

MINUTES

BOARD OF TOWN COMMISSIONERS

June 21, 2021

The regular meeting of the Board of Town Commissioners was called to order on Monday, June 21, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 39 Hickory Avenue, Bel Air, Maryland.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Amy G. Chmielewski, Chair
Kevin M. Bianca
Erin S. Hughes
Donna L. Kahoe

ABSENT: Patrick T. Richards

STAFF PRESENT: L. Jesse Bane, Town Administrator
Trish Heidenreich, Director of Economic Development
Stephen Kline, Director of Public Works
Lisa Moody, Director of Finance
Richard Peschek, Deputy Chief
Patti Parker, Community & Public Relations Manager
Charles Keenan, Town Counsel
Kevin Small, Director of Planning
Joan Suitt, Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Michael Krantz, Director of Administration
Charles Moore, Chief of Police

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Hughes moved and Commissioner Bianca seconded the motion to approve the Agenda as written.

Ayes: Commissioners Bianca, Hughes, Kahoe, and Chmielewski

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Richards

The motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS:

Bel Air Independence Day Committee, Inc.

Mr. Michael Blum, representing the Bel Air Independence Day Committee, introduced Chiamaka Ezeonyebuchi, Miss Bel Air Independence Day. Mr. Blum informed due of COVID-19, Ms. Ezeonyebuchi is the only title holder to serve for two years; 2020 and 2021. Ms. Ezeonyebuchi will compete virtually in the Miss Maryland Pageant later this week. Mr. Blum advised the reigning Miss Maryland, Allison Redman, is here tonight and will sing the National Anthem during the Bel Air Flag Raisings July 4th.

Mr. Blum notified Chiamaka Ezeonyebuchi has received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management from Salisbury University, Leadership Awards, was a Cultural Laureate, and President of the African Student Association. Ms. Ezeonyebuchi is currently the Marketing Manager for Activision Blizzard, one of the world's largest interactive entertainment companies, home to some of the most beloved entertainment franchises

including Call of Duty, World of Warcraft, Overwatch, Diablo, Candy Crush, and Bubble Witch.

Ms. Ezeonyebuchi advised it is a pleasure to be here tonight and is grateful to serve as Miss Bel Air. Ms. Ezeonyebuchi stated her platform is to help under-served communities that are access limited and constrained. She has worked with Harford Family House and the Maryland Food Bank.

Ms. Ezeonyebuchi is excited about the Bel Air July 4th celebration where many activities are planned during the day along with the Parade at 6:00 p.m. and Fireworks at 9:30 p.m.

Ms. Ezeonyebuchi informed programs for the event will be distributed this week and the winner of the Program Cover Contest is Londyn Palmer who is a student at Homestead-Wakefield Elementary.

Mr. Blum advised the 2021 theme is "Honoring Our Healthcare Heroes" and recognized Jennifer Byrne and Melinda Glackin, art teachers at Homestead-Wakefield Elementary, who have been instrumental in getting students to enter the contests for many years.

Mr. Blum presented Londyn Palmer with a recognition certificate for her contribution and displayed the cover design for the program. Mr. Blum advised the drawings of the honorable mention winners will be included in the pages of the program.

Harford County 250th Anniversary

Chair Chmielewski stated on December 6, 1773, the Maryland General Assembly approved the formation of a new county to be named Harford County, separating this area from what was originally Baltimore County. Part of this proclamation was the requirement to establish a county seat. This eventually led to the development of the Bel Air we know today.

Chair Chmielewski advised in 2023, the county will commemorate its 250th anniversary with a year-long celebration. Tonight, we are proud to be part of this event and showcase the Event Logo and present Karen Schoelkopf with her prize for submitting the winning logo.

Chair Chmielewski asked Ms. Schoelkopf to come forward along with Bill Walden, President of the Historical Society, Carol Deibel, Harford 250 program organizer and Jesse Bane, Town Administrator.

Mr. Walden informed the Historical Society along with many other organizations in the county will be joining together to commemorate the 250th year anniversary of the county. Mr. Walden advised the website for the anniversary was launched today; theford250.org.

Mr. Walden advised the 25 submissions for the Logo Contest are displayed on the board and the design from Ms. Schoelkopf was selected by the committee. Mr. Bane presented a check from the Town of Bel Air to Ms. Schoelkopf.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Bianca moved and Commissioner Kahoe seconded the motion that the minutes of the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners' meetings held on June 7, 2021, and June 15, 2021 be approved as submitted.

Ayes: Commissioners Bianca, Hughes, Kahoe, and Chmielewski

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Richards

The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Personnel Policy Amendments - Policy II.E.01 - Employee Benefits Leave Policies Personal Leave

Commissioner Bianca moved and Commissioner Kahoe seconded the motion that amended Personnel Policy II.E.01 entitled Employee Benefits Leave Policies, Section D. Vacation Leave, Section F. Jury Leave and Subpoena, and Section I. Leave Donation, be adopted by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

Ayes: Commissioners Bianca, Hughes, Kahoe, and Chmielewski

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Richards

The motion carried.

Personnel Policy - Classification/Classified Positions and Personnel Table - Employee Benefits

Commissioner Binaca moved and Commissioner Kahoe seconded the motion that revised Personnel Policy II.F.3 entitled Classification - Classified Positions & Personnel Table, be adopted by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

Ayes: Commissioners Bianca, Hughes, Kahoe, and Chmielewski

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Richards

The motion carried.

Amendment to Operations/Administration/Finance/Procurement of Goods and Services Policy I.E.5

Commissioner Hughes moved and Commissioner Bianca seconded the motion that the Town's Procurement of Goods & Services Policy, I.E.5, to include details on the terms Sole Source and Single Source, be approved by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

Ayes: Commissioners Bianca, Hughes, Kahoe, and Chmielewski

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Richards

The motion carried.

Resolution No. 1169-21 Budgetary Amendment - Fiscal Year 2021

Commissioner Bianca moved and Commissioner Kahoe seconded the motion that Resolution No. 1169-21, amending the budget for fiscal year 2021 for additional appropriations, monetary adjustments, and transfers between departments, be received by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

Ms. Moody, Director of Finance, advised the total of the recommended adjustments in this year's final budget amendment increases the fiscal year 2021 general fund budget by \$1,018,367.

Some of the more significant changes to the revenue accounts are as follows:

- Public Utility Taxes - \$74,000 decrease based on an assessment correction by MAWC
- Income Taxes - \$814,277 increase mainly due to a Town taxpayer's 2019 taxable income
- Red Light Camera - \$25,000 increase due to increased projection based on to-date information
- Transfer from Capital Reserve - \$220,180 net increase due to new contracts for topo survey, Geotech, structural engineering, and construction documents on the PD/TH building (\$270,180) and postponing the Rockfield playground capital work until FY22 (-\$50,000)

The net effect of these changes is an overall increase of \$1,018,367 in Total Revenues.

Some of the more significant changes to the expenditure accounts are as follows:

- Town Buildings - \$229,909 net increase: \$270,180 PD/TH topo survey, Geotech, structural engineering, and construction documents contracts and removing \$50,000 due to postponing the Rockfield playground contract to the next fiscal year.
- Commissioners - \$20,600 decrease: \$13,800 reduction in travel/training/memberships and community events due to covid and removing the \$6,800 budget for the quarterly newsletter since it is no longer published
- Miscellaneous - \$766,411 net increase: mainly due to the \$772,708 monies received from income taxes which are being transferred to capital reserve for potential funding toward the PD/TH building
- Police Department - \$64,560 net increase: mainly due to requesting the purchase of a replacement vehicle, including accessories, for the totaled vehicle and additional monies needed for unexpected major vehicle repairs
- DPW Shop - \$15,260 increase: due to unexpected major vehicle repairs

- DPW Streets - (\$27,857) net decrease: \$40,000 decrease due to salary/benefit vacancies and \$12,143 to replace a badly rusted truck body
- DPW Refuse - \$27,500 increase: due mainly to correcting the reduction in the last budget amendment for the overbilling error found by our condo trash vendor

The net effect of these changes is an overall increase of \$1,018,367 in Total Expenditures.

The Special Revenue Fund also has one recommended change which would decrease the fund by \$61,802. This adjustment is to remove the budget related to the CDBG Project. These funds had to be redirected from the original use and will fund paving on Old Orchard Road and Hall Street in fiscal year 2022.

Ayes: Commissioners Bianca, Hughes, Kahoe, and Chmielewski

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Richards

The motion carried.

A public hearing will be held on Monday, July 19, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Resolution 1168-21 a Resolution Endorsing a Community Legacy Project and Project Financing

Commissioner Kahoe moved and Commissioner Bianca seconded the motion that Resolution No. 1168-21, endorsing a Community Legacy Project and Project Financing, either directly by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development of the State of Maryland or through other departments or agencies of the State of Maryland, be approved by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

Commissioner Bianca inquired on the timeline for the funding. Ms. Heidenreich stated it varies but expects to hear by February/March of 2022.

Ayes: Commissioners Bianca, Hughes, Kahoe, and Chmielewski

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Richards

The motion carried.

Award of Contract: RFP# 21008 - Cleaning Services for Various Town Facilities

Commissioner Hughes moved and Commissioner Bianca seconded the motion that the proposal of Sentral Services, 11218 Midvale Road, Kensington, Maryland, to provide cleaning services for various Town facilities for the amount of \$2,569.00 per month be accepted by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

Ayes: Commissioner Bianca, Hughes, Kahoe, and Chmielewski

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Richards

The motion carried.

Award of Contract for Town's Electric Supply

Commissioner Bianca moved and Commissioner Kahoe seconded the motion that the Proposal of Constellation New Energy, Inc., 1001 Louisiana St. Constellation Suite 2300, Houston, Texas 77002, as provided to and accepted by the Maryland Department of General Services to supply electric power at the projected rate of \$0.05046/ kWh for the term of sixty-six months be also accepted by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

Ayes: Commissioner Bianca, Hughes, Kahoe, and Chmielewski

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Richards

The motion carried.

Planning Commission Reappointment

Commissioner Hughes moved and Commissioner Bianca seconded the motion that the reappointment of Phil Raub to the Bel Air Planning Commission for a term of five (5) years, effective immediately, be approved by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

Commissioner Hughes advised Mr. Raub is a valued member of the Planning Commission and is pleased with his reappointment.

Ayes: Commissioners Bianca, Hughes, Kahoe, and Chmielewski

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Richards

The motion carried.

Historic Preservation Commission Reappointment

Commissioner Kahoe moved and Commissioner Bianca seconded the motion that the reappointment of Paul Edmeades to the Bel Air Historic Preservation Commission for a term of three (3) years, effective immediately, be approved by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

Commissioner Hughes advised Mr. Edmeades has agreed to serve another term and is a valuable contributor to the Historic Preservation Commission.

Ayes: Commissioners Bianca, Hughes, Kahoe, and Chmielewski

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Richards

The motion carried.

Board of Election Judges Appointments

Commissioner Kahoe moved and Commissioner Bianca seconded the motion that the reappointments of:

- Priscilla Jindra, Election Judge
- Wendy Ribbans, Election Judge

and the appointments of:

- Ruth Oswald, Election Judge
- Lisa Robbins, Election Judge

to the Bel Air Board of Election Judges for a term of four (4) years, effective immediately, be approved by the Bel Air Board of Town.

Commissioner Kahoe appreciates the service of the Election Judges.

Ayes: Commissioners Bianca, Hughes, Kahoe, and Chmielewski

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Richards

The motion carried.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chair Chmielewski reported:

- June 24th - Comprehensive Plan meeting at the Armory from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Residents were urged to attend to give input.
- June 25th - Ceremony for the Chesapeake Sensory Park at Rockfield, 9:00 a.m.
- July 2nd - First Fridays from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. More activities have been added.
- July 4th - Activities during the day, Parade at 6:00 p.m. with streets closing at 4:00 p.m., Fire Works at 9:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Edward Nero, 21 Idlewild Street, Bel Air, Md. advised of a flood issue coming from a storm drain the last seven years. Mr. Nero stated the Department of Public Works has been great and replaced a pipe from the street to his back fence. Mr. Nero further notified from that point on, there is a smaller pipe where water runs from his fence to the house

overflowing the front curb to the front of the house. Mr. Nero informed this is extremely stressful and has cost thousands of dollars to address. Mr. Nero asked the Town of Bel Air to help replace that pipe to alleviate the water pressure. Mr. Nero further notified the storm drain on the east side of Idlewild and Rt. 924, which is a State road, is not working correctly. Mr. Nero distributed pictures to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Bianca asked does this issue have an effect on your neighbors. Mr. Nero agreed and advised the neighbors could not be here tonight. Commissioner Bianca thanked Mr. Nero for bringing this to the Town's attention.

Linda Cole, 102 Nichols Street, lives in a 55 plus community, adjacent to the Independent Brewery. Ms. Cole advised the Independent Brewery is a great place and before the Pandemic her concerns were not an issue. Since the Pandemic, activities have moved from Main Street to the back lot where her community comes in contact with the Brewery. There are now bands under the tent, picnic tables and cornhole games. During events there are concerns with traffic/parking and patrons parking in the community parking lot. Ms. Cole informed her community was a quiet area but they now hear loud band music and outdoor noise. Ms. Cole is concerned with property values and, with the planned expansion of the Brewery she is worried things will get a lot worse. Ms. Cole is hoping the Brewery activity stays near Main Street.

Ms. Cole has sent a letter to Mr. Rhudy expressing her concerns with no response received from him, but she did receive a response from the letter to the Town. Ms. Cole personally went to the Brewery to ask questions and advise of the loud music but her efforts did not change anything. Ms. Cole stated we cannot escape because these are our homes and this affects our quality of life. Ms. Cole hopes for a compromise to be able to move forward in a positive way.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Approved: July 19, 2021

Signature on file
Amy G. Chmielewski, Chair
Board of Town Commissioners

Signature on file
Michael L. Krantz, Town Clerk