



Town of Rising Sun
Mayor & Commissioners
Town Meeting Minutes



Let it be remembered that the Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the Town of Rising Sun, held a Town Meeting on the third floor of Town Hall in Rising Sun on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 7:00 PM. For the record the meeting place and time were duly posted as required.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Travis Marion, Vice Mayor George Walker, Commissioners Allen Authenreath and Jennifer Scully.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Dave Warnick will be attending a little later this evening.

STAFF/CONSULTANTS PRESENT: Town Administrator Calvin A. Bonenberger, Jr., and Town Clerk Marsha Spencer

IN THE MATTER OF CALLING THE MEETING TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Travis Marion, followed by the Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Commissioner Scully and seconded by Commissioner Authenreath to approve the Minutes of December 9, 2014. Motion carried 3-0. Motion was made by Commissioner Walker and seconded by Commissioner Scully to approve the Special Minutes of the Meeting of January 6, 2015. Motion carried 3-0.



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IN THE MATTER OF REPORTING OF EXECUTIVE SESSIONS: NONE

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Fiscal Year 2014 Audit Presentation: Town Administrator Bonenberger introduced Mr. Robert Diss from Lindsey & Associates, the auditor for Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2014. Mr. Diss reviewed highlights of the audit that began with “Management’s Discussion and Analysis”, “Statements of Net Position” on both the Proprietary and Government Funds and Notes. Motion was made by Commissioner Scully and seconded by Commissioner Walker to accept the audit report as submitted. Motion carried 3-0.

Citizen of the Year Presentation: Mayor read a brief statement of award for the 2014 Citizen of the Year Award to recognize an outstanding member of the community through volunteer activities and leadership. This community member coordinated the Town’s first Color Run with the support of the Way of Life Church. She also organized a team of volunteers and a full slate of activities for the Town’s Fall Spooktacular. Thanks to her infectious spirit, Ms. Desiree Davis is the 2014 Citizen of the Year. Desiree came forward to receive the award from Mayor Marion.

IN THE MATTER OF BUSINESS MEETING ITEMS:

Economic Development RFP Review Committee: Mayor Marion announced that bids will be opened this Friday, January 16th. The six persons Review Committee will review the submissions and grade responses with scoring sheets to determine the most qualified bidder. A recommendation will then be made to the Mayor and Commissioners. The suggested committee members are: Mayor Marion, Commissioners Warnick and Authenreath, County Commissioner Daniel



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Schneckenburger, Lisa Webb of the Cecil County Office of Economic Development, and Kevin Bayne of the Department of Community Housing & Development. Motion was made by Commissioner Walker and seconded by Commissioner Scully to approve this six persons review committee. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Warnick joined the meeting at 7:25 PM.

In the Matter of Citizens Input: NONE

In the Matter of the Mayor's Report: Mayor Marion reported that he and Delegate Hornberger are making plans to meet again as they lay the groundwork for opportunities that the State might offer the Town of Rising Sun. The Mayor awarded letters of recommendation to ten Boy Scouts from Troop 93 at a ceremony held at Janes Methodist Church where the scouts received their Eagle Scout Badges. The Mayor will be attending Cecil Night in Annapolis on January 15th where he will be meeting newly elected officials and other acquaintances. On January 6th a special proclamation was made to honor law enforcement personnel with presentation of lapel ribbons. Blue lights are illuminating Town Hall in honor of naming January "Police Support Month." Mayor Marion added that he had received and accepted a Nomination to serve on the Maryland Rural Council. Also, Mayor Marion will attend the inauguration for Governor Hogan next week.

In the Matter of Staff Reports:

Chief Peterson thanked the Mayor and Commissioners for the above mentioned proclamation and presentation to law enforcement officers. The Town's support is much appreciated. The Police Department has been busy with yearend audits, closing grants, adding on to programs and various reports for the State. Since December 10th



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the Department has responded to 522 calls for service with a notable increase in the number of assaults and arrests for assaults, generally the result of domestic violence. Chief Peterson provided an update on body cameras for police officers. One particular model, made by Taser, mimics the eye and has all the qualities of the chain of evidence that will be required. Some older equipment will be traded in to offset the cost of \$399 each. A grant is available through LGIT Insurance Company that may also offset that cost.

Town Administrator Bonenberger reported that one yearend report in particular requires notification be provided to the County Finance and Tax Office to list properties for tax sale for a variety of reasons. Most of the properties on the Town's list are for unpaid utility bills. We have maintained a considerate attitude and modified our approach. Nine properties are on this year's list (fourteen were on last year's list). All of these properties are vacant and water has been turned off for more than six months. Five of the properties are listed from last year. The total amount includes a fifteen percent administrative charge. Property owners can continue to offer payments up through February to be removed from the list. The total amount is \$15,799.50. Motion was made by Commissioner Warnick and seconded by Commissioner Scully to allow these properties to move to tax sale. Motion carried 4-0.

Town Administrator Bonenberger also submitted a Mid-Year Budget Review. With no increase in taxes and with improvements in services, capital improvements and upgrades in infrastructure, the numbers reflect an increase in unbudgeted items, often beyond our control. The Town has been performing well financially over the past couple of years despite approximately \$200,000 in unnecessary legal expenses. The elected body is doing a great job of not raising taxes and tightening the belt on expenses.



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Although the Town is finishing with a small amount in the positive, there are some significant expenditures that need to be planned for over the next two to three years that total roughly \$15—18 Million. A strategy needs to be developed to address these items:

- \$2—3 Million to decommission the lagoon
- \$1.5--2 Million to handle sludge from the sewer plant
- \$2 Million to replace 10,000 lineal feet of 4" water lines
- \$25 Thousand for new rate study for proprietary and general fund
- \$8 Thousand for new impact fee study
- \$100 Thousand for new police cars over 3 years
- \$250 Thousand for new public works equipment
- \$5—7 Million for new water system
- \$2 Million for second water tank
- \$200 for 10 year inspection and recoating of existing water tank
- \$500 Thousand for inflow and infiltration upgrades to sewer system
- \$2 Million to replace and upgrade all streets and sidewalks in town over a 5 year period

Town Administrator Bonenberger suggested that the elected body might schedule a workshop on a couple of Saturday mornings to understand the financial demands and resources. The numbers are daunting, but not insurmountable.

Motion was made by Commissioner Authenreath to have a mid-year budget evaluation, empowering the Town Administrator to set a date for this workshop meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Warnick. After further discussion of the need to understand these items and the current status of the budget, Commissioner Warnick suggested that such a meeting would aid in preparation for a new budget to be presented in July. The Mayor expressed disappointment that previous Boards did not



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plan adequately for many of these items on the list, making a roadmap for the future. Neglected items lead to repair work that could have been avoided with proper maintenance. Motion carried 4-0.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION REPORT: The first meeting of 2015 is scheduled for tomorrow night. All are welcome.

IN THE MATTER OF OLD BUSINESS: None.

IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS: None.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Scully – The “Rising Above Domestic Violence and Addiction” page has been growing in followers. Over the holidays, mention has been made of the increase in assaults. Inspirational and informative messages have been posted to raise awareness of such statistics, things to note and resources that are available. Followers are up to 332. Commissioner Scully thanked Town Administrator Bonenberger for helping with the technological details to promote this page. Messages reach beyond the Town of Rising Sun, with a multi-state following to Michigan and points south. One simple post was shared with 1,600 people: “Don’t let someone else’s addiction make you feel guilty”.

National Drug Facts Week is January 26 through February 1. Pending approval by the Cecil County Public Schools in the next day or two, and in conjunction with the Rising Sun Arts Council and Police Department, students will be challenged to create art that expresses their answer to “How has addiction affected your life?” Registration, handouts and awards are planned. Three awards are planned: Artistic Achievement,



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Mayor's Choice Award and Commissioners Choice Award and awards to parents. Art will be displayed at Town Hall and awards made at a Town Meeting. Donations will be sought from the community for gift card prizes.

Commissioner Walker – Construction on the Waste Water Treatment Plant is proceeding nicely. A meeting is planned at the end of the month to discuss financing for the new water line. Since Commissioner Walker is not available, the Town Administrator will be attending without him. Mayor Marion shared that Delegate Hornberger made positive remarks regarding Commissioner Walker's leadership on this project.

Commissioner Warnick - Cold weather is holding up replacement of the slide at Diddie Richardson Park. One of the pillars on the new equipment at Veterans Park has some movement and will require repairs but is deemed safe. Warmer temperatures are necessary to allow for lifting of the rubber and re-cementing. While the ground is frozen, some loads of stone will be delivered to the trail system.

Commissioner Authenreath – The Planning Commission will meet on January 2th and continue working on land development and the adequate public facilities ordinance.

Commissioner Authenreath shared a letter from KCI Technologies regarding replacement of the Rising Sun Zoning Map with a Digital GIS model for \$5,000. Motion was made by Commissioner Authenreath to convert the current zoning map to the new Digital GIS style. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Warnick and passed 4-0.

In meetings last December with the Public Works Department, Town Administrator and KCI, a review of streets and sidewalks was conducted in concert with emails received from residents. In the second letter from KCI, their scope of work was presented for a



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Road Evaluation Study that would include field inspections of the existing town roads located within town boundaries. A report would summarize the results of their investigations and recommendations for future roadway improvement projects. Stage 1 will be the “Initial Roadway Inspection and Rating”; Stage 2 is “Priority 1 and 2 Roadways – Utility and Sidewalk Evaluation.” Stage 3 is “Final Report and Recommendations”. Commissioner Authenreath moved to approve the estimate of \$23,425 for a thorough evaluation of streets, sidewalks, and ratings of priorities. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Warnick. After discussion, Town Administrator Bonenberger explained that for this one-time expense, funds would be reallocated from other projected budget items that have not occurred i.e. one employee position that has not been filled. That fact that this project is planned in stages would spread the expenditures over some months and possibly into the next budget year. All three stages could be completed within six months with paving to be scheduled in the summer weather.

Commissioner Authenreath made a motion to move ahead with the various stages as projected in KCI’s letter for the estimated amount of \$23,425. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Warnick and after further discussion, motion carried 4-0.

Motion was made to adjourn by Commissioner Walker. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Warnick and carried 4-0 at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha J. Spencer
Town Clerk



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DECLARATION AND VERIFICATION OF AUTHENTICITY

I, Marsha J. Spencer, Clerk for the Town of Rising Sun, Maryland, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing minutes are a true, perfect and complete copy of the Minutes adopted by the Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Rising Sun, Maryland, and is identical to the original thereof appearing in the official records of the Town of Rising Sun, Maryland and the same has not, since its adoption, been rescinded or amended in any respect.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have affixed the seal of the Town of Rising Sun as of this 27th day of January 2015.

Respectfully submitted

Marsha J. Spencer
Town Clerk

CERTIFICATE & TOWN SEAL

(STATE OF MARYLAND)
(COUNTY OF CECIL)
(TOWN OF RISING SUN)

Motion to approve the minutes made by Commissioner Allen Authenreath and seconded by Commissioner Jennifer Scully at the January 27, 2015 Town Meeting.

Motion passed 4-0.