

BURGESS AND COMMISSIONERS
OF MIDDLETOWN MARYLAND

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

TOWN MEETING

April 24, 2023

The meeting of the Burgess and Commissioners of Middletown was called to order on April 24, 2023 by Burgess Miller at 6:30 p.m. Present were Commissioners Jennifer Falcinelli, Rick Dietrick, Kevin Stottlemeyer, Jean LaPadula and Chris Goodman.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

FY2024 General Fund Operating Budget – The Finance Officer reviewed the proposed budget and budget summary. The proposed FY2024 General Fund Operating Budget totals \$3,876,065 in revenue, \$3,650,065 in operating expenses, which leaves a surplus of \$226,000. One of the community deputies is retiring at the end of May 2023. She will not be replaced. This will provide some savings. Discussion occurred regarding the increase in health insurance costs.

The budget workshop ended at 7:08PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

PERSONAL REQUEST FOR AGENDA: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- **ARPA Budget** – The Finance Officer reviewed the summary report of the ARPA budget expenditures through April 17, 2023. The current balance of unspent and unobligated funds is \$285,811.87. After discussion regarding potential expenditures, it was suggested to wait until after reviewing the General Fund CIP budget for 2024 before deciding anything.
- **Water & Sewer Capacity Reports** – The DPW reviewed the Water Capacity Report. In 2022 the demands plus reservations totaled 354,218 gpd. The available EDU's (at 250 gpd) total 131. It does not include the Memar development or their wells. The Sewer Capacity Report shows that the town has 4 units available for the East plant, and 78 units available for the West plant. When MDE approves the 100,000-gallon increase on the permit and once the Memar development is online the Town will have 400 units available.
- **MDE Administrative Assessment** – The Town Board reviewed the latest MDE offer to settle regarding the EWWTP permit violations which occurred for the time period May 2018 through October 2022. MDE had originally offered to settle in the amount of \$63,221. After the Town's counteroffer with supporting documentation, MDE has countered with the offer to settle in the amount of \$38,957.
- **Town Meeting Minutes**
 - *April 6, 2023 – Town Workshop*

o *April 10, 2023 – Town Meeting*

Motion: Commissioner Falcinelli motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner LaPadula. Motion approved (6-0).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Review of Draft Ordinance for Amendments to the Ethics Commission – The State Ethics Law has changed which requires changes to the local government ethics laws. It includes new conflicts of interest and additional disclosure for elected officials that must be incorporated into the Town’s local ordinance. The Town Attorney has these changes and is putting them into ordinance form.

Review of T-Mobile New Cellular Lease - T-Mobile has contacted the Town requesting a new lease for their antenna on the water tower. Their original proposal included a monthly rent of \$1755.55 with an escalation rate of 1.5%. The Town countered with monthly rent of \$2088.45 with an escalation rate of 3%. Tonight, T-Mobile provided another counteroffer which is monthly rent of \$2100 with an annual escalator of 2.5%. The lease would expire on 4/30/2052 but could have 4 additional 5-year terms.

Motion: Commissioner Stottlemeyer motioned to approve the T-Mobile counteroffer as presented. Seconded by Commissioner LaPadula. Motion approved (6-0).

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointment of Planning Commission Member – Bob Miller is stepping down from the Planning Commission once his term ends in May. There will be a vacancy on the Planning Commission.

Motion: Burgess Miller motioned to promote Eric Ware from the Planning Commission Alternate position to the member seat vacated by Bob Miller. Seconded by Commissioner LaPadula. Motion approved (6-0).

Motion: Commissioner LaPadula motioned to promote Lori Summers from the Planning Commission Temp Alternate position to the Alternate position. Seconded by Commissioner Goodman. Motion approved (6-0).

Request for Outdoor Music – Richland Golf Course – This is the annual outdoor music permit request from the golf course. They will have live music on their patio Friday evenings until 10:30PM from May 1st through November 1st, 2023. The golf course is aware of the Town Code and restrictions. The Town has not received any complaints in the past.

The Town Board agreed by consensus to approve the outdoor music request from Richland Golf Course.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The state bond bills have been decided. Middletown will receive \$100,000 for the Food Bank, and \$250,000 towards the spring line replacement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- *Arbor Day Tree Planting – Friday, April 28, 2023, from 1PM-3PM*
- *Public Hearing – Constant Yield Tax Rate – Thursday, May 4, 2023, 7:00PM*
- *Farmers Market Opens every Thursday May through October*
- *Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage – Saturday, May 6, 2023*
- *Memorial Day Ceremony – Memorial Park, Monday, May 29, 2023*
- *Family Movie Night, Saturday, June 3, 2023 at Remsberg Park*

Workshop adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Alberghini,
Office Manager