

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Joint work session with County Commissioners of Charles County
April 25, 2006, 4:00 PM

Present: Town of La Plata
Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilmen R. Wayne Winkler, C. Keith Back, Paretta D. Mudd, and Vic E. Newman; Michelle D. Miner, Interim Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Charles County
Commissioner President Wayne Cooper, Commissioners Robert J. Fuller, Candice Quinn Kelly, Edith J. Patterson and Allan R. Smith; Roy Hancock, Interim County Administrator; Denise Ferguson, Clerk

Minutes:

The Town Council and County Commissioners held a quarterly joint work session to discuss topics of mutual concern.

Police

Discussion was held regarding adjustments made to the call statistics report, providing for a decrease in the Charles County Sheriff's Office statistics and an increase in the La Plata Police Department statistics. Copies of "Adjusted (April 21, 2006) Police Services, Town of La Plata – First Quarter 2006" were provided during this discussion. It was noted that more work needs to be done on arriving at the actual numbers of calls handled by both agencies and to review how those numbers may affect the tax differential. It was suggested that a retreat be scheduled for the La Plata Police Department and Charles County Sheriff's Office, and that the Town Council and County Commissioners also attend.

Schools: Development plan system wide over the next 10 years. How will redistricting of middle schools in 2007 affect students from La Plata?

Charles Wineland, Charles County Board of Education, discussed information contained in "New School Programming Highlights" (copies provided) and explained the effect of redistricting on La Plata students. During this discussion, it was noted there is a need for affordable housing for teachers. Mr. Wineland noted that some areas require developers to include a certain number of affordable units for young professionals. It was pointed out that the Town encouraged businesses rebuilding after the 2002 tornado to include apartments above the business uses.

DRRA discussion

Mayor Ambrogio invited Charis Lapis, GP Homes/developer of Heritage Green, to discuss some of the items in the County's DRRA for Heritage Green. Roger Fink, County

Attorney, advised that he could not recommend that the County Commissioners engage in direct negotiations regarding this DRRA, which are done with counsel for both parties in attendance. The Town noted that the Town works with the County and Board of Education regarding school seat allocations, but does not participate in any other discussions developers have with the County Commissioners.

Washington Avenue sidewalks and need for road

Commissioner President Cooper advised that the County Commissioners continue to believe that a traffic engineer is needed to conduct a transportation study before installation of sidewalk on Washington Avenue.

The Town agreed that the County should take the lead on a transportation study, which will be a cost-sharing venture.

Tax differential

Richard Winkler, Director of Fiscal Services, discussed information contained in "Charles County, MD – Municipal Tax Differential, La Plata, MD, FY-07, Tax Differential Formula" (copies provided). He noted that after the La Plata Police Department and Charles County Sheriff's Office meet regarding call statistics, the tax differential may be adjusted up or down.

Establishment of a Regional Water Commission

Commissioner Cooper advised that the County has established a committee to study relying less on use of water from wells and to develop a plan for other water resources. The Town was invited to have a representative on the committee. Councilman Newman volunteered.

The Town and County agreed that a Regional Water Commission is needed, with participation by Calvert County, St. Mary's County and the Tri-County Council. It was noted that any regional facility should be done on a cost-sharing basis.

The next meeting of the Town Council and County Commissioners will be held at 4:00 PM, July 11, 2006, at the Charles County Government Building.

There being no further discussion, the meeting concluded at 5:56 PM.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk