

APPROVED 3/2/2020
Commissioners of Poolesville

February 18, 2020
Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Klobukowski called the meeting to order at 7:30. Present were Commissioners Dickerson, Brown, Radigan, Cook, Town Attorney, Gullo, Town Manger Rivard, and Town Engineer John Strong.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Dickerson moved to approve and second by Commissioner Cook. Commissioner Klobukowski proposed a minor amendment noting he was at the wake for Mr. Brown. Commissioner Dickerson moved to accept the amendment and seconded by Commissioner Cook. Motion to approve the amended minutes was approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Captain Hattenburg, the new commander for this area introduced herself and her experience in the community. She discussed the following topics:

- Public policing
- Meeting and connecting with community
- Interacting with children
- Discussed Tara Bond's role in the community and Tara meeting with the community
- Discussed the role of School Resource Officers

Commissioner Dickerson noted that she and Officer Bond have coordinated to set up a community outreach and drop-in program for the public to meet with Officer Bond privately if they desire. These meetings would be on the first Tuesday of the month from 4-7pm in Town Hall starting March 3, 2020.

Commissioner Klobukowski asked the Captain Hattenburg if she could share the police statistics. Captain Hattenburg stated she could provide those statistics.

Commissioner Martin Radigan

Noted the Canal Towns has included Poolesville on their website.

Commissioner Cook

Attended memorial Andie Devynck; forming an event for young women for awareness of voting

Commissioner Klobukowski:

Stated that there will be a Board of Education Candidates Forum Tuesday March 10 at Baptist Church. Informed the Commissioners that Councilmember Andrew Friedson will be at elementary school Thursday March 5, 7:30 to 9pm. He informed the Commissioners that the constant yield has been received. He attended a reception at the House office building for Montgomery and Prince Georges Chapters of MML had joint a luncheon meeting for the legislators and staff.

OPEN FORUM:

There was no public comment.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tabled by Montgomery County Legislation – Agricultural Reserve – Deer Management Permits – Rifle Hunting

Commissioner Klobukowski confirmed this legislation was tabled by Montgomery County.

Montgomery County – ZTA 2001 – Conservation of Agricultural Area to Solar Farms

Tommy Heyboer from Councilmember Riemer's office presented to the Commission the purpose of the proposed legislation. The purpose of this legislation is to address climate change related concerns. Councilmember Riemer is committed to addressing this issue. The proposed legislation would permit power generation of up to 2 megawatts and are considered a "community solar array." Currently, projects larger than 2 megawatts are permitted and approved by the PSC and do not have to follow local land use regulations. The proposed legislation would operate like a cooperative. Members would buy electric from the system. Mr. Heyboer noted that there are incentives for roof top solar projects. Rooftop areas are not large enough or contiguous enough support the solar goals of increasing energy from renewable sources. It was noted that there is some discussion occurring that new construction would be required to have solar implemented into those projects. The proposed legislation would result in a loss of usable agricultural area. Discussion of other locations or options were discussed, but it was conveyed by Mr. Heyboer that those options were less viable than the ground mounted arrays in the agricultural reserve.

NEW BUSINESS:

Beaulieu – Forest Conservation Easement Agreement

Mr. Rivard detailed the recommendation the Planning Commission provided to the Town Commission. The Planning Commission recommended to the Town Commission that they reduce the applicants forest conservation from 8.4 acres to 6.86 acres for a reduction of 1.54 acres. The applicant recorded a Forest Conservation Plan under a prior zoning classification. Subsequently the Town initiated a rezoning that required less forest conservation area. The applicant and her Attorney, Roger Hayden, presented their request and reasons they would like to reduce the forest conservation area.

The Commissioners, Ms. Beaulieu and Mr. Hayden exchanged in a discussion that focused on the change in zoning of the property which required less forest conservation area and discussion also focused on what is the benefit of reducing the forest conservation area for the Town. An adjacent property owner, Wes Highfill, did not object to Ms. Beaulieu's request based on a change she made to provide greater forest conservation buffer on Ms. Beaulieu's property that is adjacent to Mr. Highfill's property. After much discussion, Commissioner Radigan voted to add Beaulieu Forest Conservation Easement to "Old Business" at the March 2, 2020 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Brown. Motion passed unanimously.

Zoning Text Amendment – 24 Hour Businesses

Mr. Rivard detailed the recommendation the Planning Commission provided to the Town Commission for a Zoning Text Amendment to Section 13. General Provisions adding a new subsection K, which limits 24 hours businesses in Poolesville. Motion by Commissioner Cook to hold a Public Hearing on the Zoning Text Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, General Provisions. Section 13, adding a new subsection K and seconded by Commissioner Radigan. Commissioners voted unanimously to hold a Public Hearing on March 16, 2020.

Zoning Text Amendment – Gas Station Standards

Mr. Rivard detailed the recommendation the Planning Commission provided to the Town Commission for a Zoning Text Amendment to Section 13. General Provisions adding a new subsection L which includes new standards for Automobile Filling Stations. Commissioners discussed the details of the standards. Motion by Commissioner Cook to hold a Public Hearing on the Zoning Text Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, General Provisions. Section 13, adding a new subsection L and second by Commissioner Radigan. Commissioners voted unanimously to hold a Public Hearing on March 16, 2020.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Mr. Rivard presented a timeline of the budget process to the Town Commissioners. Commissioners agreed to meet at 8am on March 7
Commissioners to review the proposed budget.
- Presented the pickleball court bid schedule
- Mary Travaglini of Montgomery County DEP will be at the March 2nd Town Commissioner meeting to discuss the change in the Pesticide's Ordinance.
- Well 11 now has electric and should be up and running in first or second week of March
- Parks and Recreation heard a presentation from a citizen regarding an ice-skating rink and a restaurant.
- A "Welcome to Poolesville" sign has been on Cattail Road.
- A preliminary interest meeting on Economic Development was held in Town Hall to engage the level of interest in Economic Development activity and potential initiatives.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning Commission – Commissioner Radigan stated the PC had discussed and recommended the two Zoning Text Amendments that are on the Town Commissioners agenda, Commissioners had significant discussion the Beaulieu property and voted to recommend that to the Town Commissioners, and the Planning Commission approved Hartz Outlot B Concept Plan.

Parks Board – Commissioner Cook stated the Parks and Recreation Board heard a presentation from resident who discussed an ice-skating rink and a restaurant on the Donegan property. Separately, the Board looked at speaker system for Whalen Commons but have decided that such a system may not be compatible with other sound equipment and the speaker system may compete with other activities in Whalen Commons

Events Committee – Commissioner Dickerson noted that Faith will continue as the chairwoman on in the Poolesville Day. This may be the last year for Oktoberfest, which is a WUMCO event.

School Liaison – Commissioner Klobukowski deferred to Commissioner Brown to discuss this topic under Fair Access.

Fair Access – Commissioner Brown noted that the high school funding looks promising and all the feedback for the funding is positive. However, the community center funding may take more advocacy and may take a few more years to achieve implementation. Commissioner Brown stated there was round table with Montgomery County HHS, Police, Recreation, and a few other organizations that presented their analysis of services and needs for a community center. While their level of needs may not show a significant demand for a community center, there may be other metrics that need to be considered. Continued advocacy for a community center is anticipated under the Fair Access Board. Commissioner Klobukowski noted that he requested of the representatives of the county that at a minimum when the high school is under construction, that a foundation and slab be placed on the site in preparation of a future community center. Commissioner Klobukowski further stated that the county is also considering a circulator bus that does come to Poolesville and transports residents to services found in other areas of the county.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Brown motioned to adjourn at 10:40. Seconded by Commissioner Radigan. Approved unanimously.