

MINUTES

COSM

Commissioners

COSM Legislative Session

Wednesday, October 28, 2020, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Virtual Remote Meeting

- I.

Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

- President Bibb called to order a remote working session of the Commissioners of St. Michaels at 6:00 p.m. Also present were Commissioners Tad duPont, Joyce Harrod, Jaime Windon, and David Breimhurst, Town Manager Jean Weisman, Legislative Clerk Suzanna Warnick, Meeting Coordinator Kim Weller and approximately 25 members of the public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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II. Agenda Amendments

- There were no agenda amendments.

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III. Announcements from COSM and Staff

- Town Manager Jean Weisman said she had received an e-mail from Talbot County Emergency Services predicting 3-4 inches of rain for tomorrow with gale force winds (30 mph) through the evening hours of Thursday into Friday morning. President Bibb reminded everyone that the Commissioners were on a schedule of two meetings per month going forward on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Commissioner Bibb said the first monthly meeting would be the working session and the 2nd meeting would be the legislative session at which final comments would be taken and voting could occur. Commissioner Breimhurst announced that he had met with Planning Commission Chairman Jeff Knapp, Town Manager Jean Weisman and Commissioner Tad DuPont to start the process of hiring a professional planning consultant to help with developing a long-term plan for the Town. President Bibb said the final work on the Boy Scout Cabin would be finished in about a week.

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IV. Comments from the Public

- There were no comments.

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V. Consent Agenda for Minutes

• Minutes

- October 14, 2020
- President Bibb called for comments on the Consent Agenda which consisted of minutes for the October 14, 2020 meeting. There were no comments. Commissioner duPont made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Harrod seconded it and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.
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VI. FY21 Budget review

- Accommodations Tax
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- Commissioner duPont opened the discussion of the budget and the accommodation tax, noting that not much had changed since his last report. He noted that by the next meeting, the Town should have received the July-September amusement and accommodation tax revenues. Commissioner duPont added that the County was not aggressive in collecting past due money for accommodation taxes and the Town needed some kind of policy to improve collection, especially short-term rental moneys not paid in a timely manner. Commissioner duPont also had concerns about value for the Town from advertising spending. The Commissioners discussed a recent newspaper article about State funding provided to Talbot County and other counties to assist restaurants and State's plans to further assist small businesses. The Commissioners agreed the Town should talk to the County about making a greater effort to collect past due revenue. Mrs. Weisman said it is difficult to track short-term rental advertising and rental arrangements but noted she had scheduled a meeting for next week with a company that sweeps short-term rental sites and the Commissioners were welcome to sit in on that meeting.
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VII. Special Presentation

• Waterways Committee

- Update on study of Stormwater and Harbor Infrastructure Assessment

Roy Myers will introduce Brent Jett, GMB

- President Bibb introduced Roy Myers of the St. Michaels Waterways Advisory Board, who provided an update on the Board's project to address sea level rise and flooding in the Town of St. Michaels. Mr. Myers referred the Commissioners to the material he had provided and invited their comments and questions. Mr. Myers said the Board had obtained a grant from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to fund a study of the issue and to make recommendations for actions that could help minimize the effects of sea level rise and flooding over the next twenty years. Mr. Myers introduced Brent Jett of George, Miles and Buhr, Engineers, who had been hired to conduct the study of the main harbor on the Miles River side. Mr. Jett provided background and a power point

presentation on his work so far. Mr. Jett noted that a public survey would also be a part of this project and was already live on the web to gather public input on rain and tide information.

Mrs. Weisman read two public comments regarding enlarging and simplifying flood maps and how sea level rise will affect individual property owners. Commissioner Breimhurst suggested a national website called floodfactor.com for additional information. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Myers and Mr. Jett for their presentations.

VIII. Items for Discussion

• Boy Scout License and Use Agreement

- Between Commissioners of St. Michaels and Boy Scouts of America
- President Bibb opened the discussion, and the Commissioners affirmed their receipt of a draft of the licensing agreement. Commissioner duPont questioned the reference to a non-refundable fee plus a rental fee in the agreement. Mrs. Weisman said that wording would need to be changed. After some discussion, the Commissioners requested that a revised draft be produced for the next Commissioners meeting and agreed with Commissioner duPont that the Boy Scout Cabin regulations should stand alone and not be part of Chapter 224 - Parks.
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IX. Comments from the Commissioners

- Mr. Sohan of Green Street asked when Green street would be paved. President Bibb said this issue needed to be discussed at the next meeting. Commissioner duPont said the projected width needed to be discussed, and he wanted the project to go out to bid because it would probably exceed \$5,000.00. Mrs. Weisman said a decision should be made soon before the asphalt plants closed. Commissioner duPont said he did not support the project because it only benefited one house, but if it goes forward storm water should be considered and the project should go out to bid. Mrs. Weisman said she would make inquiries to move the project forward.
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Calendaring

- - License and Use Agreement for Boy Scout Cabin
- Appointment of members for Boards and Commissions
- St Michaels Running Fest event permit
- The Commissioners discussed agenda topics for their meetings in November 2020, including discussion of the event permit for the Running Festival and appointments to boards and commissions. Mrs. Weisman said she would see that all Commissioners received a copy of the documents related to the running festival permit.

X. Announcement of Future Meetings

- November 10 2020 - 6:00 pm - Virtual Zoom Meeting for COSM Regular Work Session

November 11 2020 - Town Office closed for Veterans Day

November 24 2020 - 6:00 pm - Virtual Zoom Meeting for COSM Regular Legislative Session

XI. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.