

## **The Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton**

### MINUTES

June 12, 2013

A public meeting (workshop) of the Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton (“the Board”) was held on this date at 4:00 p.m. with the following persons present: Mayor Joseph Fisona, Commissioners Charles H. Givens, Sr.; Charles E. Hicks, V; Mary Jo Jablonski, and Earl M. Piner, Sr.; Town Administrator Lewis H. George, Jr.; Finance Director Steven H. Repole; Administration Office Clerk Mary Olah; and Town Attorney H. Norman Wilson, Jr.

Mayor Fisona called the workshop to order at 4:00 p.m.

Mayor Fisona asked Town Attorney H. Norman Wilson Jr. to explain why the discussion regarding Southside LLC was removed from the workshop agenda.

Mr. Wilson explained that Southside now had a new attorney, James Dellmyer, representing the developers in regards to Southside LLC and the Planned Unit Development. With new regulations coming into effect, Southside, along with their counsel, the Town’s Planning and Zoning Departments, and the Town attorneys, agreed to meet and discuss details before bringing the overall concept before the Board. A meeting with all parties was scheduled for Monday, June 17, 2013.

#### Discussion - Severn Trent Proposal – Big Elk Sanitary Sewer Pump Station Influent Screen

Mayor Fisona reported that he and Ken Benner of Severn Trent Environmental Services Inc. met with County Executive Tari Moore; County Administrator Al Wein; and representatives from the Cecil County Detention Center, (collectively “County”) to request the County’s assistance in addressing the continuing issue of debris flushed from the detention center interfering with the Town’s sanitary sewer system equipment.

During that meeting, the County explained the measures that have been taken to reduce debris in the sewer lines, and also stated that a new grinder was being considered to address debris such as brown paper towels and snack bags which are still getting through the installed grates. Mr. Benner explained Severn Trent’s proposal for the installation of an influent screen, as discussed at the May 8, 2013 Town Workshop, and why he believed the proposal was more economical for the County if an agreement was reached to pay a percentage of the cost of the proposed screen as opposed to paying for their own new equipment.

Mayor Fisona stated that the County will consider the Town's request proposal and notify the Town of their decision within thirty days. Discussion ensued regarding the percentage the Board wanted the County to pay.

Discussion ensued regarding Severn Trent's proposal to pay half of the proposed cost of the installation of the screen on the condition of the Town's agreement to extend the Severn Trent contract which currently expires in September 2018, until December 2023.

Mr. George expressed concerns that a long term contract would eliminate the Town's ability to negotiate more favorable terms especially when contracting with a for-profit company. He also expressed concerns regarding the cost of the entire project and future maintenance since Severn Trent frequently requires assistance from the Town's Department of Public Works and town owned equipment.

Mr. Repole expressed concerns that although long term contracts enhanced long term planning, fluctuations in the economy, or the number of Town residents, or the amount of water purchased from Artesian could affect the economic benefits of a long term contract.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of the Town negotiating their own revisions and conditions to the contract as a cost savings without creating an adversarial position with Severn Trent.

The Board agreed to wait for the County's decision regarding the payment of a percentage of the project's cost before further discussions with Severn Trent.

Mayor Fisona requested an analysis of the contract with Waste Management, the Town's contracted waste and recyclables hauler, in regards to the fees the company may receive from their sale of recyclables. Mr. George stated the Town saves money by no longer paying fees at the County Landfill for the dumping of recyclables since Waste Management hauls recyclables to Delaware, but he would contact Waste Management for an explanation.

Discussion ensued regarding the renegotiation of the Waste Management contract, and the possibility of the Town returning to handling its own trash removal services.

Mayor Fisona announced that the next Maryland Municipal League dinner would be held in Cecilton on July 18, 2013.

Discussion ensued regarding the scheduling of budget discussions to workshop agendas after the start of the new fiscal year such as contracts that are due for renewal, overtime, revenue building and the development of the long range plans for the budget crisis.

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Commissioner Givens expressed concerns regarding limiting the amount of time citizens are allowed to speak and meetings, and asked the Board to consider allowing time for citizen comment at workshops. Discussion ensued regarding how to properly control meetings, in addition to how to increase citizen awareness of issues and attendance at Town meetings.

Hearing no additional business to come before the Board, Mayor Fisona adjourned the workshop at 5:03 p.m.

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Mary K. Olah  
Administration Office Secretary

AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS MEETING IS RETAINED AT THE  
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE