

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

## **MINUTES**

February 1, 2012

The Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton (the "Board") held their first regularly scheduled meeting in February on this date at 7:00 p.m. The following persons were present: Mayor Joseph L. 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 Repole; Chief of Police William E. Ryan; Administration Office Secretary L. Michelle Henson; and Town Attorney H. Norman Wilson, Jr. Esquire.

Mayor Fisona called the meeting to order, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ACTION:** The minutes of the January 18, 2012 meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Givens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piner and approved by all present with no corrections or amendments.

**ACTION:** The financial report and the bills submitted for payment were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Jablonski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Givens and approved by all present.

### **Administration of Oath of Office – Chief of Police William E. Ryan**

Chief William Ryan administered the Oath of Office to Elkton Police Officer Edward Donnelly.

### **Severn Trent Environmental Services Water/Wastewater Treatment Services Report – Months of December 2011 and January 2012**

Mr. Ken Benner, Area Manager, presented the Water/Wastewater Treatment Services report for the months of December 2011 and January 2012. A copy of the report was placed in the record of the minutes.

Mr. Benner reported the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and sanitary sewer pumping stations passed recent inspections conducted by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

Mr. Benner stated the pump for Well No. 1 was recently replaced as part of ongoing routine maintenance.

Mayor Fisona and Commissioner Givens commended Severn Trent for the elimination of odors from the WWTP.

Discussion ensued regarding the availability of dried sludge for residential and agricultural use. Mr. Benner stated the material was free to residents of Elkton.

**Public Information Hearing – Water Source Protection Plan**

Mr. Harvey Cohen, Project Manager, S.S. Papadopoulos & Associates

Mr. Nick Walls, Lead Planner, Chesapeake Environmental Management

Messrs. Cohen and Walls introduced themselves to the Board.

Mr. Cohen stated the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Water Supply Program funded a study of the Town's wells in order to assess potential issues with water quality. He stated the purpose of the study was to identify potential contaminants, and determine recommendations to protect the wells.

Mr. Cohen said he was soliciting input from the community and Board, and stated a second meeting would be scheduled upon completion of the study.

Discussion ensued regarding the scope of the study. Mr. Cohen stated the study would concentrate on the Town's wells, which were operated under permits issued by MDE.

Mr. Cohen said MDE identified 20 towns in Maryland that had potentially susceptible wells. He said the study was in addition to a Source Water Assessment that was previously performed, adding that no additional costs were borne by the Town. He said the study should be complete by the end of 2012.

**Old Business**

Mayor Fisona, referring to the Board's request to State Highway Administration (SHA) to lower the speed limit near the schools on Route 279 during school hours, stated SHA determined the speed limit was appropriate for the area.

Commissioner Jablonski questioned the status of the request of Severn Trent Environmental Services to amend the current Water / Wastewater Treatment agreement. Mr. George stated he was awaiting the Board's approval.

**ACTION:** The request to amend the current Water / Wastewater Treatment agreement with Severn Trent Environmental Services was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Jablonski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piner and approved by all present.

Commissioner Piner, referring to previous discussions regarding a local business' use of unmetered water for fire pump testing, questioned if the amount of water used had been determined. Mr. George answered in the negative, stating the amount of water could not be quantified. Discussion ensued regarding development of a process to determine

water usage for billing. Mr. George stated the pump was not metered in order to decrease the risk of impeding flow in the event of a fire.

Discussion ensued regarding determination of water usage using pump capacity information.

Commissioner Givens questioned the status of cleanup efforts at Meadow Park and Marina Park. Mr. George stated clean up was complete at Meadow Park, adding that straw and seed was placed. He said clean up at Marina Park was proceeding incrementally due to a large amount of trash. He said the area needed to be cleared due to the scheduled placement of a gas line through the park in spring.

### **Mayor Fisona's Report**

Mayor Fisona, referring to the recent resignation of a member of the Board of Housing Appeals, asked the Board for recommendations to fill the vacancy.

### **Commissioner Jablonski's Report**

Commissioner Jablonski stated the Elkton Senior Apartments were at capacity.

Commissioner Jablonski commended the Elkton Police Department regarding their recent awards ceremony.

### **Commissioner Givens' Report**

Commissioner Givens, referring to the resignation of a member of the Board of Housing Appeals, stated he understood the recently adopted Ethics Ordinance was modeled after state regulations, and asked if the Town could relax some of the more stringent requirements, such as requirements of Financial Disclosure statements. Commissioner Jablonski concurred, stating she understood why committee members such as the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals would be required to complete Financial Disclosure Statements, but did not understand why committees such as the Board of Housing Appeals would be included. Mr. George stated if the Board chose to relax the requirements he would submit the amendments to the State's Ethics Commission counsel for review.

Commissioner Givens commended the Elkton Police Department K-9 unit for its response to a recent incident at Elkton High School.

### **Commissioner Hicks' Report**

Commissioner Hicks stated he observed water coming from the street in the area of Melbourne Boulevard and Village Drive. Mr. George stated several residents in the area used sump pumps, which could lead to the discharge of water into the street, adding that he would request an investigation by the Department of Public Works.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Mayor Fisona requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Givens made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piner and approved by all present.

Hearing no additional business to come before the Board, Mayor Fisona adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

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L. Michelle Henson  
Administration Office Secretary

AN AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDING OF THIS MEETING RETAINED AT THE  
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Note: The minutes of regularly scheduled public meetings conducted by the Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton, following their approval, are posted at [www.elkton.org](http://www.elkton.org). The minutes, in hard copy format, are retained indefinitely by the Town of Elkton, Administration Office, 100 Railroad Avenue, Elkton, Maryland 21921.