

**MINUTES**

**COSM**

**Commissioners**

**Citizen Meeting of Grace and Thompson Sts  
 Monday, September 11, 2017, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
 Edgar M. Bosley Jr. Municipal Admin. Building  
 300 Mill Street, St. Michaels, MD**



**I. Call to Order**

President Boos called to order the special session of the Commissioners of St. Michaels at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Edgar M. Bosley Jr. Municipal Building, 300 Mill Street, St. Michaels Maryland. Present were Commissioners William Boos, Michael Bibb, Joyce Harrod, and Roy Myers, Town Manager Jean Weisman, Public Works Director Jeff Richardson, Town Engineer Casey Rauch, Legislative Clerk Suzanna Warnick, and 21 members of the public. Commissioner Jaime Windon was absent.

President Boos noted that the meeting was for the benefit of the residents of Grace and Thompson Street to review the plans for improvements to both streets in the coming months.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**III. Items for Discussion**

- **Review of Street Plans for Grace and Thompson Streets**

**Curbs, sidewalks and driveway aprons**

President Boos said the Commissioners and staff and the Town's civil engineer, Casey Rauch would try to provide as much information as currently available about the project, after which the discussion would be opened to the public for comment. President Boos said that all questions would get a response and that the meeting would remain open as long as necessary to accomplish that goal.

Town Manager Jean Weisman then opened the discussion, noting that Talbot County expected to begin sewer work in October, 2017, and that the Town work would begin in late fall or early spring. Mrs. Weisman and engineer Casey Rauch provided details and a timeline for the work on Grace and Thompson Streets. Mr. Rauch noted that the streets would be open at the

beginning and end of the day and that 1/2 the street would be passable when possible, during the day. Mr. Rauch then answered questions from Commissioners and Staff. President Boos then called for public comment.

#### IV. Comments from the Public

In response to questions from Norval Thompson, 112 Grace Street, Commissioner Boos said that residents should not have any additional expense for the project unless the sewer line from the street to their house was deteriorated and needed to be replaced. Mrs. Weisman said that this was unlikely and did not occur in any of the previous five phases of street repair. Commissioner Boos said that the street would not be any wider than it is now, but that sidewalks would be removed, grass seed and curb put in in the spring, and driveway and sidewalk aprons would be replaced. Deborah Colborn of Grace Street, said she wanted a sidewalk on the side of the street where the cars park for safety reasons. Mr. Rauch responded to a concern about storm water runoff from Ann Hymes of 114 Grace Street. Ms. Hymes also said she was opposed to removal of the sidewalks for safety reasons and did not understand why they were being removed.

Sara Robbins of 113 Grace Street said she was not opposed to the removal of the sidewalks as they were in bad condition anyway. Jeff Richardson said culverts would be inspected and repaired or replaced to handle drainage from Thompson Street, in response to a question from Mary O'Donnell of 115 W. Chestnut. Frank Hopkins of 113 W. Chestnut said he was pleased that the drainage from Thompson Street would be addressed as the standing water on his property was a draw for mosquitos. Charles Gordon of 103 Grace Street was assured that the project would do its best to accommodate the unique situations of residents' property. Allan Wald of 107 Grace Street asked for more particulars on the seeding or sodding. Mrs. Wald and other residents voiced serious objection to not replacing the sidewalks. Ms. Hymes added that the few parking spaces on Grace Street should be clearly marked, because each one was "precious." Norval Thompson asked if the Commissioners would incorporate requests and suggestions into the plan if submitted to the Commissioners. Commissioner Bose said that the list would be read and considered, but that he could not guarantee that the suggestions or requests would be incorporated in the project plans. David Bryanhurst of 113 Grace Street raised the issue of moving the dead end sign at the end of Grace Street closer to the corner of Talbot Street. Cindy Pease of 106 Grace Street asked Mr. Rauch to review the time line for the work on Grace Street.

Mrs. Wald asked how Chestnut Street got around the ADA issues. Mrs. Weisman said Chestnut Street had wider sidewalks and a wider street, with room for compliance than Grace Street. Mrs. O'Donnell asked if orangeburg pipe would be used in the sewer upgrade. Mr. Rauch said yes, orangeburg would be used, and Mrs. Weisman noted that any questions about the sewer work should be

addressed to Talbot County, as they own the sewer. Mrs. Dodie Theune of 111 Grace Street asked if there was a way to keep the sidewalk, repair it, and avoid the ADA issue. Mr. Rauch said that the curb could not be pulled out and replaced without disturbing the sidewalk, and there would be liability issues if you replaced just portions of it. Norval Thomson asked what was the budget for the project. Mrs. Weisman said \$200,000 had been budgeted for Grace Street and \$100,000 for Thompson Street.

Commissioner Boos, at the request of Ms.Hymes, took an informal vote of raised hands, asking who wanted to eliminate sidewalks or keep them as is, and the responses were mixed.

The Commissioners reiterated that they would look at any written submissions from the residents, and suggested that any comments be addressed to the Town Manager, who would see that the Commissioners received copies. Mr. Gordon of 103 Grace Street said that he understood that these meetings were difficult for the residents, and that disagreements were inevitable, but that he appreciated the Town taking the time to meet with everyone.

**V. Comments from the Commissioners**

There were no additional comments from the Commissioners.

**VI. Announcement of Future Meetings**

**VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

**Public Participation:** Members of the public may make comments and ask questions about items appearing on the "Consent Agenda" when they are presented. All other comments from the public will be taken during the period set aside for "Comments from the Public". To be recognized, a member of the public should raise his or her hand and wait to be recognized by the President. Comments and questions should be kept brief and to the point, and be directed to the President.