

Council of the Town of La Plata  
Charles County Government Building, La Plata, Maryland  
Joint work session with County Commissioners of Charles County  
July 11, 2006, 4:00 PM

Present: Town of La Plata

Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilmen R. Wayne Winkler, C. Keith Back, and Vic E. Newman; Michelle D. Miner, Interim Town Manager; Patricia L. Bembe, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Town Treasurer; Chief Cassin B. Gittings, La Plata Police Department

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 Services

Chief Gittings provided an update regarding the La Plata Police Department: increase to the starting salary, added two officers, updating and replacing equipment, and moved into the new building on La Grange Avenue. Chief Gittings indicated he may request additional officers after future budget review. Chief Gittings noted that, with twelve officers, the ratio of police officers to population is 1:600.

Following discussion, it was agreed that a target timeframe for a retreat would be January, 2007, and that Joann Ellison be contacted to facilitate the retreat.

Transportation Study

Chuck Beall and Jason Groth, County Planning and Growth Management, provided an overview of the Transportation Study. Ms. Miner thanked Mr. Beall and Mr. Groth for their work on this project. Ms. Miner advised that bids are expected by August 18, and after review and Town Council approval, work could begin in September and be complete in 120 days.

St. Mary's Avenue: Commissioner Fuller expressed concern regarding the appearance of St. Mary's Avenue. Mayor Ambrogio described the work being conducted in the St. Mary's Avenue Streetscape Project, and noted that the Town Council approved in this fiscal year's budget to contract for street sweeping on Town streets and on County streets within the Town.

Information sharing: Councilman Winkler reported that he would be meeting with Charles County Economic Development and hoped to establish and maintain a line of communication to share Town and County development information.

Recycling: The Council and Commissioners discussed the possibility of a collaborative effort on recycling collection, to include the Towns of La Plata and Indian Head and the County.

Talbot Street: Commissioner President Cooper asked Mr. Hancock to determine why there are no accel/decel lanes for the new Talbot Street being constructed by the County.

County Comprehensive Plan: In response to a question from Mayor Ambrogio, Mr. Beall advised that the County is working on the update to their Comprehensive Plan and will include that the Town's wastewater treatment plant capacity will increase from 1.5 million to 3 million gallons per day.

Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) Park and Ride: Following discussion regarding the Town's concerns with maintenance requirements and other items in the Memorandum of Understanding that MTA wants the Town to sign, it was agreed that a County staff person would attend a meeting scheduled by the Town with MTA on July 25.

Use of local vendors/suppliers: Referring to the major developments which are planned to be built in the Town, Commissioner Smith noted that he believed the Town has an opportunity to encourage maximum participation by the developers to use local vendors and suppliers for goods and services, which he noted would be a good boost for the local economy.

Smoking ban legislation: Commissioner Smith noted he was speaking on behalf of American Legion Post 82 and asked the Town Council to reconsider including private organizations in the smoking ban.

The next meeting of the Town Council and County Commissioners will be held at 4:00 PM, October 17, 2006, at the La Plata Town Hall.

There being no further discussion, the meeting concluded at 5:16 PM.

Submitted by:

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Judith T. Frazier  
Town Clerk