

MINUTES

COSM Commissioners

COSM Legislative Session - Virtual and In-Person

Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Edgar M Bosley Jr. Municipal Admin Building

300 Mill Street; PO Box 206

St. Michaels, MD 21663

- I.
Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance
- President Bibb called to order a live and remote legislative 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, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Also present were Commissioners David Breimhurst, Joyce Harrod, Aida Khalil and Tad duPont, Zoning Officer Kymberly Kudla, Legislative Clerk Suzanna Warnick, Meeting Coordinator Kimberly Weller, and members of the public.

II. Agenda Amendments

- There were no agenda amendments.

III. Announcements from COSM and Staff

- - SHA and MD33 road and sidewalk project.

Terry Lehman from SHA will be on Zoom call to take questions

- New police officer sworn in on October 22, 2021 - Theaudray M Ford

- President Bibb announced that Terry Lehman of the State Highway Administration (SHA) would be on this evening's zoom call to answer questions about the SHA sidewalk work on Talbot Street that would begin November 1st. President Bibb noted that the Town had a new police officer who would be sworn in shortly. President Bibb then called for public comment. As there were no comments, President Bibb introduced Terry Lehman of SHA. Mr. Lehman said prep work for the project had begun and actual work would begin in about two weeks on the Tilghman (North) end of Town. Mr. Lehman said SHA would have a website to track progress and the contact for ongoing questions would be Sara Holt of SHA. Mr. Lehman added that the work would continue for 18 months into April of 2023. Commissioner Khalil asked when the business section of town would be most affected. Mr. Lehman responded the business district would be the last phase of the project and work would occur in the off-season between January and April 2023. Mr. Lehman said the work would be done during the day between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. to accommodate the school bus schedule and would impact traffic with one-way, single-lane traffic periods. Mr. Lehman said the work would be scheduled so that sections opened up for the

work week would be closed by Friday afternoon to be safe for weekend activity and visitors. Mr. Lehman said the contractor is McDonald Landscaping of Linthicum, Maryland and that SHA would be using professional flaggers for traffic direction. Mr. Lehman added that the street would be paved after all sidewalk work was done.

IV. Comments from the Public

- Mr. Lehman answered questions from Jennifer Smith of the Galley restaurant on Talbot Street about the scheduling of work. Mike Estrella of E. Chew asked for confirmation that work schedule information would be disseminated via the Town's constant contact system as well as the State's website. He was assured that communication was a priority for the Town and the State. Chief Smith offered his assistance to Mr. Lehman and his crew with any pedestrian or driver that may arise over the course of the work.

Chief Smith introduced the Town's new police officer, Officer Theaudray "Theo" Ford, who provided some personal background and said he was delighted to be in St. Michaels.

V. Consent Agenda for Minutes

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- Minutes
- October 13, 2021
- President Bibb announced that the Consent Agenda included minutes for October 13, 2021. Commissioner duPont asked that any damage to Railroad Avenue caused by its use as a staging area be included in the Memorandum of Understanding with SHA and reflected in the minutes. President Bibb called for a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Commissioner duPont made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Khalil, and which then passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

VI. Bids and Contracts

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- Mill and Overlay - Portion of Perry Cabin Drive
- President Bibb said only one bid was received for the mill and overlay of a section of Perry Cabin Drive. He announced that R.L. Ewing had submitted a bid in the amount of \$8,491.00. The Commissioners agreed to award the bid to the single bidder given the urgency of the work and having solicited bids from a total of eight contractors. Commissioner duPont made the motion to accept the bid as presented. Commissioner Harrod seconded it and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

VII. Items for Discussion

Health Insurance Renewal

- Medical benefit comparison
- Commissioner duPont opened the discussion of renewal of the health insurance plan. Commissioner duPont said Town Manager Jeff Rhodes had researched the health plans offered by the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) and was recommending that the Town transition to a LGIT plan, but that the Town maintain the current health plan for this year, which included a slight cost increase. The transition to a LGIT plan in 2023 would allow enough time to properly present the new plan to employees. Commissioner Breimhurst confirmed that the transition would move the Town from the Care First plan to the state-wide CIGNA health plan offered through LGIT's larger insurance pool. Commissioner Breimhurst said the new plan should save the Town money while offering employees a matched plan.
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- Water Department Lease
- Between Commissioners of St. Michaels and St. Michaels Department of Public Works
- Commissioner duPont said the land lease for the water department is in final form, it can be adjusted in the future by simple amendment and he recommended moving forward with the lease in its current form. As there were no objections, Commissioner duPont made a motion to accept the land lease between the Town and the Water Department as presented. Commissioner Breimhurst seconded it and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.
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- Donated playground equipment from St. Luke's
- Commissioner duPont said he objected to the donated playground equipment being added to the parking lot area of Hollis Park and the Town Office. He said the equipment was better suited to Bradley Park, which was a safer location for children to play. Commissioner duPont also added that the town office area was too small for the equipment being donated. Commissioner Breimhurst thanked St. Luke's for their offer of the equipment, but said he agreed with Commissioner duPont that Bradley Park or Back Creek Park would be a more appropriate location for it. Commissioner Khalil agreed that Hollis Park was not the right location. Commissioner Briemhurst made a motion to accept the donated equipment, but to put it in either Bradley Park or the Watermen's Park at Back Creek. Commissioner duPont seconded the motion, which then passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.
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SMBAs kiosk repair

- Town received check from insurance provider for \$4,680.27 for repair
- President Bibb opened the discussion of the repair of the Business Association's kiosk, which had been damaged by a motorist. He noted that the insurance check for the repair of the kiosk should be turned over to the Business Association. Commissioner Khalil said she agreed, but she also suggested that the Town do a simple, inexpensive lease agreement with the Business Association so that questions of ownership and responsibility are spelled out for the future. The Commissioners agreed to ask the Business Association do a simple lease and that Commissioners can review. Commissioner Khalil said she would approach the Association and report at the next meeting.

VIII. Comments from the Commissioners

- Regarding Commissioner's Breimhurst's suggestion for a crosswalk at Talbot and Marengo Streets, President Bibb said SHA had been approached about that project. Commissioner duPont said Bill Gilmore has the plans for a proposed public restroom in the public lot behind the pharmacy, and he is pursuing all parties involved. Commissioner duPont said he hoped the project would be complete by next spring.

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Calendaring

- Meeting dates for the following:

Nov - Legis session - 24th is day before Thanksgiving -

Dec - Working session - 8th

Legis session - 22nd

- The Commissioners discussed and set agenda items for their meetings in November and December 2021. The Commissioners agreed to have only one meeting in November and December, unless an extra meeting was necessary. The single meetings would be both working and legislative sessions.

IX. Announcement of Future Meetings

- November 10 2021 - 6:00 pm - Virtual Zoom Meeting for COSM Regular Work Session

November 11 2021 - Town Office closed for Veterans Day

X. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.