

The Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton

MINUTES

February 8, 2012

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 Repole; Director of Public Works Daniel Handley; Director of Parks & Recreation Mary Magaw; Director of Planning Jeanne Minner; Zoning Administrator J. Craig Trostle; Administration Office Secretary L. Michelle Henson; and Town Attorney H. Norman Wilson, Jr.

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

Discussion – Artesian Water

Mayor Fisona welcomed Ms. Dian Taylor, President, CEO; Mr. John Thaeder, Senior VP; Mr. Ken Branner, Director; and Mr. George Phillips, Director, representing Artesian Water Maryland (Artesian).

Commissioner Piner thanked the group for attending the workshop meeting. He stated he and Commissioner Jablonski had met with Ms. Taylor in order to discuss outstanding issues pertaining to the Town’s water purchase contract with Artesian, such as the required minimum purchase of 375,000 gallons per day (gpd). He said their subsequent meetings identified areas in which the Town and Artesian could grow together through a longer-term business relationship.

Ms. Taylor echoed Commissioner Piner’s comments, stating Artesian wanted to create a strategic alliance with the Town.

Mr. Thaeder provided a Power Point presentation outlining proposed mutual goals between the Town and Artesian; a copy of the presentation was placed in the record of the minutes.

Discussion ensued regarding Artesian’s transfer of ownership to the Town and re-designation of the existing 4-inch water for use as a sewer line by the YMCA of Cecil County, in exchange for the Town’s establishment of a water interconnection at Routes 279 & 7 through which Artesian could purchase up to 50,000 gpd.

Mr. Thaeder stated Artesian proposed water interconnections to provide opportunities for growth in areas northeast and northwest of Elkton, specifically referring to 3 properties that were in various stages of the annexation process in exchange for Artesian’s purchase of up to 50,000 gpd and use of the Town’s existing mains. Mr. Thaeder stated that Artesian would also provide water reserves required by the Maryland

Department of the Environment (MDE) with respect to the proposed Tenby Ridge development.

Mr. Thaeder stated Artesian proposed to lower the current requirement of “take or pay” from 375,000 gpd to 300,000 gpd, which would result in a 20% decrease in Elkton’s water purchase costs, equating to \$110,000 in annual savings for the town.

Ms. Taylor stated the Town’s current contract with Artesian would expire on June 30, 2014; she said Artesian proposed to extend the contract until June 30, 2019.

Discussion ensued regarding the fees that Elkton would charge for water purchased by Artesian via the proposed interconnection sites.

Discussion – Zoning Department Budget

Zoning Administrator J. Craig Trostle, Jr. presented the Zoning Department Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Request. A copy of the request was placed in the record of the minutes.

Mr. Trostle stated his FY 2013 budget requests included 2 replacement vehicles and 4 new computers and applicable software.

Discussion ensued regarding increased advertising and transcription costs associated with Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) meetings.

Discussion continued regarding fees associated with engineering services.

Commissioner Hicks stated training and education funding should be sufficient to keep staff current. Commissioner Jablonski echoed Commissioner Hicks’ comments.

Discussion – Department of Public Works

Director J. Daniel Handley, P.E. and Mr. Mike Cooper, Supply Clerk, presented the Department of Public Works (DPW) Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Request. A copy of the request was placed in the record of the minutes.

Discussion ensued regarding costs associated with implementation of the State of Maryland Watershed Program, which would affect the Town’s maintenance of stormwater management ponds.

Discussion continued regarding funding of street and sidewalk projects.

Mr. Cooper stated the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) required that all transmission equipment needed to be narrow-banded by January 1, 2013. He stated the Town’s equipment would not be in compliance with the new regulation. Mr. Cooper

stated he was in contact with the Town's equipment vendor to investigate the most cost effective way to upgrade the Town's radio equipment.

Discussion continued regarding additional requests, including an industrial air compressor, computers, heavy equipment and training.

Commissioner Givens questioned if employees were cross-trained. Mr. Handley stated his goals included rotation of employees to provide cross-training. He said he wanted to take advantage of talents within DPW and accomplish projects in-house.

Community/Recreation Center Concept Plan

Ms. Mary Magaw, Director of Parks & Recreation, provided a concept plan that was an amended version of a previously submitted plan. She stated the proposed facility was approximately 40% smaller than the original plan. She said the proposed facility provided a gym area and space for Parks & Recreation programs. She asked for the Board's input regarding the amended plan.

Discussion ensued regarding provision of an indoor walking track.

Discussion

Mayor Fisona queried the Board regarding funding for the July 4th Fireworks event. Commissioner Jablonski suggested that the Town contact the sponsors of the 2011 fireworks regarding funding support for the 2012.

Hearing no additional business to come before the Board, Mayor Fisona adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

L. Michelle Henson
Administration Office Secretary

A RECORDING OF THIS MEETING RETAINED
AT THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICE