

Town of Rising Sun  
Mayor & Commissioners Town Meeting Minutes

**L**et it be remembered that the Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the Town of Rising Sun, held a Town Meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Town Hall on Tuesday evening, September 9, 2014 at 7:00 PM. For the record the meeting place and time were duly posted as required.

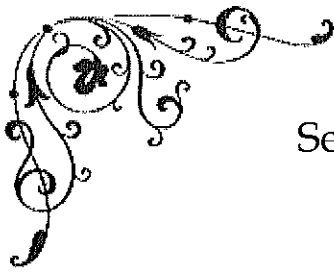
**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Mayor Travis Marion, Vice Mayor George Walker, Commissioner Allen Authenreath, Commissioner Jennifer Scully and Commissioner David Warnick.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF/CONSULTANTS PRESENT:** Town Administrator Calvin A. Bonenberger, Jr., and Town Clerk Marsha Spencer

**MEETING OPENING:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Travis Marion, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Marion opened the meeting with prayer.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion was made by Commissioner Walker and seconded by Commissioner Warnick to approve the Minutes of August 26, 2014. Motion carried 4-0.



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**Reporting of Executive Sessions:** None

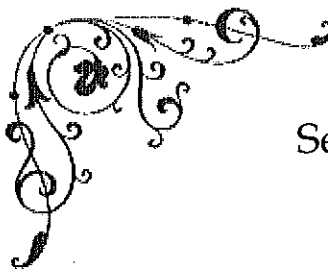
**Public Presentations:** Mayor Marion presented and read into record Proclamation 2014-08 Benjamin Edward Little Larsen Donate Life Month. The Mayor shared some details about Benjamin's untimely death in a motorcycle accident and his acquaintance with the family. In support of announcing September as Donate Life month, the Mayor added that the town staff, police officers and board of commissioners are wearing green wristbands and Donate Life lapel pins. To further promote Donate Life Month and in honor of Ben, a green filter will be added to the town street lights.

**Business Meeting Items:**


Resolution 2014-05 Agricultural Fee Schedule – Commissioner Authenreath referenced and read into the minutes the revised Fee Schedule for the Town. Motion was made by Commissioner Authenreath and seconded by Commissioner Warnick to adopt this resolution as an amendment to the Zoning Code. Motion carried 4-0.

Resolution 2014-06 The Economic Development and Community Advisory Revitalization Committee – Mayor Marion read into record Resolution 2014-06 as introduced at last month's meeting. The Mayor summarized that this committee will be guided by these rules, mission and activities. Motion was made by Commissioner Warnick and seconded by Commissioner Scully. The Mayor added that Commissioner Warnick and he are passionate about moving ahead with this committee's focus as a strong priority behind water and sewer. Motion carried 4-0.

Economic Development and Community Revitalization Study – Commissioner Warnick referenced an RFP for consultant services to create a strategy for economic development and community revitalization. This RFP will be posted to the Town's



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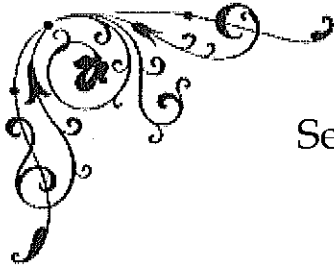
website with the hope of seeing some proposals with ideas to revitalize the town. Since this RFP had previously been introduced into the record, the Commissioner dispensed with formally reading the document. No contracts or funds will be awarded as a result of responses to the RFP. Motion was made by Commissioner Warnick and seconded by Commissioner Authenreath to release the RFP for responses. Motion carried 4-0.

County Master Sewer and Water Plan Update – As introduced at last month's meeting, Commissioner Walker reported that Cecil County is updating their plan and have requested that the Town provide an updated copy of changes to the Town's plan. The document reports on the Town's existing water and sewer systems and proposed upgrades to those systems. Motion was made by Commissioner Walker and seconded by Commissioner Warnick to approve the document and submit the changes to the County. Motion passed 4-0.

**Citizen's Input:** None

### **Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Marion announced that an invitation-only, formal ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned at the Triangle Dog Park on September 17<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM. County officials and state delegates are invited to this formal dedication with an opening planned for the general public on the following weekend – perhaps 9/19. Commissioner Warnick will continue to work with the Eagle Scouts on the trail system. Finishing touches include the addition of signage for the Entrance and Park Rules. Concrete staining is scheduled for later this week. Heavy grading and rolling of the parking lot will direct the flow of storm water.



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The Mayor attended the opening of a new business, Bottom of the Hill Grill and Bar with Commissioners Scully and Warnick and recommended checking out the rehabbed building and new menu.

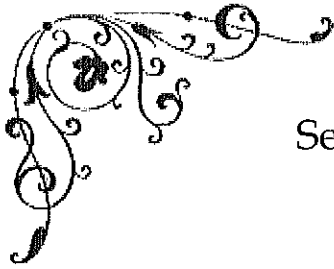
The Fall Spooktacular is planned for October 18<sup>th</sup>, 11 AM – 4 PM with activities that include pony rides, moon bounces and pumpkin painting. Desiree Davis will help coordinate the event with town staff.

With Commissioner Warnick's approval, Mayor Marion proposed two appointments to the Economic Development and Community Revitalization Committee. Commissioner Warnick made a motion to approve the appointment of Desiree Davis to this committee. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Walker and carried 4-0. Commissioner Warnick made a motion to approve the appointment of Amanda Cameron Vaughn to this same committee. Motion carried 4-0.

### **Staff Reports:**

Chief Peterson reported for the two week period of 8/26 – 9/9 the Police Department responded to 232 calls for service. One notable case that occurred this past Sunday/Monday was a response to West Cherry, Wilson Avenue, Cooper Avenue, Douglas Court, and Browntown Lane for unknown culprits who entered unlocked vehicles, stealing change and personal property overnight. If you see any suspicious activity overnight, please call. Please lock your vehicle.

The Chief reported that he has completed the annual grant for State Aid for Police Protection administered by the Governor's Office of Crime and Prevention with hopes of receiving an amount similar to last year's \$35,000.



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Town Administrator Bonenberger reported that a new physical fitness facility is planning a soft opening on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> on Colonial Way. As soon as more details are available, he will pass them along. One of the Town's landlords is negotiating with a national sporting goods store to open soon.

Mr. Bonenberger also announced that financing on the sewer plant will result in some necessary resolutions drafted by the bond council for consideration at the next meeting.

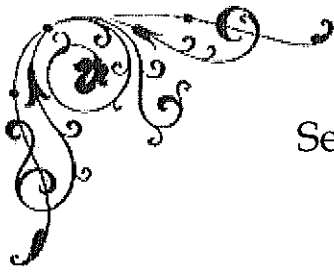
**Historical Preservation Commission** – Mr. Thomas Mumey reminded everyone of the upcoming events as announced last month. The Amish Farm lunch on September 17<sup>th</sup> is sold out. The Mount Harmon trip has plenty of room available and is open to the public. A few other affairs planned by the Oxford Historical Association will be posted.

**Old Business:** Mayor Marion read an update from the Town's attorney summarizing the Town's victory and subsequent appeals in the Fisher/Braun lawsuit that questioned Ordinance 2012-13 regarding the Mayor's powers. Mr. Fisher and Mr. Braun are continuing with another appeal to the Court of Special Appeals which will continue to waste more taxpayers' dollars.

**New Business:** None

### **Commissioners' Comments:**

Commissioner Authenreath is meeting tomorrow with Public Works Director Ron Thomas to make preparations for the changing weather and to discuss streets and sidewalk repairs. The next meeting of the Planning Commission is Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. New members are still needed.



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Commissioner Scully reported that Chief Peterson and she are exploring the possible purchase of body cameras for the Police Department. Giving the officer's view of the service call, these cameras can defend the officer's actions and identify possible areas for officer training. As technology and costs improve, with an offer that insurance will provide a fifty percent grant, the actual cost to the department could be less than \$2,000. Chief Peterson cited two lawsuits in which the town was eventually exonerated. If officers had had such cameras, the lawsuits may never have been initiated or could have taken less time. Frivolous lawsuits and resulting questions can probably be eliminated or minimized. No formal action is required this evening. Commissioner Walker agreed that these devices are important to the officers' defense and hopes the Town moves ahead quickly. Mayor Marion agreed with specific reference to national news coverage. More details will be presented at another time.

Commissioner Scully reported that she is continuing to gather information about addictions and domestic abuse. National Drug Facts Week is scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup> through February 15<sup>th</sup> with planned activities for school students. Again, more details will be provided.

Commissioner Walker had attended the sewer progress meeting this past Monday and continues to be impressed with the superintendent of the contractor who is working well with the engineering team.

Commissioner Warnick – The trail network is being developed. A six foot wide path has been cut through the dog park to make way for the Boy Scouts to begin construction on the boardwalk. Still in the early design phases, an observation deck will be near the last pond in the storm water ponds. One trail will be built by the end of October in the Veteran's Community Park where the Boy Scouts will build a bridge.



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In addition to the earlier mentioned activities, an Arts Council will be formed to complement the Cecil County Arts Council and to help promote economic development. September is National Yoga Month with a certified Yoga instructor leading two free sessions on September 19 and September 26 at 6:15 for an hour at Veterans' Community Park. Lastly, Mr. Warnick shared plans to partner with the Elementary School for some mentoring sessions. More details will follow.

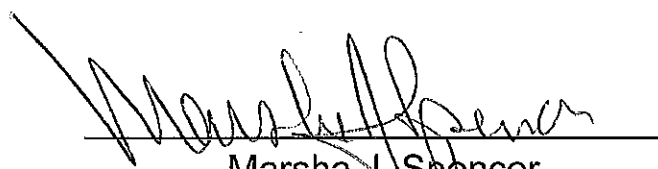
Motion was made by Commissioner Walker to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Warnick and carried 4.0.

### **DECLARATION AND VERIFICATION OF AUTHENTICITY**

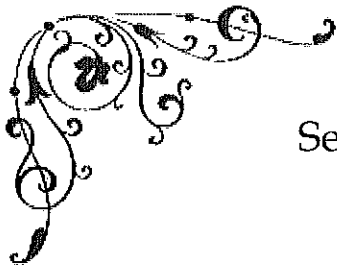
I, Marsha J. Spencer, Clerk for the Town of Rising Sun, Maryland, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing minutes are a true, perfect and complete copy of the Minutes adopted by the Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Rising Sun, Maryland, and is identical to the original thereof appearing 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 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2014.

Respectfully submitted



Marsha J. Spencer  
Town Clerk



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***CERTIFICATE & TOWN SEAL***

***(STATE OF MARYLAND)***

***(COUNTY OF CECIL)***

***(TOWN OF RISING SUN)***

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Walker and seconded by Commissioner Warnick at the meeting held the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2014. Motion passed 4-0.