we have received some fair pricing. John Strong is still reviewing, and we will have award recommendations on the April 1 agenda.
3. Solar Text Amendment Request - We received a request for a Zoning Text Amendment to allow a solar farm in the PRD Zone. The request is to see if there is any interest prior to filing and paying the applicable fees associated with the amendment.
4. Budget Schedule - Introduce April 15, Public Hearing May 6, adopt May 20. The Water rate increase process will coincide.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PLANNING COMMISSION – Commissioner Radigan reported on the 5g Ordinance and a commercial site plan.

PARKS BOARD – Commissioner Cook reported that the Board revised the Parks Rules and Regulations.

EVENTS COMMITTEE – Commissioner Dickerson reported on the Springfest and Friday on the Commons meetings.

SCHOOL LIASON – Commissioner Klobukowski discussed the PTA meeting 7:45 AM tomorrow.

FAIR ACCESS – Commissioner Brown discussed the Mom’s meeting, the March 20 and 27 meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn by Commissioner Radigan, seconded by Commissioner Klobukowski. Motion passed 5 -0.