

# *BURGESS AND COMMISSIONERS OF MIDDLETOWN MARYLAND*

## VIRTUAL TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### TOWN MEETING

October 25, 2021

The meeting of the Burgess and Commissioners of Middletown was called to order on October 25, 2021, by Burgess Miller at 7:00 p.m. Present via Zoom were Commissioners Jennifer Falcinelli, Christopher Goodman, Jean LaPadula, Kevin Stottlemyer, and Rick Dietrick.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Bob Smart, 7525 Coblenz Road, stated it seems that the new virtual meeting system is working well and thanks Town staff for their efforts in making it happen.

### PERSONAL REQUESTS FOR AGENDA:

- **Ms. Barry Salisbury – Trolley Path (From Middletown to Myersville)** – Ms. Salisbury is very interested in establishing a walking trail/bike trail between Middletown and Myersville utilizing the old trolley line. This idea has been successful in other communities. It would promote health benefits and provide a potential tourism asset to Middletown. This “Trolley Trail” could be a piece of a larger regional walking/biking trail system. The Town Board reviewed a map showing where this trolley trail would run between the two communities. Ms. Salisbury has tentatively spoken with representatives of Myersville and the County so gauge their interest in the project. A rough cost estimate for the project is \$1.2 million. Potential funding could include POS monies, LPPI monies, Bond Bills, and potential public private partnerships. It was suggested that Middletown, Myersville, and Frederick County work collaboratively to make this project a reality. The Town Board suggested that Ms. Salisbury form a committee to begin preliminary work. Bob Smart volunteered for this committee.

### CONSENT AGENDA:

- **Town Meeting Minutes**
  - *October 7, 2021 – Town Workshop*
  - *October 11, 2021 – Town Meeting*

Under the AC Jets agenda item, Commissioner LaPadula recommended modifying both sets of minutes to reflect that the Town is legally obligated to respond to the annexation petition and lead it through a State mandated process.

**Motion:** Commissioner Falcinelli motioned to approve the consent agenda including Commissioner LaPadula’s recommendations as presented. Seconded by Commissioner LaPadula. Motion approved (5-0).

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

**Planning Commission Appointments** – Three seats on the Planning Commission will be coming up for appointment/reappointment at the end of this year. There are 2 seats up in December and one in January. The Town Board will make the appointment/reappointments for the 2 seats up in December at the end of November. This will be beneficial for the December Joint Town Board/Planning Commission meeting and both the December Planning Commission workshop and meeting. The January appointment/reappointment will take place at the second Town Board meeting in December, or the first Town Board meeting in January. If anyone is interested in serving on the Planning Commission, please complete a town volunteer application and submit it to the Town office for consideration. Burgess Miller will forward any candidate information received to the Town Board for review.

**Discussion of Changes to the Chapter 8.08 - Nuisances** – Commissioner LaPadula noted previously that Staff has limited ability to address nuisances occurring on private property and recommends that the Town Board consider updating the Town Code so that the Town can address nuisances in the future. She sent information she has found on this topic to Town Board members for review. This would still be complaint driven, and would address items such as blighted properties, and untagged vehicles. This is the first discussion on this topic.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Proclamation for Business Appreciation Week** – The Town Board reviewed the proclamation. This will be shared with Middletown businesses next week. Burgess Miller noted that the Town has done many things to support our businesses.

**Ethics Commission Appointment** – Virginia Cuff has resigned from the Ethics Commission. There is now a seat available. If anyone is interested, please contact the Town Administrator.

**CQI Bidding for Electrical Power Generation** – The current contract with CQI Associates Energy Co-op is coming to an end. This is regarding who the Town purchases their energy generation from. Potomac Edison will still transmit the generated power through its' lines. The Town Board will be reviewing the new CQI generation rates in late November or in December. Once the rates are received, the Town has 30 days to accept them.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Doug Remsberg, 214 Lombardy Court**, asked if CQI generated their power using green sources. That is not known currently. The Town Administrator will ask CQI for that information.

Mr. Remsberg also stated that the traffic in town has increased tremendously and asked if the Town Board was aware of the traffic hazard that occurs daily at the Primary School when school is in session. Traffic heading west bound on Holter Road coming into to town comes to a stand still as parents are waiting to pick up their children at the end of the school day and stop in the road to wait. Other cars pass all the stopped traffic using the oncoming lane and create a hazard. Burgess Miller stated that the Town will review the issue and coordinate a response with FCPS. Burgess Miller further stated that the Broad Street reconstruction project also contributes to traffic congestion town due to the detour.

**Streetlight Buy Back Update** – The Town is still waiting to hear back from Potomac Edison regarding costs. Also, Potomac Edison still has not installed the cobra head at Holter Road and Middletown Parkway. Town staff contacted Potomac Edison and that project has been expedited due to a lost workorder.

**Bob Smart, 7525 Coblenz Road,** stated that new meeting platform worked well this meeting. He was able to hear everyone.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- *Middletown Halloween Parade – Saturday, October 30, 2021. Parade begins at 5:00PM and will come down Green Street.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Alberghini,  
Office Manager