

**TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND**  
**Easton Town Hall**  
**14 S. Harrison Street**

December 5, 2011

**PRESENT AT CONVENING**

Mayor Robert C. Willey  
Council President John Ford  
Councilmember Kelley K. Malone

Councilmember Pete Leshner  
Councilmember Leonard E. Wendowski, Sr.  
Councilmember Megan M. Cook

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Also in attendance were the Town Manager Mr. Robert F. Karge, Sr., the Town Attorney Ms. VanEmburch and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy Ruf.

**CONVENING**

At 7:00 p.m., President Ford called the meeting to order.

**OPENING PRAYER BY MS. MALONE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

Ms. Malone opened the meeting with prayer and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2011 MEETINGS.**

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, minutes of the November 21, 2011 meetings were approved as prepared.

**ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.**

Mayor Willey asked for the Council's approval for the bid for the Fire Department's HVAC system in the amount of \$1,094,000.

Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, the bid was approved.

Mayor Willey stated that he enjoyed the Christmas parade Saturday evening. He stated that the Mayor's trophy was awarded to the Country School float. Other award recipients were: The Church of God, Busy Beavers, The Talbot County Humane Society, The Snoopy/Peanuts float and the skaters.

**ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

Mr. Karge reminded everyone that a Toys for Tots collection bin is in the downstairs lobby of the Town Hall.

Mr. Karge stated that he would like to reinforce that the Town is very active. He discussed the removal of trees and stated that the Town doesn't customarily cut down trees without replacing and planting more.

Mr. Karge discussed the Public Work's leaf vacuum. He stated that it is down for a few days

The Public Works Department will be instituting once a week garbage pickup from the rail trail to Aurora Street. He stated that the Hunters Mill subdivision is going to once a week pickup as well.

Mr. Karge discussed the review with Tischler regarding impact fees for a communal pavilion. He stated that Tishler recommended that it was appropriate to abate the \$13,951 fee since the pavilion would only be used by the residents of that community.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, the abatement as requested by Elm Street was approved.

Mr. Karge discussed a complaint regarding dumping in the storm drain. He stated that all dumping in storm drains and sanitary sewers is prohibited.

Mr. Karge discussed a recent letter from SHA regarding \$140 million for transportation improvements. SHA asked what crosswalks the town would like to see go in next. It was the council consensus to recommend the improvement for crosswalks as follows: Dutchman's and Rt. 50, Rt. 50 and Dover Street, Rt. 322 and Port

Street, Rt. 50 and Goldsborough Street and Rt. 50 at Chapel. Should any of the improvements occur, it would be spring 2012 through spring 2013.

Mrs. Cook asked that Glenwood Avenue and the Bypass be put on the radar as well.

Mayor Willey asked that Oxford Road and Route 322 be considered.

Mr. Wendowski asked about the Building Inspector position advertised in the paper.

Mr. Karge stated that the Town has advertised for a contractual position.

**INTRODUCTION OF MR. KENNETH KOZEL, PRESIDENT AND CEO FOR SHORE HEALTH SYSTEM.**

Mr. Kozel, President and CEO Shore Health System was present to share initial opportunities and observations in the community. He discussed the dedicated employees and volunteers at Shore Health System. Mr. Kozel discussed the vision for the Regional Health Care System for the counties.

Mr. Ford welcomed Mr. Kozel to the community. He stated the council is committed to making the new hospital move forward and is also interested in options for the present hospital facility.

Mr. Kozel stated that it would be September 2012 before Shore Health System files for the Certificate of Need with an expected approval 6-12 months following. He stated that they intend to break ground for the new hospital mid 2013 with an opening in 2016.

**MR. JIM HURLEY, BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB TO ADDRESS COUNCIL REGARDING YOUTH PROGRAM.**

Mr. Hurley discussed the possibilities of a community youth center. He discussed the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and their affiliates.

President Ford asked what building based means. Mr. Hurley stated that the doors are always open and this gives children a place to always go. He discussed National affiliation with the National organization.

**MR. GEOFF OXNAM, VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS FOR EASTON UTILITIES TO DISCUSS ONGOING RETRANSMISSION NEGOTIATIONS WITH LOCAL STATIONS.**

Mr. Oxnam updated on the programming and the channels proposing to dramatically increase the rates they charge cable and satellite companies. Mr. Oxnam discussed current negotiations actively taking place which must be completed by December 31, 2011.

**RESOLUTION NO. 5988 AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER AND SR. VICE PRESIDENT AND CFO OF EASTON UTILITIES TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO COMPLY WITH CERTAIN FEDERAL RETIREMENT LAW CHANGES.**

Mr. Karge discussed the current retirement plans and the necessity of Resolution No. 5988.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 5988 was approved.

**ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

Ms. Malone stated that the Easton Christmas Parade was delightful. She commended town employees and volunteers. Ms. Malone inquired about a red left hand turn signal on Route 50 to Chapel Road and was told that the Town is already pursuing this with State Highway Administration. Ms. Malone asked if the Council would receive a midyear update on where the Town is with the budget and challenges.

Mrs. Cook stated that last Wednesday, the first graders from Country School worked at Idlewild Park for a cleanup day. She stated that their service is appreciated.

**ADJOURN**

Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting at 8:00 p.m.