

**Mayor and Council of Federalsburg
Regular Monthly Meeting
September 3, 2019 @ 6:00 pm**

The Mayor & Council of Federalsburg held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Mayor & Council Meeting Room, 118 N Main Street, Federalsburg, Maryland. Those in attendance were Mayor Planner and Councilmembers Bollinger, Phillips, Windsor and Morean. Also in attendance were Lyndsey Ryan, Town Attorney, staff, citizens and media.

Welcome

Mayor Planner opened the meeting at 6:03 pm, he welcomed everyone and led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Public Hearing - Ordinance No. 2019-04

Lyndsey Ryan, Town Attorney read and gave a brief summary of Ordinance No. 2019-04. Ordinance No. 2019-04 will allow the Town of Federalsburg to authorize a Line of Credit Promissory Note with Provident State Bank in the principal amount of \$750,000.00. The proceeds of which may be used to provide interim financing to cover expenses and indebtedness that may arise from the construction of a solar energy project which would reduce annual electric expenses for the Federalsburg Wastewater Treatment Plant, said loan to be repaid by grant funds received by the Maryland Department of the Environment, and that the town will pledge its full faith and credit toward the repayment of the loan.

There was a question if a contractor has been selected for the project, and there has not been a contractor selected yet, because the project has not been bid out yet. It is planned to be located on a five acre lot in the Frank Adams Industrial Park. The Town is anticipating an approximate \$125,000 return on electric expenses due to the solar project upgrade.

Councilmember Phillips made a motion seconded by Councilmember Windsor and unanimously passed to close the Public Hearing and reconvene the regular meeting.

Guests:

Sue Simmons - Caroline County Parks & Recreation

Ms. Sue Simmons, Caroline County Parks & Recreation, has been working with several local non-profit organizations to obtain Program Open Space funding. P&R has applied for an \$18,000 grant with a \$2,000 match for enhancement of playground facilities near the Chambers Park Pavilion. The enhancements will include making public access improvements, additional plantings, and could also be used to replace the fencing around the perimeter of the Park. Ms. Simmons stated that they have collaborated with Ridgely and Greensboro for projects in their towns as well.

Ms. Simmons stated that P&R would keep in constant contact with Shirley Greene, Town Manager and Steve Dyott, Public Works Director with the progress of this project. The Mayor and Council will be kept informed and approve all phases.

Ms. Simmons will submit an agreement and plan for review and approval by the Town. Councilmember Phillips also questioned if a local Eagle Scout project that was recently approved by the Mayor and Council would be able to be included with these improvements. He was advised yes and Kim Abner, Federalsburg Lions Club with talk with Sue Simmons about this project.

Joanna Durando - FES Crosswalk Concerns

Ms Durando lives Maple Avenue, and the Federalsburg Elementary School PTA President. Mrs. Durando stated that she was speaking on behalf of many parents regarding the crosswalk coverage by Federalsburg Police. She read a summary of reasons regarding the importance of having a crossing guard at the intersection of University and Academy Avenues. She stated that it wasn't brought to the attention of the school and parents until a few days ago; and they feel that this is a bad move by the Federalsburg Police Department.

Mrs. Durando stated that FPD has changed a lot over the past few years and they are doing great things everyday, but she doesn't think this should have been taken away. She again outlined many reasons for the importance of having an officer at this location and stated that she has been walking her children through this intersection for years and it is not a safe intersection and feels this should be changed.

Chief McDermott stated that he came onboard with the Town with a fresh, new direction for the Federalsburg Police Department and he hopes to accomplish a lot with limited resources. This intersection is extremely important to all the officers, as is the safety of the students and parents using it. Several years ago, this intersection was made a four-way stop, and Chief feels that through his department monitoring the intersection people have come to be aware of it. With generally one officer on duty during school entry and departure, it makes it difficult to dedicate that officer only to school crossing. Chief McDermott stated that on average, there are approximately 12 children that cross through that intersection. Many children and parents cross the street on Academy Avenue, down the hill.

Chief McDermott stated that whenever an FPD Officer or anyone steps into the intersection, they accept responsibility for it. His goal is not to put anyone at risk and the safety of ALL the children, parents and staff is #1. Someone will be in the area every day to monitor and focus on the safety of the area, not just the intersection.

Chief McDermott stated that he will continue to monitor that intersection and the transition personally for at least 30 days and the officer on duty will be in the near vicinity during entry and departure. FPD made several traffic stops this morning during this time. He also stated that he did not feel that the crossing was the duty of the School Resource Officer, but that is the decision of the County Sheriff. And if the school would like to have a crossing guard, Chief McDermott is not against that at all.

Milton Nagel, Asst. Superintendent and Patty Salens, Superintendent of Caroline County Public Schools stated that they were unaware of this change until just a few days ago and immediately sent notice to the schools and parents. Chief McDermott stated that he sent an email several weeks ago and didn't get a response. The Board of Education did not receive his email. It was agreed that Chief will keep in touch with Dr. Hallway, the Board of Education and the Mayor and Council.

It was stated that Federalsburg could possibly look into installation of school crossing signs with lights, similar to the Town of Preston. Mr. Nagel stated that SHA installed the signs in Preston, and it would be a welcome enhancement for Federalsburg. The Mayor and Council and Chief McDermott agreed that this was definitely worth looking into.

Old Business

Gerardi Blvd - Safe Routes To School Project Update -

A pre-construction meeting was held last week with the contractor for the Safe Routes to School - Gerardi Avenue project. The anticipated start date is October 7th, 2019. Town and engineering staff discussed the East Central Avenue paving project with the contractor. It was agreed that the SRTS project will begin work at Chambers Dam and move toward Gerardi Avenue. This portion should be completed within approximately 30 days. Once that area is completed, David Bramble will proceed and complete the East Central Avenue paving before the end of the season. The contractor was advised of the importance of keeping the Board of Education informed of their progress.

New Business

Appointment of Election Judges for September 24th Election -

Shirley Greene, Town Manager requested that the Mayor and Council approve the following persons as Judges for the upcoming municipal election on Tuesday, September 24th:

- Elaine Hubbard
- Jackie Pinckens
- Janie Eskow
- Gerry Glime

Councilmember Bollinger made a motion seconded by Councilmember Morean and unanimously passed approving Elaine Hubbard, Jackie Pinckens, Janie Eskow and Gerry Glime as Election Judges for the 2019 Municipal Election on September 24th, 2019.

Hazard Mitigation Resolution No. 2019-01

Shirley Greene stated that previously Mr. Jeff Ludwig, Caroline County Emergency Management, requested that the Town of Federalsburg adopt Hazard Mitigation Resolution No. 2019-01.

Councilmember Bollinger made a motion seconded by Councilmember Windsor and unanimously passed approving Resolution No. 2019-01 adopting a Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Town of Federalsburg.

Ordinance No. 2019-04

An ordinance of the Town of Federalsburg authorizing a Line of Credit Promissory Note with Provident State Bank in the principal amount of \$750,000.00. The proceeds of which may be used to provide interim financing to cover expenses and indebtedness that may arise from the construction of a solar energy project which would reduce annual electric expenses for the Federalsburg Wastewater Treatment Plant, said loan to be

repaid by grant funds received by the Maryland Department of the Environment, and that the town will pledge its full faith and credit toward the repayment of the loan.

There were no comments/questions.

Councilmember Phillips made a motion seconded by Councilmember Windsor and unanimously passed to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-04 authorizing a Line of Credit Promissory Note with Provident State Bank in the principal amount of \$750,000.00.

Federalsburg Outreach Group

Shirley Greene reported that the Federalsburg Outreach Group has requested permission to park their vehicles in the town parking lot on Morris Avenue while they are away on a trip from October 7th - 11th, 2019. They will have no more than 10 vehicles parked there. The group has done this for at least the past 8 years, and they have designated a contact person that will have all keys and can move any vehicle if there is a problem. As in past years, they have been advised to not obstruct the recycling bins. Chief McDermott has approved this request also.

Councilmember Phillips made a motion seconded by Councilmember Bollinger and unanimously passed to allow the Federalsburg Outreach Group to park their vehicles in the town parking lot from October 7 - 11, 2019.

MDE Penalty - WWTP

Shirley Greene reported that the Town has received notice from MDE regarding issues at the Federalsburg Wastewater Treatment Plant from 2016, 2017 and 2018, and two recent wastewater spills at the plant. MDE has agreed to a penalty amount of \$9,800 for the Town of Federalsburg. All issues have been resolved and the WWTP is currently in compliance. The State worked with the Town to get these issues resolved and the plant looks much better now than it did a year ago.

Councilmember Morean made a motion seconded by Councilmember Windsor and unanimously passed to accept this notice and proceed with payment of the penalty to MDE.

Committee Reports

Federalsburg Historical Society - Nothing at this time.

Federalsburg Lions Club - Kim Abner stated that they Lions Club has been gearing up their work efforts in Chambers Park again, and they will host a Sandwich Sale on September 27th.

Planning & Zoning Commission - Councilmember Bollinger stated that the Commission has been further discussing issues with R-1 and R-2 zoning districts.

Federalsburg Volunteer Fire Company - Councilmember Morean reported that the Federalsburg Fire Company will host a Chicken BBQ on September 9th at 10 am.

Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Windsor made a motion seconded by Councilmember Morean and unanimously passed approving the minutes from the previous months meeting.

Public Comments (2 minutes)

Patricia Salens, Superintendent of Caroline County Public Schools - Ms. Salens stated that on most days there are approximately 6,000 students and staff in all of the Caroline County Schools. Her primary concern is to keep students and staff safe, and not get involved in a mix of political battles. Ms. Salens was advised that this decision was made back in May and was not passed onto the Board of Education until August 21st. Ms. Salens stated that the Board of Education is willing to do whatever is necessary to protect the children, parents and staff. She also stated that statistics show that the majority of incidents happen during entry or departure of the students. Her primary concern is for the safety of the children.

Milton Nagel - Asst. Superintendent - Mr. Nagel stated that he spoke to the Mayor this morning and would like to reiterate that for 20+ years FPD has always been there as an added extra protection. Mr. Nagel stated that the Board of Education has always had a great partnership with the Town and FPD; and he certainly appreciates the fresh lens and is hopeful that maybe we can enhance the intersection with flashing lights.

Lt. Baker - Caroline County Sheriff's Department - Lt. Baker stated that the Sheriff was unable to attend this meeting, but is willing to assist in anyway possible. He stated that the Sheriff's Department is not handling traffic control in Preston any longer. The Town of Preston was previously contributing toward the salary of the SRO, but that is no longer the case. Lt. Baker also offered his cell phone number and encouraged the Town to call him anytime (410-829-5818). The Sheriff's Department determined that the best place for the SRO is on campus during entry and departure. Lt. Baker also stated that any crossing guard volunteers must be trained and certified under the supervision of the Police Department or Sheriff's Department.

Robin Peele - Headstart - Mrs. Peele stated that she drives a school bus for Headstart and makes four trips per day to the Judy Center. She feels there should definitely be someone at this intersection because some children just don't pay attention and need someone to direct them. Many children cross in front of her bus and afternoons are crazy. She has seen many problems during drop-off/pickup at head start.

Wayne Cole - Mr. Cole stated that the Colonel Richardson High School Alumni contacted him regarding the upcoming Homecoming events and asked him to setup the parade. Therefore, he asked permission to have the Homecoming Parade in town on Saturday, October 26th at 10 am. The route will be from the marina down Main Street and turn off onto Old Denton Road, so the floats can proceed to the High School. Chief McDermott had no concerns with that date. Councilmember Morean made a motion seconded by Councilmember Phillips and unanimously passed approving Wayne Cole's request to host the CRHS Homecoming Parade on October 26th.

Chief McDermott - Chief McDermott stated that the training has begun for the new K-9 Branka. He extended a huge thank you to the Lions Club for their donations through Protection for Paws, which helped to purchase necessary equipment for the K-9. Her first day on the job will be September 27th. She is a great dog and she will be a marvelous asset to our community. Chief stated that training and equipment have all been purchased through donations. Wayne Cole stated that he believed the District 22 Lions would also be making a donation toward the K-9 equipment/training.

Mayor & Council Action Items

Councilmember Windsor

Councilmember Windsor asked if we had an outside agency look at the water and sewer rate comparison. Shirley Greene stated that they require quite a bit of information and we are in the process of compiling it for review.

Councilmember Bollinger

Councilmember Bollinger requested a closed session after the meeting to obtain legal advice.

Councilmember Morean

Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Phillips

Councilmember Phillips thanked everyone who attended tonight's meeting and sharing their input on the School Crossing concerns.

Mayor Planner

Mayor Planner also thanked everyone for attending and stated that he too would continue to monitor the intersection.

Mayor Planner also express concerns about children and adults playing in the street on Academy Avenue. While recently driving down Academy, he had to stop and wait for the children and adults to move out of the roadway, and move the toys and bikes out of the way. There are also issues on Buena Vista and Maple Avenues. Chief McDermott stated that the best approach is to talk with the parents and he will make sure his officers are aware and talk with them. Chief McDermott encouraged residents to call the police when they see things such as this so they can address it while it's happening. Chief stated that he can be reached via Facebook or by his cell phone. The officers will be concentrating on some lesser offenses, jaywalking, bike safety, helmets, etc.

Adjournment

Councilmember Bollinger made a motion seconded by Councilmember Windsor and unanimously passed by a vote of five to zero to adjourn and go into closed session at 7:23 pm to obtain legal advice.

Councilmember Morean made a motion seconded by Councilmember Phillips and unanimously passed by a vote of five to zero to reconvene the regular meeting at 7:32 pm.

Councilmember Morean made a motion seconded by Councilmember Bollinger and unanimously passed by a vote of five to zero to deny the offers presented for settlement regarding two former police officers and proceed with payment of full amount owed.

Councilmember Morean made a motion seconded by Councilmember Bollinger and unanimously passed by a vote of five to zero to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy L. Marshall
Clerk-Treasurer