

***BURGESS AND COMMISSIONERS
OF MIDDLETOWN MARYLAND***

**TOWN WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING**

REGULAR MEETING

July 27, 2020

The virtual regular meeting of the Burgess and Commissioners of Middletown was called to order on July 27, 2020, by Burgess Miller at 7:00 p.m. Present were: Commissioners Larry Bussard, Christopher Goodman, Jennifer Falcinelli, Jean LaPadula and Rick Dietrick.

PERSONAL REQUESTS FOR AGENDA:

MVAA Request for Installation of Scoreboard at Remsberg Park – MVAA is interested in having the scoreboard the Town received from Middletown High School placed at Remsberg Park. It has been repaired and is in working order. Although MVAA plans on having a football season, they have not heard whether FCPS will have a season or not. MVAA would like to move football games to the field at Remsberg Park. Currently games help on FCPS property cost approximately \$1200/day. If held at Remsberg Park monies raised could go back into the park maintenance. Drew reviewed an overhead aerial of Remsberg Park and where the scoreboard could be placed. Town engineers would have to design the footings and they could be poured by Town employees. The placing of the scoreboard would require the use of a crane to lift into place. Preliminary costs for that have been estimated to be \$3000-\$5000 to erect. An electrician would have to advise as to the best way to run electricity to the scoreboard once installed. There are currently enough spaces on the panel at the park for the scoreboard. The Town Board would like to know what the total costs for this installation would be. MVAA was hoping that the costs would be shared with the Town. MVAA was instructed to have other plans if the costs to place the scoreboard at its preferred location was too costly. Frederick County will be contacted regarding the permitting process for the scoreboard.

MVAA requested if the Town would provide assistance in moving the storage sheds they have at the Middletown Community Park. MVAA has been notified that the area will be closed for renovations by the County. They would like the Town to move 1 of the sheds closer to the County Park batting cages, and that a second shed could be moved to Remsberg Park so that soccer teams can use them. The Superintendent of Streets and Parks will review the situation and give his opinion to MVAA. It was noted that due to COVID-19 the town is working with split crews so that must be taken into consideration. MVAA has until September 30th to move the sheds.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- **Town Meeting Minutes**
 - *June 13, 2020 – Town Meeting*

Motion by Commissioner Bussard to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Goodman. Motion carried 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Speed Sign Data Review

- **Tobias Run** – The 5-days of speed sign data collected for Tobias Run was reviewed. 872 vehicles were recorded. The average speed was 14mph. The 85th% speed was 19mph. The highest recorded speed was 28mph.
- **South Jefferson Street** - The speed sign data collected for South Jefferson Street northbound traffic was reviewed. 1390 vehicles were recorded. The average speed was 17mph. The 85th% speed was 25mph. The highest recorded speed was 45mph. The Thursday traffic was high due to construction on Main street and traffic being diverted onto South Jefferson.

There is no information on Deputy activity in each neighborhood currently. It was noted that Deputy Chudoba did spend time with the children on Tobias Run talking about bike and road safety. The solutions for each neighborhood would be different depending on the identified issues.

Lacey Gordon, 101 Tobias Run, stated that the speed limit on Tobias Run needs to be reviewed, and the safety of the children crossing the street to go to the playground with no crosswalks in place is another issue. Burgess Miller mentioned several options that could be put in place on Tobias Run. These included: installing “Children at Play” signs and 25mph signs, temporary speed bumps could be installed (and removed in the winter) and crosswalks could be added at identified intersections. Raised speed humps could not be installed (budget constraints). Temporary speed bumps are 4 inches tall and could be installed on streets 22 feet wide or larger. The Town currently has enough for 3.

Jessica Moore, 10 Tobias Run, asked if the speed sign could be moved to measure the speed of those leaving the neighborhood. People tend to speed as they drive toward Glenbrook Drive to exit Tobias Run.

Susan Powell, 108 Tobias Run, asked if it was possible to install multiple speedbumps and crosswalks for safety. Commissioner Falcinelli stated that currently Town policy does not allow multiple speed bumps. The policy would have to be amended to allow that to occur.

Jonathan Pembroke, 18 Tobias Run, asked if it was possible to install painted rumble strips instead of speed bumps. He is willing to get cost estimates for the Town.

Motion: Commissioner LaPadula motioned for the Town to install 3 crosswalks at the identified intersection of Tobias Run next to the park. Seconded by Commissioner Goodman. Motion carried (5-0).

Discussion of if the stop sign at the end of Tobias Run leading into the cul-de-sac could then be removed. It was determined that it could lead to right-of-way confusion at that intersection and its removal would be a safety hazard.

Evan Moore, 10 Tobias Run, asked if there is any notification when new signs are installed. New signs are flagged so they are noticed.

Motion: Commissioner LaPadula motioned for the Town to install 2 stop signs at the identified intersection of Tobias Run next to the crosswalks. Seconded by Commissioner Dietrick. Motion carried (5-0).

Commissioner Falcinelli stated that the Town will need criteria on temporary speed bumps. Commissioner Bussard asked if the residents had spoken with their neighbors who had been speeding. That is what prompted this agenda item. Residents are trying to take mitigating steps to reduce the safety hazard. The Tobias Run neighborhood will wait for the rest of the speed data collected to see if lowering the speed limit is warranted.

South Jefferson Street – Speed limit signs have been installed. Speed sign data for south bound traffic on South Jefferson Street will be captured in “stealth mode”. Any other action will be determined after the August workshop.

Discussion of Speed Control Measures for Tobias Run/Traffic Mitigation Speed Policy – The Town Board reviewed a draft policy developed by Burgess Miller. It organizes and formalizes many of the informal practices currently in place. Steps 1-3 can occur concurrently. The speed sign can be moved unless it is currently in use somewhere else. The goal is to have the issue addressed within a 6-week time frame.

Motion: Commissioner Falcinelli motioned to approve the Traffic Speed Mitigation Policy as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Dietrick. Motion carried (5-0).

Mrs. Lain, 330 Ingalls Drive, stated she was glad to see the speed study done on Route 17 North and that the 85% speed was 38mph. Speed is still up, so how can ticketing speeders be enough. Since Route 17 is a State road the Town is limited in what it can do.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request from Glenbrook Residents for Additional Stop Sign on Glenbrook Drive at Hollow Creek Circle – The Town has received 12 emails requesting a stop sign at the intersection of Glenbrook Drive and Hollow Creek Circle.

Colleen Sherman, 2 Hollow Creek Circle, stated that once drivers pass the golf course, they speed down the rest of Glenbrook Drive. There is a need for an additional stop sign at that intersection to slow this from happening.

It was noted that Glenbrook Drive is designated a collector road so there are other things the Town must consider. Glenbrook Drive was added to the list of streets using the speed sign to gather data.

Bee City USA Resolution – This is a mechanism for the Town to be recognized for what has happened and planned to happen regarding to promote pollinator habitats within Town limits. The language came from Bee City USA. It incorporates more integrated pest management strategies. One of the advantages is a decrease in the amount of mowing that the Town does. The Burgess and Commissioners would be the sponsors for the Town. Middletown Pollinator Conservation efforts would be coordinated with the Department of Public Works. The cost is \$100 per year for the designation. The Sustainability Committee would identify potential habitat areas, like Cone Branch pocket park.

Motion: Commissioner Dietrick motioned to approve Resolution No. 20-05 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner LaPadula. Motion carried (5-0).

MML Statement on Racial Justice Endorsement – The Town Board is tabling the MML statement endorsement and is creating one of their own. Commissioners Falcinelli and LaPadula have taken the lead on this. Commissioner LaPadula reviewed the draft statement they had created. One of the goals is to incorporate this into Chapter 1 of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan thereby giving this statement more weight. It is complementary to the vision statement. The timing for this is right. The Planning Commission will review and discuss this statement and provide input to the Town Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- *Please Complete Your Census Information* – Residents will now have to mail in their information.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Alberghini,
Office Manager