

**TOWN OF CECILTON**  
**Mayor and Council Work and Regular Session Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 21, 2020**

The Mayor and Council held a Work and Regular Session Meeting in Town Hall on Tuesday, January 21, 2020. The following were in attendance:

Mike Cooper, Member

Danielle Zack, Member

Charles Ringgold, Member

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**REVIEW AND ACT:**

**Monday, December 16, 2019 Mayor and Council Work and Regular Session Meeting Minutes:**

Member Zack made a motion to accept the Monday, December 16, 2019 Work and Regular Session Meeting Minutes as written. Member Ringgold seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**December Final Financials and Account Balances:**

December Final Financials and Account Balances were reviewed. Member Ringgold motioned to accept the December Final Financials and Account Balances as presented. Member Zack seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Annual Audit:** Jim Baxter, certified public account, presented the Annual Audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. Baxter provided an overview. 2018 the Town's finances turned around. The Pearce Creek water line helped put the town in a good financial situation by getting the administrative money. Baxter referred to page 9 to look at the Town's assets and liability. In rough numbers liquid assets is \$814,000 and \$228,000 in bills payable. This is down a little bit from 2018. A reason it went down was that some of the money in 2018, you did not have time to spend it until Fiscal 2019. Approximately \$40,000 went into roads in Fiscal '19. Money for that came in primarily from surplus of Fiscal '18. The Town is in good shape. With the exception of 2018, 2019 is the best shape the town has been in in 10/15 years. Baxter then continued to review the rest of the report. He expressed that the Town did not take on any new debt and made payments due on existing debt. About 2.4 million in long term debt. 90% of it is associated with the water and sewer bonds. 70/80,000 is paid on it every year. Everything has been filed and sent to appropriate agencies about a month ago. Member Zack asked how far down does he dig with the liabilities or expenses. If someone would give you an expense/or the Town gives him an expense does he check to see if it is a valid expense or does he just do the higher level stuff. Baxter replied that the bigger dollars get looked at more closely than the little dollars but there is a sampling of disbursements. A sampling is of a least 100 samples. Comparison of last year and this year and compare what was spent with what was budgeted. If anything is out of shape, then it gets looked at closer. Member Zack expressed that she would like to see the Town's budget presented a different way in the future and would Mr.

Baxter look at that and assist with it. He expressed that it was the Town's budget and not his. He could consult if Mayor and Council wanted him to. Baxter continued in saying that a lot of expenses are repeating (trash, electric, salaries, etc.). Baxter ended that if there any further questions later on, Town Hall staff knows how to contact him.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Faith in Action: Maryanna Whitmore, Mark Whitmore, and Jackie Thompson were present to speak about Faith in Action. The group originally served seniors and single mothers. They work in conjunction with Deep Roots. All area churches assist with their efforts. Donations are needed to fill their food pantry. Faith in Action distributes donations where needed every first and third Thursday of the month. Administrator Cooper and Frank Vari from CCEA will be meeting with Faith in Action members on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11 am at Zion Methodist Church to look at their facility and identify needs.

CQI (Electric Supply Rates): Joe Tabela from CQI was present. He presented and reviewed information concerning MSD Offshore Renewal Energy Credits. He requested that agreement be signed tonight, but the issue was tabled due to low Mayor and Council attendance.

Cecilton Activity Report: Deputy AJ Walmsley was not present for questions on the report. Council Members reviewed the report. Administrator Cooper will follow up with Deputy Walmsley.

WWTP and Water Supply Report: Operator John Neddo indicated there was a small violation on phosphorous. Reviewing diagram of water treatment plant was tabled for next meeting.

Public Safety Initiative: Jason Reamy, current the chief of Cecilton Volunteer Fire Company, was present. Administrator Cooper presented that the towns of Chesapeake City, Perryville, and Elkton offer property tax credit for volunteers of the fire companies. Cooper expressed that some volunteers are renters and the tax credit would not benefit them. Town of Cecilton could set the standard for the county. Wouldn't we want to have the strongest, highest number of people volunteering in the county for our fire department? It is our hub. She suggested the possibility of water bill credits along with a property tax credit so that it would benefit homeowners as well as renters who volunteer. We should consider setting the standard. It is enticing. We would be giving back to those giving of their time, energy, and efforts. This would be something to show their support. The idea will be put on the next meeting agenda due to Mayor Zang and Member DeVary not being in attendance. Cooper requested in the meantime for the members to think about the possibility. Cooper had asked former Chief Ernie Beck, at this time, about how many people would qualify for a benefit like this one. He indicated that approximately 7. She would also like to include any police professionals that live within our community. At the moment, she believes that there is only 4 police professionals in the community. The fire department would set the standards for who would qualify. The town would work with them on that. Chief Reamy indicated that in order to get a year of active service, to get retirement credit in VLOSAP (Volunteer Length of Service Program), you have to earn 50 points to get a year credit. There are different categories to earn points such as meetings, training hours, and number of calls. Only 7 members qualify in VLOSAP. There are more members in town but they don't volunteer as much. If the town offers some kind of initiative, it could bring more people out to help. Numbers are way down. There is around only 5 people per call. Younger members do not want to volunteer. They used to have 25 people per call. Administrator Cooper would like to see Cecilton have the strongest fire department in the county. She would also like to see a program for young people (young teenagers). The interest nationwide is not there where it used to be. Member Zack asked if there

could be a program for younger students (elementary school age). Administrator Cooper expressed that it is a marketing problem also. Member Cooper indicated that they need to get middle schoolers involved. They no longer have a cadet program because there was no interest. It used to be you could be a cadet at age 12. You can join the fire company at age 16. Being part of the fire company would be something positive and productive for the youth of this community to do.

Administrator Cooper indicated that she received an email from CVFC President Deanna Cheyney. She was suggesting a festival or fair with the fire department and the town with a parade. Cooper believes that it would be a great opportunity and if we keep doing things like that then people will want to volunteer and belong. Discussion continued on the possibility of a fair/festival. No details were provided at the time.

200 North Bohemia Avenue: Administrator Cooper had a complaint about the storage containers on the property. Normally they are not permitted on property. After speaking with the owner of the property, Cooper found out that they are custom containers that the owner spent thousands of dollars on each of them. He prepped the ground before putting them on and they have a front and rear exit in them. He considers them as something different than a container. One is a workshop, the other is a studio, and the third is storage. Cooper discussed making an exception and asking the owner to plant around them so they are less visible. Member Cooper expressed that he had them to work on his house. Member Zack said that he has been working on the house for years and he lives in New York. Member Zack asked how long he expects the containers to be there. The owner expects them to be permanent. They are well maintained and secure. They really aren't seen until the winter time. Member Cooper said that they have been there since the owner bought the property. He does use them, maintain them, and they serve a purpose. Member Cooper suggested that Leyland cypress grow fast and he could plant down that side and they would not be seen. Administrator Cooper will get back in touch with the owner.

AIRSERV Proposal: Proposals for the community center was nixed. Admin Cooper has already been in contact with the company. One item was not a repair, it was something new that is not needed.

West View Shores Civic Association Letter: Administrator Cooper wanted to thank Jason Reamy for being part of the committee that hosted the meeting for any people who lived in the Earleville area concerning the fire months earlier. Member Cooper read the letter to members and those in attendance. Admin Cooper expressed her thanks for the committee hosting the meeting and did a very good job. Reamy indicated that in June the fire company will be doing a presentation in the Earleville area on fire prevention.

Boundary Validation Paperwork for Census: The Census is an extremely important and equates to dollars for our community. If people elect to not participate and their heads are not counted, we lose money. It is important for the Town to educate people in participating in it and making sure they are accounted for or it impacts us monetarily.

Outdoor Movie Night: Admin Cooper wanted to touch base with Member Ringgold on movie nights. She indicated when scheduling activities present them to Mayor and Council first. So that Mayor and Council knows. Member Cooper expressed that the school had issues with showing movies in that they did not have the rights to reshow them in public. That may be something for Ringgold to check out. Ringgold expressed that as long as he is not charging for them, it should not be a problem. Cooper said he may want to check into it. Member Zack said that the school shows movies all the time at the elementary school. Cooper indicated that he knew that they had an issue at one time. Ringgold expressed that he planned on doing movie nights once or

twice a month on Friday nights, either in the park or the fairgrounds. The fairgrounds are more open and have bleachers. He has a 20 foot inflatable screen and two LED projectors donated to him. The picture and sound is clear, and other friends have screens too, so he was thinking about multiple screens set up for movie nights (2 or 3 screens). There would be popcorn and everything else for the kids. He wanted to wait until the weather is good to present this, so everyone would be comfortable. Admin Cooper brought up that advertising a concession stand that could entice the health department. Member Cooper suggested asking a food truck to come and whatever they sell they give a portion of the profit back to the organization. Member Zack suggested a few names of food trucks. Treasurer Roland suggested that they could have a bag snack and a drink and there would be no conflict with the health department since it is already made. Admin Cooper commented that he still may want to do his research.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**Public Comments:**

**Good of the Order:**

Jason Reamy expressed that they have hired EMTs at the fire company, so there is always someone on staff. In 2018 there were 411 medical calls and 2019 there were 567 calls. There is now someone on staff at the station 12 hours a day, 365 days a year. Scratch rate was at 40% and now that they been hired the rate is down to 11%. In the future they may be able to have 2 hired people on at a time or 24 hour coverage. Jason Reamy or one of his officers will be at every monthly Mayor and Council meeting.



Joseph A. Zang, III  
Mayor

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Quinn