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 3rd floor of the Town Hall on Tuesday evening May 11, 2010 at 7:00 PM. For the record the meeting place and time were duly posted as required.

<u>MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE</u>: Mayor Judith M. Cox, Commissioner Clinton E. Bowers, Commissioner Jim Majewski, Commissioner Thomas S. Mumey and Commissioner Augie Pierson.

MEMBERS ABSENT: (None)

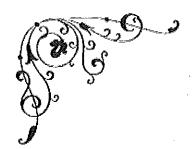
STAFF/CONSULTANTS PRESENT: Town Administrator Calvin A Bonenberger, Jr.

GUESTS: See Attached List

<u>MEETING OPENING</u> – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Judith M. Cox. The Mayor introduced Boy Scout troop 92 from Colora. The Mayor then requested a pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

<u>APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES</u> — Mayor asked for any corrections to the minutes for the April 27, 2010 Town Meeting. Commissioner Pierson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Mumey. Motion carried unanimously. The Town Administrator read into the minutes an executive session report for May 4th. A motion was made by Commissioner Bowers, to approve the executive session report, seconded by Commissioner Pierson. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS, ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS — The Mayor announced that the Board would now hold a public hearing on the Constant Yield Tax Rate. She turned the Public Hearing over to the Town Administrator, Calvin A Bonenberger Jr., who gave an overview on the constant yield tax rate. He explained how the Town receives taxes and revenue from the State and how the state has cut funding to the Town over the past year. Under public comment, Mr. Toni Sawyers expressed his opinion that the rate should be lowered to save residents money. He expressed concerns that cost for everything are going up. He suggested that the Town make cuts to make up the difference and save the residents money. With no other comments from the public, Commissioner Pierson reminded all those in attendance that the Town's tax rate has not been changed in nearly 30 years. Mr. Bonenberger stated that the expected increase would cover only half of the premium payment on the loan that the Town took out to pave the streets back in 2008. After a brief conversation among the board members, a motion was made by Commissioner Pierson, seconded by



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Commissioner Bowers, to set the Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Real Estate Tax Rate at \$0.360 per \$100 of assessment. This will increase the real property tax revenues by 7.4% resulting in \$54,872 of new real property tax revenues. Motion passed unanimously. A discussion ensued regarding the billing for sidewalk work that has been performed in the Town over the past 3-5 years. It was discussed that the current ordinance regarding the maintenance of sidewalks is very defective and contradicts itself on what the legal process is for fixing the sidewalks. After a brief discussion on the subject a motion was made by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Pierson to draft a new ordinance that would require property owners to share the cost of the repair of all sidewalks with the Town on a 50-50 basis. Motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Has received an intent for August Pierson to run for Commissioner.

FINANCES - (No Report).

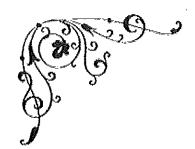
<u>SEWER AND WATER REPORT</u> – Commissioner Majewski reported on a previous meeting with the sewer consulting team on May 4th to review the preliminary engineering report for the new sewer plant. After making several recommended changes and updating some of the information, the documents are nearly complete for submittal to both MDE and the USDA. These documents will be sent to USDA this Friday and the MDE documents will be sent to MDE on May 24.

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS REPORT—Commissioner Bowers stated that the evaluation for the Ryan Drive storm drain has been completed by our public works crews. Commissioner Bowers did not want to jeopardize employee safety due to the severity of the storm drain repair. Ron Thomas has received cost estimates two ways at Commissioner Bower's request. He stated that we have received only 1 proposal so far and are waiting for 2 cost estimates. Commissioner Bowers made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mumey, to approve the one proposal for \$8400 and if an additional bid comes in lower, we would accept the lower bid and proceed with the project. Motion carried unanimously.

<u>PUBLIC SAFETY</u> – Commissioner Pierson provided a report on police activity reports.

<u>PARKS AND RECREATION</u> – Commissioner Mumey reported that the sign in the park has been completed and is nice, sturdy and looks good. The problem has been solved and it is in a good location.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – The Town Administrator provided an update on the meter replacement project. He informed the board that notices have gone out the residents. Residents are urged to contact the Town if they have any questions.



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<u>PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD</u> — Mr. Bonenberger reported that the next meeting is scheduled for May 24, 2010.

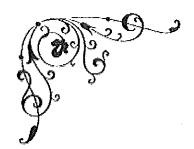
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS - (No Report).

<u>CODE ENFORCEMENT</u> – Mr. Bonenberger reported that with the spring weather, there has been an increased request for above ground pool and deck permits and there are 5 such projects in process.

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION – Mr. Bonenberger reported that on May 11, 2010 Mayor Cox and the Town of Rising Sun Commissioners received a fax from the 150th Commission requesting the Mayor and Commissioners release the previously allocated funds that were set aside for the 150th celebration. A motion was made by Commissioner Mumey and seconded by Commissioner Pierson to release the previously set aside funds. The Mayor asked how much money was set aside. Mr. Bonenberger provided a brief history on the funds that have been set aside in the previous year's budgets. The total allocation is for \$22,000. Commissioner Bower asked what the \$22,000 was to be used for. Mr. Bonenberger replied expenses associated with the 150th celebration. Mayor Cox stated that she is on the Board with Commissioner Mumey and that the board had previously decided not to use any taxpayer's money on this project. Commissioner Mumey added that the Fashion Show and Weekend Gala both need to be financed. Mayor Cox mentioned that the Fashion Show and the Walking Tour have been taken care of and they are raising money to pay for the functions. Mr. Bonenberger has spent Town hours to update the website, copying, etc. Commissioner Pierson adds that we have a right to see how the money is spent and that we cannot grant carte blanch as we are not in a financial position to do so. In addition, he states that even though the money is allotted, we have a responsibility to prove where the tax payer money is spent. Mayor Cox commented on how frugal the 150th committee has been. As a result of the discussions, Commissioner Mumey tabled the motion and Commissioner Pierson withdrew is second of the motion. He further stated that more budget discussions were needed on the subject.

OLD BUSINESS. (No Old Business).

<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>. – Dee Emsley and Mary Stacey, owner of Jemar Pet Supplies on Biggs Highway are both members of the North East Kennel Club, an all-breed kennel club located in Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. They presented a check from the North East Kennel Club for \$500 to be used for dog food for Kaylos, the Town's canine patrol dog. Mayor Cox thanked Dee Emsley and the North East Kennel Club for their donation.



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<u>CITIZEN'S INPUT</u> – Karen Majewski asked for clarification on the Town's efforts to fix the sidewalks in the Summer Hill Development and questions why no prior notice was sent. The Town Administrator advised that notice were sent regarding the repairs. Dee Emsley provided a report on the 2010 Census. Mayor Cox stated that the Rising Sun response was 75%, one of the highest percentages in Cecil County as well as in the State of Maryland.

<u>ADJOURNMENT</u> – With no other business before the board a motion was made by Commissioner Pierson and seconded by Commissioner Bowers to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

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Calvin A. Bonenberger Jr.,
Town Administrator / Acting Town Clerk

Motion to approve the minutes made by Commissioner August Pierson, seconded by Commissioner Thomas S. Mumey at the May 25, 2010 Town Meeting

Motion Passed 4 to 0



DECLARATION AND VERIFICATION OF AUTHENTICITY

I, Calvin A Bonenberger, Town Administrator and Interim Town Clerk for the Town of Rising Sun, Maryland, do herby 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 26th day of May 2010.

Respectfully submitted

Calvin A Bonenberger Jr.,
Town Administrator / Acting Town Clerk

CERTIFICATE & TOWN SEAL

(STATE OF MARYLAND)

(COUNTY OF CECIL)

(TOWN OF RISING SUN)