

Council of the Town of La Plata  
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland  
Special Meeting and Work Session  
May 2, 2006, 4:00 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman R. Wayne Winkler, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd; Michelle D. Miner, Interim Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Town Treasurer; Steven F. Schroeder, Project Manager

Minutes:

### Special Meeting

Mayor Ambrogio called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

### Public hearing

#### Constant Yield Tax Rate

Mayor Ambrogio opened the hearing. Mr. Norris advised that the notice of the hearing was properly advertised in the April 21, 2006 edition of the Maryland Independent and that proof of advertising had been sent to the State.

Mayor Ambrogio asked if anyone wished to speak. No one wished to speak.

There being no speakers, Mayor Ambrogio closed the hearing at 4:02 PM.

### Motion to conduct Closed Session

Councilman Winkler moved to conduct a closed session, pursuant to *Annotated Code of Maryland* Sections 10-508(a)(1)(i) – Discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; and 10-508(a)(3) - Consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. Councilman Back seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mayor Ambrogio and Councilmen Winkler, Back, and Mudd voted aye. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

There being no other discussion, Councilwoman Mudd moved to adjourn the special meeting at 4:03 PM. Councilman Winkler seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

### Work Session

#### Matters of Council Discussion

#### Budget

*Description: Joe Norris will finalize review of the Budget prior to introduction at the May 9 meeting.*

During this discussion, Mr. Norris remarked he may be bringing a matter to the Town Council at a future work session to ask them to review and consider if they wish to continue exempting the Old Town Utility District from paying major facilities fees.

Councilman Winkler brought up the topic of the Park and Ride, for which Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) expects the Town to pay the electric utility bill, which Councilman Winkler stated would be about \$7,500. He noted that Mr. Miller and Mr. Schroeder do not recall this being a part of the plans for the Park and Ride. Councilman Winkler stated he did not believe the Town should pay any more than 15% of the costs, which is the percentage that the Town is of Charles County. Councilman Winkler also advised that MTA expects the Town to pay the Verizon bill as they are installing a phone at the Park and Ride. In response to Mayor Ambrogio's remark about the landscaping, Paula Winkler, Beautification Commission chairman, advised that Mr. Miller and she discussed this and advised MTA to just provide a budget to work with so the Town can control the plantings.

Town Council consensus: The Council agreed to put the Park and Ride issue on the next work session agenda.

#### St. Mary's Avenue paving recommendation

*Description: James Erdman and Steve Schroeder will present the paving recommendation.*

James Erdman reviewed the bids received on this project. The Council expressed concern regarding Civil Construction, whose low bid was over \$300,000 less than the other two bids. Mr. Schroeder advised he called some of the Civil Construction's references and was told by all that Civil did a good job.

Town Council consensus: The Council agreed that Mr. Norris should attempt to obtain a financial report from Civil Construction, that Mr. Schroeder should conduct a site visit of Civil Construction's office/yard in Cheverly and review the plans with them again, and that Mr. Schroeder and Mr. Erdman should meet with a representative of Civil Construction. Mr. Schroeder and Mr. Erdman were asked to have their findings available by the Town Council's May 9 meeting. If the information is available before the May 9 meeting, Ms. Miner will distribute it to the Council so they may review it before the meeting.

#### Use of the train station by the Historical Society of Charles County

*Description: Mayor Ambrogio wishes to discuss this with the Council.*

Mayor Ambrogio explained he sent a letter to Kaye O'Kelley, President of the Historical Society, to advise that the 3-year lease for the Train Station had expired and would not be renewed as another group of citizens were interested in forming a La Plata Historical Society. Mayor Ambrogio further explained that he received a written response from Ms. O'Kelley asking the Town to reconsider, and that he had invited Ms. O'Kelley to the work session to discuss her request.

Ms. O'Kelley went over the points contained in her letter to Mayor Ambrogio, dated April 25, 2006, which asked that the Town to reconsider and allow the Historical Society to keep their office equipment in the Train Station, hold Board meetings four to five times a year, and allow their data entry member to use the building to perform membership database updates and clerical tasks. Ms.

O'Kelley also advised they would be willing to share the office equipment with any historical organizations using the Train Station, and would be willing to continue paying the expense of cleaning the Train Station every other week during the months it is open to the public. During the discussion with the Council, a point was made regarding the electric utility bill, to which Ms. O'Kelley responded that the Society would be willing to pay for the electricity for the hours the Society is there.

Town Council consensus: The Council agreed to allow the Historical Society to remain until there is a need for reconfiguration of the space, and agreed that the Historical Society must work on reorganizing the equipment they have in the Train Station, i.e., storing equipment in furniture that will provide that the equipment is hidden from view when not in use.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Labor Day Parade 2006

*Description: Jeff Guido will make a presentation regarding this event.*

Ms. Miner explained that she met last Friday with Lt. Wathen and Mr. Guido, and that the event would require the presence of eight police officers (\$810 in overtime costs) and two public works personnel (\$297 in overtime costs). Mr. Guido advised they would pay the costs for the police and public works personnel.

Jeff Guido, Susan Cooksey, and Ann Marie Caparrotta presented information regarding this event sponsored by TRI-County COPE, which they explained is a group that supports organized labor in the tri-county region.

Town Council consensus: The Council agreed to allow the event and that the group was to work with Ms. Miner.

#### Drainage issue on Mudd property

*Description: The Town Council will do a walking tour of the Mudd property to review the storm water drainage problem.*

Ms. Miner advised she had spoken to former Mayor Eckman, who said that Facchina and the Town did not do the work as agreed with Councilwoman Mudd and should pay at least \$2,400 of the \$4,800 estimate she obtained to repair the problem. Councilwoman Mudd noted that the Raymond and Mona properties also have drainage issues from the storm water drainage problem coming from her property.

Town Council consensus: The Council agreed to pay \$2,400 of the estimate.

#### Matters of Information

Ms. Miner reported that Highland Beach's new town hall will not be ready for the May 17 SMMA meeting they were to host, and that it was believed Indian Head offered to host, but their clerk was not aware of that offer, so Ms. Miner left a message for Indian Head's mayor. Ms. Miner asked the Council if they would be willing to host the next meeting if Indian Head is unable to do so. The Council agreed that Ms. Miner may inform MML that La Plata will host if Indian Head has not responded by Friday, May 5.

Mayor Ambrogio reported there seemed to be activity at a residence at 301 Linden Lane to indicate a business is being conducted at that location.

There being no other discussion, Councilman Back moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 PM. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote. The Council moved into closed session.

Submitted by:

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Judith T. Frazier  
Town Clerk