

**Mayor and Council of Federalsburg
Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, March 1, 2010 @ 6 p.m.**

The Mayor and Council of Federalsburg held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, March 1, 2010 at 6 p.m. in the Mayor and Council Meeting Room, 118 North Main Street, Federalsburg, Maryland. Those in attendance were Mayor Fluharty and Councilmembers Windsor, Willis, Armes, and Bollinger. Also in attendance were staff, citizenry, and local media.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Fluharty who welcomed everyone and then led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Fluharty announced that the Mayor and Council held a Closed Session on March 1, 2010 from 5:00 p.m. to 5:58 p.m. as allowed under the Open Meetings Act, Maryland Code Annotated, State Government Article §10-508(a), 2004 Repl. Vol. to meet with the town attorney to discuss an enforcement issue, a matter concerning potential litigation, and concerns involving a real estate litigation matter.

Approval of Minutes

A motion by Councilmember Willis seconded by Councilmember Armes and passed by a vote of five to zero approving the minutes of the February 1st Mayor and Council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

SNOW SIDEWALK CLEARING

Mayor Fluharty announced that the town is trying to put together a network of volunteers from the Ministerial Association, Boy Scouts, and the school to assist elderly and disabled residents that are unable to clean off their sidewalks within the 24 hour period of time after a snowfall. Anyone who has an elderly neighbor or knows someone who is disabled that may need assistance clearing their sidewalk was urged to contact the town, and the town will try contact a volunteer or group to get the sidewalks cleared.

New Business

Habitat for Humanity – Letter of Support

Ms. Leslie Brome, Caroline County Habitat for Humanity requested a letter of support from the Mayor and Council as part of a grant application to the Maryland Housing and Community Development for the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust, for financial support for the final three homes in their Lake Creek Court community. Mayor Fluharty read the letter of support to be sent on behalf of Habitat for Humanity.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bollinger seconded by Councilmember Willis and unanimously approved by a vote of five to zero to forward a letter of support to Caroline County Habitat for Humanity in support of their grant application to the Maryland Housing and Community Development.

ABC CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER PROCLAMATION

Mayor Fluharty read a proclamation that would be delivered to the ABC Child Development Center recognizing them for 40 years of continuous service providing child care to the Federalsburg Community. The ABC Child Development Center is the only African American owned and operated center in Caroline County and the State of Maryland with 40 years of continuous service. The Council approved the signing and presentation of the proclamation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Federalsburg Historical Society

Bart Johnson reported that the newsletter for the Historical Society has been distributed. Their regular meeting scheduled for March 9th at 7 p.m. will host Mr. J. Harvey Williamson as the guest speaker, who has been a native of Federalsburg for 90 plus years. Mr. Williamson will speak about the Main Street businesses and residences, and the changes he has seen during his lifetime.

On Saturday, April 3rd at 9 a.m., the 2nd Annual Heritage Hike will be held in Federalsburg and on the Marshy Hope Pathways featuring

"Idlewild of the mid 1800's". An orientation assembly will be held at the HUB Parking Lot. The walking tour will be approximately 6 miles.

On April 24th the Federalsburg Historical Society will host the Annual Hobby Fair, in conjunction with the Federalsburg Elementary School, who will host a safety program the same day. Mr. Johnson encouraged everyone to participate in this event.

Mr. Johnson inquired about the fire sprinkler bids and whether or not one of them has been accepted by the town. Mr. Johnson was advised that this item is an action item on tonight's agenda.

Mr. Johnson also inquired about the status of the waterline connection for the Historical Building. Mr. Johnson was advised that the water line is scheduled to be completed on March 2, 2010.

Federalsburg Volunteer Fire Department

Mayor Fluharty announced the following upcoming events for the Federalsburg Volunteer Fire Company for the month of March 2010:

March 28th – Monthly Breakfast

March 20th – Fish Fry @ 4 p.m.

March 6th – Toy Show from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Federalsburg Lions Club

No report

PUBLIC CONCERNS

Snow Removal/Water Leak

Bart Johnson complimented the Town on how sidewalk snow removal was handled. Mr. Johnson had a property where the owner is elderly and was unable to find assistance to remove the snow; and Officer McNeill was helpful in finding a network of volunteers to remove the snow from the sidewalk.

Mr. Howard Bradley complimented the Public Works Department for a job well done in repairing the water leak on the corner of Reliance Avenue and East Central Avenue.

ACTIONS ITEMS

Councilmember Windsor

Councilmember Windsor questioned if the town had any updates in reference to the electrical issues that were addressed with Delmarva Power at the February Workshop.

Mayor Fluharty advised that the Mayor and Council met with representatives from Delmarva and Choptank Electric at their February workshop. They discussed concerns of frequent electrical outages in town even during high winds. Delmarva Power representatives pointed out they have replaced three switches and they felt that this covered were a good portion of the problem. The other problems included trees trimming/removal, and they are trying to be proactive regarding trees that may fall on their lines.

Councilmember Windsor questioned the status of the connector road to the two industrial parks. Mayor Fluharty advised that the town is waiting for the final approval on the connector and should know something within a month or two.

Councilmember Windsor advised that he has received a complaint about diagonal parking on Main Street, and questioned why the two hour parking laws are not enforced. This concern will be forwarded to the Police Department to inquire about the two hour parking on Main Street.

Councilmember Windsor advised that he has received positive compliments about the snow removal and the meeting with the electric company from Mrs. Darlene Planner.

Councilmember Willis

Councilmember Willis thanked the town staff (Public Works, Police, and office staff) for all that they did during the back to back snow storms.

Councilmember Willis advised that there is a tree that is located 105 North Park Lane that had fallen on the electric wires and started a fire. Delmarva Power came to the site for electric repairs, but have not come back to trim the tree. There is a concern that because the tree was burnt the limbs can still fall on the line and cause a greater

problem. The Mayor and Council asked staff to contact Delmarva Power to find out the status of the tree.

Councilmember Armes requested that the town contact a representative of State Highway in reference to the bridge by the by-pass on Route 318. There are large holes on the bridge that need attention. The Mayor and Council requested Steve Dyott, Public Works Director to contact someone from State Highway and meet with them to share the Town's concerns about the bridge.

Councilmember Bollinger

Quit Claim Deed – Charlotte Avenue

The Mayor and Council requested the staff to contact the developer to attend the March 15th workshop to address of the concerns about how the project would be completed.

Bob Rauch has given a cost estimate for what he recommends the developer should post as a bond for the completion of the remaining portions of this project.

Cable Franchise Agreement

Councilmember Bollinger advised that he has been unable to get a response from Bay Country Communications in regard to the Franchise Agreement. He has left several voice messages and has not received a response. Councilmember Bollinger recommended dropping them from the negotiations and if at such time they want to re-engage discussion with the town they could do so at anytime.

SPRINKLER BIDS

Mayor Fluharty stated that there were two bids received for the sprinkler system for the Federalsburg Historical Museum. The bids came in as follows:

Bayside Fire Company, Inc. - \$18,860.00
Tyco Fire & Security/Simplex Grinnell - \$17,874.00

The discussion regarding these bids was tabled because there were some questions in reference to the contract that the Mayor and Council wanted resolved prior to awarding the contract.

CCOG & ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES

The next meeting of the Caroline Council Association of Municipalities will be held on Wednesday, March 17, 2010. Mayor Fluharty and Councilmember Bollinger will be attending representing the town.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Councilmember Willis seconded by Councilmember Bollinger and passed by a vote of five to zero to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Shirley A. Greene
Clerk - Treasurer**