

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF FEDERALSBURG  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2007 @ 7:30 P.M.**

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of Federalsburg was held on Monday, October 1, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mayor and Council Meeting Room. Those in attendance were Mayor Ballas and Councilmembers Gasser, Fluharty, Willis, and Gutkin. Also in attendance were guests, local citizenry, and staff.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ballas, who then led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES**

A motion by Councilmember Fluharty seconded by Councilmember Willis and unanimously passed by a vote of five to zero to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as corrected.

**GUESTS**

**Wayne Cole – South Carolina Pop Warner Football**

Wayne Cole, representing South Carolina Pop Warner Football, presented the Mayor and Council with a proposed layout of the field in Chambers Park for Pop Warner Football field. They want to use the former carnival grounds at Chambers Park as the Pop Warner Complex. Mr. Cole said the Pop Warner Football League has been using the field at Colonel Richardson Middle School; however, it is not working out well. Mr. Cole advised that he became involved when he received calls from some of the parents. Mr. Cole said that Bruce Hancock has been the one that has kept the Pop Warner Football together, but it is hard for Mr. Hancock to keep the league going and try to do fundraising. Mr. Cole said he plans to begin a massive fundraising campaign and will work with Caroline County Parks and Recreation and hopes to partner with them. Mr. Cole issued a diagram to the Mayor and Council, which showed the layout of the field. The plan consists of them using the existing buildings that are on the property. They are interested in using the back end of the property that is closest to the tennis courts for parking. They may eventually need the carnival entrance closed off in the back part. They are also going to ask Maryland Plastics if they could have permission to use some of their parking on Liberty Road. Mr. Cole said that the league will not be lighting the fields, at this time. They do have someone who has agreed to donate some fencing. Mr. Cole said that Pop Warner has insurance through the National Association and they would be willing to sign an agreement with the Town for the property.

Councilmember Fluharty questioned Mr. Cole about the cheer box that was in the diagram. Mr. Cole said that the cheerleaders would be in a designated area called the cheer box. All the Mayor and Council were 100% in support of this project.

A motion by Councilmember Gasser seconded by Councilmember Willis and unanimously approved to allow South Caroline Pop Warner to use the carnival grounds at Chambers Parks for their Pop Warner Football League Complex.

**Dr. Edward Shirley & Ms. Helen Schmidt**

Dr. Edward Shirley, Caroline County Board of Education Superintendent, and Ms. Helen Schmidt, Principal of Federalsburg Elementary School was present to extend an invitation to the Mayor and Council to visit Federalsburg Elementary School and to become a part of the school. They have a concern about parents transferring their children out of Federalsburg Elementary School to other local area schools. Dr. Shirley said Federalsburg Elementary School is a school that he is proud of and it meets the needs of the children. The children at the school achieve academic success and they rank first, second or third in the testing. He wants to help people to understand that the school is very successful and a good place to send their children. Dr. Shirley invited the Mayor and Council to visit the school on October 23 at 10 a.m. to sit in on the classes and he also asked them to stay and eat lunch in the cafeteria with the children. They also have plans of inviting the County Commissioners and representatives, the business community and representatives from the legislators. It is their vision that others will see that Federalsburg Elementary School is a school that the citizens can be proud of. They will also be inviting the parents of the pre-school children to tour the school.

Councilmember Willis asked if there was a fee for transferring to another school outside of your jurisdiction. Dr. Shirley said that there was not a fee, however, the parent had to provide their own transportation. Dr. Shirley stated that currently Greensboro and Ridgely schools are at 100% capacity, and Denton will be at capacity within the next two years.

Richard Colburn asked them to consider inviting the legislators in October or December because of the possibility of an early session. Bart Johnson thanked the school for their cooperation and support in allowing the Hobby Fair to be held at the school on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Johnson praised Principal Schmidt and stated that the school is fortunate to have her as their principal.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2007:19**

**Habitat for Humanities approval for affordable homes**

Habitat for Humanity requested a Resolution from the Mayor and Council that giving support for the creation of their Lake Creek Court subdivision, which includes construction of 9 affordable homes on 3 acres of land.

A motion by Councilmember Fluharty seconded by Councilmember Gasser and unanimously passed by a vote of five to zero approving Resolution No. 2007-19, which approves the construction of 9 affordable homes to be known as Lake Creek Court, and gives authority to Mayor Ballas to execute said Resolution.

**FEDERALSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Councilmember Fluharty advised that the FVFD will be having a soup sale on Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

It was also reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> week of October is fire prevention month.

### **FEDERALSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Mr. Joe Glime, President of the Federalsburg Historical Society, gave an update for the month of September. He reported they had a successful Heritage Day and thanked the town for opening up the Log Cabin. The society has come across documents from the House of Representatives dated 1939 in reference to the Marshyhope Creek Project.

Bart Johnson said the Hobby Fair is scheduled for November 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Federalsburg Elementary School from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. He asked if the announcement of the Hobby Fair could be placed on the town sign. He also asked if the notice for the Historical Society meetings could be cleaned up or arranged better on the town sign.

### **PUBLIC CONCERNS**

#### **PASTOR BUDDY DUNN**

Pastor Buddy Dunn stated the Ministerial Association appreciated how the Historical Society cleaned up the building when they used it. Pastor Dunn questioned the Mayor and Council that since they are using the Community Building would there continue to be parking spaces for them at the community building. Pastor Dunn was assured that there would not be any changes to the current parking area. Pastor Dunn asked the Mayor and Council to think about converting one of the tennis courts into a basketball court, and fencing it in to separate it from the tennis courts.

Pastor Dunn thanked the Mayor and Council for all they have done in allowing them to use the Community Building for youth activities. He said in the past several weeks they have had 18 to 20 children participating and they hope to expand later. Pastor Dunn stated that on October 17<sup>th</sup> from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. at Park Lane Church of God, the Ministerial Association will have a Professional & Business Leaders Appreciation Breakfast and the keynote speaker will be Mrs. Janie Eskow, Vice-President of Frampton-Eskow Funeral Home.

Neighborhood Watch has agreed to have a Fall Festival at Federal Manor in hopes of bringing the families together and to advise them of the Neighborhood Watch Program. The Festival is planned for Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be crafts, music and refreshments and they will hand out information about the Neighborhood Watch Program. The District Manager is working with them on this project, and if the Fall Festival is a success they will continue plans to have a picnic, community prayer service, etc.

### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

#### **Police Department**

Chief Nagel presented the monthly report for September 2007. Chief Nagel submitted a policy that establishes guidelines for the annual observance of Halloween in the Town of Federalsburg, to insure the safety of the children and protect the community from criminal conduct. The Mayor and Council approved the policy as presented by Chief Nagel.

A motion by Councilmember Fluharty seconded by Councilmember Gasser, passed by a vote of five to zero approving the Halloween Policy as presented by Chief Nagel.

Chief Nagel thanked the citizens on West Central Avenue for their patience and support during the Cub Car Races.

Mayor Ballas received a letter from James W. Phillips, Dorchester County Sheriff, thanking Chief Donald Nagel and Corporal Pennell Jester for their assistance in responding recently to the Maryshyhope Sand and Gravel Pit for a breaking and entering. Councilmember Willis on behalf of the Mayor and Councilmembers presented Chief Nagel and Corporal Jester with a congratulatory letter and thanked them for their dedication. A letter was also sent to Sheriff Phillips thanking him for his letter.

### **Public Works Department**

Steve Dyott, Public Works Director reported the following:

1. Covey/Williams Historical Museum Project will begin on October 5<sup>th</sup> with a completion date of February 4<sup>th</sup>, which is 120 days.
2. The road that was budgeted for repair this year was Liberty Road. Mr. Dyott has received a price to pave the street from East Central Avenue to Chambers Street. There have been some questions regarding the drainage in this area and the installation of curb and guttering. Currently there is no money budgeted for curb and guttering. There was discussion that the sidewalks in this area are in bad shape and that if the town is going to repave the street, then all the work should be done at the same time. The Mayor and Council agreed that the monies budgeted for FY08 will be encumbered, and monies will be budgeted in FY09 to include sidewalks, curb and guttering. The drainage concerns will also be looked into. Mr. Dyott was instructed to obtain the cost for completion of all paving, sidewalks, curb and guttering. There was also discussion regarding how the Town could accommodate assisting property owners with the sidewalk replacement costs.

Councilmember Fluharty stated that he has noticed wires down near the mailboxes located at the Post Office, and he doesn't know if this is a live wire. Public Works will check out the wires and report it for repair.

Councilmember Fluharty requested that signs be posted on the cardboard recycling bins stating that all cardboard must be broken down before putting it in the containers.

Councilmember Fluharty stated that he has received concerns about the street sweeper being out prior to 7 a.m. The street sweeper is loud and disturbs some residents. He said that the street sweeper has been on Greenridge Road as early as 6 a.m. Public Works agreed to do their best to work to accommodate the concerns.

### **Main Street/Grants Department**

Main Street and Grants Administrator Happy Mayer was unable to attend due to illness.

### **Code Enforcement Department**

Steve Watson, Code Enforcement Officer presented his monthly report. He advised that he is working with the Manager of Tilghman Brothers Trailer Park to get the park cleaned up. Building Permits have slowed down this month, but expect more in the next few weeks. Steve stated that he has also been dealing with some recurring violations.

Mayor Ballas asked about the status of the former Northwest Fork Restaurant. The owner is in the process of getting certified engineering plans. The owner will also have to request a variance because he is proposing an addition to the existing building which does not meet current setbacks requirements. A STOP WORK ORDER was issued for this property, because there was structural work being done without the proper plans.

There was question regarding the requirement of engineering plans, and the details of this requirement. This information will be researched and forwarded to the Mayor and Council once available.

### **Planning and Zoning Department**

Mr. Howard Bradley stated that the Planning Commission regular meeting has been rescheduled for October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m. At that time, they will also hold a Public Hearing for the Comprehensive Plan. The new owner of the Northwest Fork Restaurant presented a tentative sketch plan to the Commission, and requested approval to construct an addition with a rooftop garden/deck above it. The Commission denied his request and forwarded him to the Board of Appeals to request a variance, because he doesn't meet the 10 foot side setback requirements. There will also be two apartments upstairs. Habitat for Humanities presented their revised final plans for the Commission to review. The Commission also has a workshop scheduled for Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Website**

1. Councilmember Fluharty advised that the Town's website is currently being updated and encouraged everyone to visit it. The minutes are also available on the website. Chief Nagel advised the Halloween Policy will be posted on the Police website.

### **Weekly Reports**

Councilmember Fluharty stated that he would like to see the weekly reports given to the Mayor and Council again. He said he doesn't feel that the Mayor and Council are being updated with all information and events in each department.

### **Wastewater Treatment Plant Project**

The Mayor and Council were issued the bid package for the Wastewater Treatment Plant and they were asked to review it and be prepared to make a decision at the October 15<sup>th</sup> workshop. On Thursday, September 20, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. at the Federalsburg Town Hall, four bids for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project were received and opened. The Mayor and Council requested that Steve Dyott attend the workshop and bring the plans with him.

### **Home Spotlight**

Sari Preece said that she is doing a Home Spotlight Magazine and advised if anyone knew of any homes that could be spotlighted to give her a call and she would interview the owners.

### **SANTA CLAUS COMMITTEE**

Mayor Ballas advised that the Santa Claus Committee will be advertising again with other towns about the upcoming Christmas activities. The Federalsburg Christmas Parade is scheduled for Monday, December 10, 2007 at 7 p.m. The theme for the parade will be "Peace on Earth", and the Ruiz Family will be the grand marshals. The water tower located on Morris Avenue will be lit for the last time this year. The new water tower will be lit next year during the Christmas Holiday. The Santa Claus Committee will be doing something to raise money for the Christmas lights. Heather Hutson suggested and the Mayor and Council agreed to have a tower lighting ceremony on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion by Councilmember Gutkin seconded by Councilmember Gasser and unanimously passed by a vote of five to zero to adjourn at 9:23 p.m.

Submitted by,

Shirley A. Greene  
Clerk/Treasurer