

# **BURGESS AND COMMISSIONERS OF MIDDLETOWN MARYLAND**

## **TOWN MEETING MINUTES**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**September 22, 2014**

The second monthly meeting of the Burgess and Commissioners of Middletown was called to order on September 22, 2014, by Burgess Miller at 7:00 p.m. in the Middletown Municipal Center, 31 W. Main Street, Middletown, Maryland. Present were: Commissioners Rick Dietrick, Larry Bussard, Jennifer Falcinelli, Tony Ventre and Christopher Goodman.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Public Hearing* – September 4, 2014

*Town Minutes* – September 8, 2014

Commissioner Bussard motioned to accept this consent agenda as corrected, seconded by Commissioner Dietrick and passed unanimously.

### **PERSONAL REQUEST FOR AGENDA:**

***Brandi Wynne, 205 Broad Street*** – thanked the Burgess & Commissioners for painting the speed limit on the road as well as replacing and adding new signs along the street. Mrs. Wynne stated that she has only seen police presence one time on the street and would like to request more police presence.

***Staci O'Rear, 109 Broad Street*** – asked if the Town could get an electronic speed limit sign? Burgess Miller stated that he asked the Director of Public Works to get a quote to purchase one of these signs, but one that we can move from street to street.

***Presentation of Middletown Civil War Media Project – David Guiney*** – Mr. Guiney presented a slideshow to the Board of the pictures, brochures, banners, signs that he, Bruce Morgan, designer, Becky Reich, Main Street Manager, and Steve Bockmiller, historian developed for the Sesquicentennial Event.

***Travis Warren, 29 West Main Street*** – Mr. Warren stated that he has issues with the noise coming from the playground at the Valley School behind his property. Mr. Warren stated that it's not a decibel issue it's the quality of noise. Mr. Warren stated that the kids are confined to a small space and this issue has degraded our life style. Mr. Warren stated that he's here to look for solutions to help with this problem. Mr. Warren stated that he has contacted the Valley School asking for them to minimize the noise but nothing has been done.

***Jane Weir & Ed Berger, 27 West Main Street*** – Ms. Weir stated that she and her husband Mr. Berger purchased their house in 1998 and have spent a lot of money renovating their property. Ms. Weir stated that the fact that the school is wedged between private homes with a playground is unacceptable. Ms. Weir stated that putting something like this behind us to ruin our lives, she can hear intimate details about caretaker's private lives and for 11 hours a day, she can't focus on her work. Mr. Berger stated that his home has decreased in value because of its location to the school. Mr. Berger asked the Board to please do your job. Burgess Miller asked Mr. Berger what he would like us to do? Mr. Berger stated that he would appreciate some noise abatement measures. Ms. Weir stated that the school should be moved to a different location, Burgess Miller stated that is an unreasonable request.

Burgess Miller stated that the Town will have to some fact finding to respond that assertion. Commissioner Ventre stated that the Town's ability to do anything is limited to whether the school is adhering to the code. Burgess Miller also stated that the Town will speak to the Valley School and get back with Ms. Weir, Mr. Berger and Mr. Warren and try to mitigate the situation.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Dog Park Project – Grant Funds Approved** – Commissioner Ventre stated that he would like a decision if the Board wishes to move forward with the dog park. Commissioner Ventre stated that the total cost of the project is \$47,872 and the Town's portion of this project is \$11,968. The proposed location of the dog park is in Wiles Branch Park next to the west wastewater treatment plant. Drew stated that the yearly maintenance cost of the dog park would be approximately \$2,600. Commissioner Bussard stated that he feels we could spend the \$12,000 somewhere else more wisely than on a dog park. Commissioner Dietrick asked if there is a demand for the dog park? Or are we just doing it because we received grant money to do so? Commissioner Dietrick asked who is responsible if dogs fight or attack other dogs or humans? Commissioner Dietrick asked if we know what all is involved with a dog park?

Commissioner Ventre wanted to know what the sub-committee mission is going to be? Commissioner Falcinelli stated that the sub-committee be formed, research what will work what won't work and they can then bring back their findings to the Board and the Board can decide if they wish to move forward with.

Commissioner Ventre motioned to move forward with the dog park grant, with the condition that the sub-committee do a thorough investigation and make a recommendation back to the Board and if the Commissioners have any concerns about to articulate those concerns, seconded by Falcinelli. Motion carried (4-2 Dietrick & Bussard voted against).

**CGI Communications – Video Showcase Program** – Drew stated that CGI contacted the Town wanting to know if we would be interested in having videos such as a welcoming video on the Town's website. Drew stated that there is no cost to the Town for this service, how CGI makes their money is they ask the Town to send out a letter to all the businesses asking if they would like to put up an advertisement on our website. The advertisement would be the name of the business that would run around the video and when you click on that business it will go directly to their website. Drew stated that the cost to the businesses would be between \$500-\$1,500.

After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board not to move forward with this.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Discussion of e-billing for Water Bills** – Commissioner Falcinelli stated that at the water & sewer meeting last week they viewed a presentation from our billing software coming on ebilling. Drew stated that by providing this service it would be a cost savings to the Town. It currently costs us approximately \$0.80 per bill to print, fold, stuff & mail. By providing this service it would only cost us \$0.35 per bill sent. It is the water & sewer committee's recommendation to move forward with this service. Burgess Miller asked Drew to provide the Board with the information on ebilling and the Board will vote on in October.

**Streetscape Update & Discussion** – Drew stated that he attended a meeting with SHA last week and per the Board's wishes of updating the waterline when the State does the streetscape project, we need to move forward with the design of the waterline. Drew provided tow (2) quotes that he obtained last year one from Arro for \$18,425 and Beacon for \$25,000.

Motion by Commissioner Bussard to go with Arro with a price not to exceed \$20,000, seconded by Commissioner Goodman. Motion carried (6-0).

**Review of Municipal Growth Element** – Burgess Miller stated that he asked Cindy to provide the board with a brief overview of the Municipal Growth Element from the Town’s Comprehensive Plan. Included with this overview is a map.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Mike Tabor, 205 S. Church Street** – stated that the Christ Reformed Church is not allowing anyone to park in their parking lot due to liability issues. Mr. Tabor stated that his businesses used that parking lot for overflow parking. Mr. Tabor asked if the Town could put 2 hour parking along Franklin Street from the intersection of S. Church to the Memorial Park. Burgess Miller stated that the Town will look into this.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The Town is asking for volunteers to serve on the Town’s Ethics Commission. Please submit a letter of interest to the Town Office.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, the regular meeting adjourned at 9:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Griffin  
Office Manager