

Council of the Town of La Plata  
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland  
Work Session-Joint meeting with County Commissioners  
April 15, 2008, 4:00 PM

Present: Town of La Plata  
Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilmen Scot D. Lucas, Paretta D. Mudd and Vic E. Newman [*arrived at 5:53 PM*]; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Michelle D. Miner, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer; Robert J. Stahl, Director of Operations [*arrived at 5:48 PM*]

Charles County

Commissioner President Wayne Cooper, Commissioners Edith J. Patterson, Reuben B. Collins, II, Samuel N. Graves, Jr. and Gary V. Hodge; Paul W. Comfort, County Administrator; Roy Hancock, Assistant to the County Administrator; Joyce Schmidt, Chief of Staff; Denise Ferguson, Clerk to the Commissioners; Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services: Deborah Hudson, Director; David Eicholtz, Budget Director; Department of Planning and Growth Management: Melvin C. Beall, Jr., Director; Jason Groth, Program Manager-Adequate Public Facilities Program; Alex Naar, Director of Emergency Services; Bill Proper, Director of Public Facilities

Minutes:

Mayor Ambrogio called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM.

Matters of Council Discussion

Joint meeting with the County Commissioners

*Description: Periodic meeting between the two elected bodies to discuss matters of mutual concern.*

Proposed FY09 Tax Differential

Mr. Eicholtz explained how the tax differential is calculated and advised that the proposed FY09 tax differential for property owners in the Town of La Plata is 7.8¢.

Transportation Study – update

Mr. Beall apologized for the length of time the consultant was taking to prepare the report and advised he met with the consultant today to express the County's concern regarding this. Mr. Groth reported that the consultant has incorporated staff comments and would be delivering a nearly complete document to the Town on April 22.

The County's approach to obtaining water from sources other than groundwater

Mayor Ambrogio noted that the Town Council was interested in knowing the County's approach to obtaining water from sources other than groundwater and how the Town could benefit from the County's expertise. Mr. Beall advised that the County established a Water Resource Advisory Committee in 2006 and that Jason Groth is the acting water resource manager. Mr. Groth

provided copies of the Committee's report to the County Commissioners, dated November 28, 2006, and provided a brief overview of the recommendations contained in that report.

#### Speed Awareness Month - August

Councilman Lucas provided information regarding the Speed Awareness Month initiative, noting that last August the La Plata Police Department contacted and educated a thousand people. Councilman Lucas noted he was again asking the County for help. He noted there would not be much extra budget needed, that the Town is budgeting \$2,000, and asked that officers be extra vigilant regarding speeding during the month of August. All agreed with Councilwoman Mudd's suggestion that there be a tie-in with National Night Out.

#### Town School Seat Allocation Policy/County Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO)

Following a brief discussion, the Town Council and County Commissioners agreed to have Town and County staff conduct initial discussions regarding the Town's school seat allocation policy and the County's APFO prior to including the topic on a future agenda of a Town-County joint meeting.

#### Frequency of Town Council-County Commissioners meetings

Following a brief discussion, the Town Council and County Commissioners agreed to reduce the frequency of meetings from quarterly to biannually, with the meetings to be held in April and October. Commissioner Cooper requested that the following topics be included on the next meeting agenda: (1) Fire and EMS needs/growth in the Town; and (2) La Plata Police Department/Charles County Sheriff's Office update.

*The next meeting of the Town Council and County Commissioners is scheduled to be held at 4:00 PM, October 21, 2008, at the Charles County Government Building.*

#### Budget

*Description: FY09 budget items will be presented.*

#### FY09 General Fund Expenses

Council consensus: Following discussion of FY09 General Fund Expenses, the Town Council agreed regarding the following items:

- Recycle bins with lids: Due to high cost, not included in budget. Research further regarding (1) every other week pickup, if this provides a savings to Town residents; (2) containers as to type/size; (3) terms of the current contract.
- I & I: Research costs of doing by contract; pull vacuum trailer and camera system; bring back to Town Council a dollar amount needed to remain in the budget.
- CAD system vs. modeling system: Assure that the CAD system is compatible with a modeling system which is purchased in the future.
- Stormwater facilities management/inspections: Hire part-time staff person or contractual help but don't include \$2.50 stormwater management fee/quarter/utility account – to be paid by General Fund.

*Prior to Councilwoman Mudd's 7:00 PM scheduled departure from the meeting, Mayor Ambrogio led a brief discussion with the Town Council regarding two items not related to the budget discussions:*

Request from Restaurant Association, Maryland regarding outdoor smoking: A letter was received from Melvin R. Thompson, Vice President-Government Relations, Restaurant Association, Maryland, requesting the Town to consider rescinding the 20' outdoor restriction contained in the Town's smoking ban ordinance. The Town Council agreed they were not in favor of changing the 20' restriction.

Fences around stormwater management facilities: Mayor Ambrogio advised he is asking the Town Manager to research requiring the installation of fences around stormwater management facilities. The Town Council agreed installation of fences around stormwater facilities should be made mandatory.

Budget – continued

*[FY09 General Fund Revenue, Draft Ordinance 08-10 Fee Schedule, Other Budget Items combined into one discussion.]*

Council consensus: Following discussion of FY09 General Fund Revenue, *Draft Ordinance 08-10 Fee Schedule*, and Other Budget Items, the Town Council agreed regarding the following items:

- Tiered water and sewer rates: Consider adjusting the consumption to a slightly higher amount; in favor of the tiered rates.
- \$2.50 stormwater management fee: Delete from the fee schedule.
- Encoder-Decoder device: Don't include in budget; Town Manager to discuss with Director of Charles County Emergency Services Department.
- Plan copier: Don't include this year.
- Recycling containers with lids: Put on hold until more information is received.

Matters of Information

Ms. Miner reported that the Celebrate La Plata event is scheduled for April 26 and advised that a speaker is needed for the Memorial Day event scheduled for May 26. Councilman Lucas suggested that Dr. Sanchez be invited to be guest speaker and volunteered to contact him. Regarding a speaker for the Salute to Veterans event, Councilman Newman suggested the person in charge of the La Plata High School NROTC.

Future Work Session Topics

There being no other business, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion and it carried.

Submitted by:

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Judith T. Frazier  
Town Clerk