

TOWN OF RISING SUN

BOARD OF TOWN COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR
Judith M. Cox

COMMISSIONERS
Mary M. Bedsworth
Clinton E. Bowers
Deborah Craig
Thomas Mumey

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
Jeffery A. Williams

CLERK-TREASURER
Sandra D. Didra

1 East Main Street P.O. Box 456 Rising Sun, Maryland 21911
410-658-5353 410-287-9039 FAX 410-658-5244

November 29, 2005

Present: Judy Cox, Clint Bowers, Mary Bedsworth, Debbie Craig, Tom Mumey

Town Administrator: Jeff Williams

Guests: See Attached List

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners of Rising Sun was held on November 29, 2005 at the Town Hall with all members in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Cox followed by the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

The minutes of the November 8, 2005 meeting were presented. With no additions or corrections, a motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Bowers, seconded by Mrs. Craig and carried.

Mr. Richard Lindsay, District Engineer and Mr. Norris Embert, Assistant District Engineer- Construction, of the State Highway Administration were in attendance to give an update and answer questions concerning the streetscape project. Mr. Embert advised that the project was nearing completion. Currently they were working on tie-end paving, line striping and signage. The project is approximately 80-85% completed. The down side is that due to the colder weather, they would not be able to do the asphalt stamping for the crosswalks until spring. Before the end of the month, they will establish a punch list for what needs to be done to date. They are also working on adjusting the height of the manholes.

Mr. Ehrhart questioned the missing traffic turn lanes going into Martin's. He was advised that the traffic pattern would be returned to the way it was and they hope to have it done before winter. It was asked when the new street lights would be turned on and if they could be turned on in time for the Carol Sing on December 6. It was explained that Office of Traffic would handle the lighting, they would see that the lights were turned on, they would be on continuously for 30 days to be sure that they are in working order. Mr. Lindsay advised that he would personally try to see that getting the lights on in time for the Carol Sing is a priority.

When asked why the project is so far behind, Mr. Lindsay advised that there were a number of reasons: changes in the scope of the project, unforeseen obstacles, design changes, compensation issues. He also advised that the contractor must explain the reasons for the delays. Mr. Lindsay advised that the bottom line is that he is proud of what is out there now and he hopes that everyone else finds pride in what has been accomplished. They thanked the Town for its understanding and cooperation. He also advised that they are currently under budget.

Mr. Cathers questioned if they could not have used other methods to locate the underground tanks. He was advised that other methods could also have raised the cost and created additional problems. Rising Sun leads the state with underground tanks and Cecil County leads the State in streetscape projects.

Under Citizen's Input, Mr. Pierson voiced his disappointment concerning the Planning & Zoning Commission's recommendation to approve the request of the Martin Store for a variance for a reduction in the required landscaping. He felt that other options should have been pursued such as low bushes, etc.

The secretary reported that when she contacted the company that does the cleaning of Town Hall to inquire as to why they have not been coming on specific days and to express dissatisfaction at the job that has been done, she was informed that maybe we needed to find another company to meet our needs. She presented bids from 2 companies: Larsen Services of Rising Sun for \$340.00 per month for 2 cleanings per month; and Silvestri Cleaning Services, Inc., \$320.00 per month for 2 cleanings per month. She had spoken to references for the companies and she recommended that the Board award the contract to Larsen Services since they are a local company and come highly recommended by other local businesses. A motion was made by Mrs. Bedsworth to award the cleaning bid to Larsen Services. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mumey. The secretary advised that Larsen Services had also submitted a bid of \$340.00 for a one time thorough cleaning before starting the monthly cleaning. Mr. Mumey amended the motion to include the one time cleaning. The amended motion was seconded by Mrs. Bedsworth and carried.

REPORTS:

Mayor - Mayor Cox reported on a joint meeting with the County Commissioners and the State High Administration concerning the storm drain on E. Main Street, commonly known as the "drain to nowhere". The cost to put in this storm drain is to be shared by all of the agencies involved. The state will handle the engineering and inspections costs. As more information is obtained on this project, the Mayor will address the Board at a later date for permission to proceed.

Mayor Cox reported on recently attending the Emergency Management class in Elkton. She advised that the Chief of Police would be heading up the emergency plans for the Town.

She also advised that she had completed the Welcome from the Mayor on the Town's website.

Town Administrator - Mr. Williams reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission had recommended approval of the landscaping variance for the proposed Martin's site. The variance will come before the Board of Appeals on December 8. The application for a zoning change submitted by New Plan Excel Realty on behalf of Giant Foods was also on the agenda for Planning and Zoning. They recommend approval of the rezoning request. The rezoning request will come before the Mayor and Commissioners on December 13, 2005. Jeff advised that everyone had received a copy of the audit for the year ending 6/30/05. If there are any questions please contact him.

Streets & Sidewalks - Mr. Mumey advised that work on the sidewalks and curbing in Valley View would begin this week. They can do the cement work in cold weather, but the blacktopping would not get started until spring.

Mr. Mumey reported on the Planning and Zoning meeting saying that he was very disappointed in the decision of the Board for recommending a variance in the planting requirement for the proposed new Martin's store. He advised that he abstained from voting on the issue. He was disappointed that other ways to address the planting requirement were not discussed. The main reason for the favorable recommendation was for safety reasons. He also advised that the proposed new Martin's store has done away with one of the smaller stores and increased their square footage by 5000.

Mr. Mumey also reported on the discussion with regard to the width of streets in Stephen Preserve. They would like to reduce the streets to 22 feet in width. He reported that there seems to be room for compromise whereby no parking would be permitted on at least one side of the street. However, Planning and Zoning would like to meet with the Mayor and Commissioners in January to discuss the street width issues that need to be addressed to satisfy the needs of the developer and the needs of the fire company.

Public Safety - Mrs. Bedsworth advised that she had received another retirement plan packet and hopes to put together something for the Board to look at before the next meeting. She deferred the rest of her report to Chief Michael. He advised that the department was doing their job and that he had not received any complaints. He also reported that he had attended a three day conference in Ocean City "Seniors & Law Enforcement Together" SALT paid for a number of seniors to attend and they discussed issues that seniors have to deal with such a identity theft and other topics. The seniors seemed to enjoy themselves.

Parks & Recreation - Mrs. Craig advised that she and Jeff had met with Sandy Trent from Program Open Space concerning the remaining monies available to the Town for the 2 parks.. In the Diddie Richardson Park they will be getting new safety surface, swing sets, benches and tables. In the Wilson Avenue park, they will be get the safety surface, benches and volley ball court. She wants to place the volley ball court between the pavilion and the creek. The question arose concerning drainage. It was reported that the drainage in that area is not longer a problem. The court was in the original plans for the park, but the cost then was for equipment at \$270. The current cost for the court to be installed and the equipment is \$5,048.27. A motion was made by Mrs. Craig, seconded by Mr. Mumey and carried to approve the additional expenditure of open space money for the volley ball court.

Water & Sewer - Mr. Bowers thanked Jeff for all of his hard work with trying to keep up with everything until the new planner is hired.. Maintenance is working hard on leak detection and repair. 2 leaks on Buckley Avenue have been repaired as has a fire hydrant. Insituform is in this week to start cleaning and videoing and slipling the south interceptor. Chris continues to clean and inspect the sewer lines.

Mr. Bowers reported that at the last Board of Directors' meeting of the Fire Company, they requested that the Town flag fire hydrants so that they can be located in the snow. They also asked if SHA could place reflectors in the street for location of fire hydrants. And they requested that the fire hydrant at the base of the new water tower, be rotated 180 for easier access. Mr. Thomas is looking into these issues. Mr. Pierson suggested a reflective band on the nearest light pole and to be sure that the flag poles were spring loaded so that they would bounce back into place

Diane Ehrhart reported that the history committee was still looking for members. The first newsletter has been printed and mailed to members. They have received their tax id number and are ready to file for their 501 c(3) status. Mayor Cox had advised them that the Town would pay the filing feel for the non-profit status. There are still t-shirts, sweatshirts, and totes available for purchase. Delegate Rudolph, Ed Plumstead and Jerry Newman attended the last meeting. Mr. Newman informed them about the time capsule at the library.

She shared information concerning the Nottingham Lots. They have approximately 95% of the history materials cataloged.. They have received 3 \$100 memberships, they are Sue's Restaurant , KCI, and Armstrong. They will be in the Cecil County Christmas parade on December 3 dressed in 1860 clothes on a float. They asked for suggestions for fundraiser events. They recognized Sandi for her donation of a framed copy of the Elk Dispatch. This was their first donation.

Unfinished Business:

Mayor Cox advised that they would start interviewing the applicants for the planner position this week.

Mr. Bowers brought up the subject of the demolition of the old Pogue garage. Three estimates were received they were for \$24,000; \$10,300 and \$7,430. A motion was made by Mr. Bowers to award the contract to Quality for \$7,430. Seconded by Mr. Mumey and carried.

Mayor Cox questioned if the glass for the lights on the flag poles had been replaced yet. She was afraid of some danger during the Carol Sing.

New Business:

Mayor Cox presented a design drawing for suggestions for the triangle park between Mount and Walnut Streets. The plans were given to her as a gift for the Town.

With no additional business coming before the Board a motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Bowers, seconded by Mr. Mumey and carried.

Meeting adjourned 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted

Sandra D. Didra
Clerk/Treasurer