

MINUTES



**Commissioners of
St Michaels
Meeting Minutes Legislative and Closed Session
Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
St. Michaels Branch of the Talbot Co. Library
106 S. Fremont Street
St. Michaels, MD 21663**

1. 6:00 - Call to Order for Working Session - Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Breimhurst, President, called to order a live and remote Working Session of the Commissioners of St. Michaels at 6:00 pm in St. Michaels, Maryland and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Also present at the meeting were Commissioners Joyce Harrod, Tad duPont, Katrina Whittington, and Al Mercier. Other representatives include Town Administrator Rob Straebel, Steve Ball, Town Planner, Eric Knapp, Special Projects/Code Compliance Officer, Vickie Sharp, Town Clerk, from the Police Department Chief Smith and Captain Oswald. Approximately 16 members of the public were present as well as remote attendees on Zoom.

2. Announcement of Closed Session

The Commissioners will meet in a closed session after adjournment of Open Session pursuant to Maryland Code, under the Open Meetings Act, General Provisions Article Section §3-305(b) to discuss the following: (1) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over who this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals, (3) To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; (7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

3. Announcements from COSM and Staff

The State Highway has a parcel of land for sale that could be used for a Dog Park. They need to get environmental clearance before offering for sale, it then would be offered to Talbot County first, if not interested it would then be offered to the Town of St. Michaels. Meeting with a representative from Senator Van Hollen to give a tour of the Town Office and Police Department and the potential area where the new Town Hall/Police Department would be built. Sent out a Constant Contact survey for the San Domingo Creek flood mitigation asking residences to identify any areas of concern. Community input session/open house to be held at the Boy Scout Cabin on March 30th, regarding the West Harbor Road/East Chew flood mitigation. Advertising for the General Services Clerk. Fovndry will make a presentation at our next meeting regarding their Marketing Proposal for FY24. HDC will make a presentation regarding signage that is needed. Been in discussions with Easton Utilities regarding getting cable to Tilghman Island. Next budget meeting March 27th.

4. Comments from the Public

None

5. Consent Agenda for Minutes and Events

Consent Agenda was approved, Commissioner Harrod motioned and approved the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Whittington seconded and was passed on roll call vote 5-0 in favor.

6. Old Business

Roy Meyers, Chair for the Climate Change/Sea Level Rise Commission presented the revised GMB proposal for the Flood Mitigation Feasibility Assessment Study for the West Harbor/East Chew area. Commissioner duPont motioned and approved the contract amendment for the Flood Mitigation Feasibility Assessment Study. Commissioner Mercier seconded and was passed on a roll call vote 5-0 in favor.

7. New Business

Town of St. Michaels currently recognizes and uses the 2021 International Building Code. It is being suggested for the Town to adopt the 2018 International Building Code. A new Ordinance will be introduced to adopt 2018 IBC. President and Founder of Lyon Rum, Jamie Windon, explained to the Commissioners why the Town should adopt the 2018 IBC.

Sustainable Communities Workgroup designation must be renewed every five years, next renewal application is due in November 2023. There needs to be a new workgroup designation to work on this requirement. Recruitment of potential members to commence work on this project. The Commissioners approved to move forward with this project.

Discussion on the fire apparatus and commercial gateway zoning district continued. This included conversations with subject matter experts on fire access and safety issues. Contacted the State Fire Marshall's Office, Fire Chief of St. Michaels and discussion with our legal counsel and it was their opinion that they could only enforce State Law. Should apply to larger developments of 10,000ft or larger because it could negatively impact small development and small businesses if they had to put a fire access Lane around their building. Local Fire Chief agrees having access on one side of the building all the way to the rear is adequate for their protection needs.

Mark Berman spoke, in regard to the public safety of the community. He presented a letter dated March 22, 2023 addressing his concerns.

Langley Shook spoke, in regard to the public safety of the community and environment.

8. Comments from the Public

Public comments were thanking the Commissioners for hearing them and in support of the new amendments that are in process within the Town of St. Michaels.

9. Comments from the Commissioners

None

10. Commissioners Calendar

March 27, 2023 - Budget Session (5-7 pm)
April 10, 2023 - Budget Session (2:30-4:30 pm)
April 12, 2023 - COSM Working Session
April 17, 2023 - Budget Session (5-7 pm)
April 26, 2023 - COSM Legislative Session
May 10, 2023 - COSM Working Session

11. Adjournment of Open Session

At close of Open Session, COSM will convene into Closed Session

Open session was Adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Commissioners voted to go into a Closed Session. Commissioner duPont motioned to move from Open Session to Closed Session. Commissioner Whittington seconded.

12. Call to order for Closed Executive Session

a. Closing Statement

The Commissioners will vote to hold a Closed Session after the Open Session on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 pursuant to Maryland Code, under the Open Meetings Act, General Provisions Article Section §3-305(b) to discuss the following: (1) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over who this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals, (3) To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; (7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

13. Adjournment of Open and Closed Session

Submitted by:

Vickie Sharp, Town Clerk

Public Participation: All comments from the public will be taken during the period set aside for "Comments from the Public." The "Comments from the Public" portion of the Commission agenda shall have a limited time period as determined by the Commissioners, and shall be at the beginning and at the end of each agenda. 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.