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3 **TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND**
4 **Easton Town Hall**
5 **14 S. Harrison Street**
6

January 7, 2013

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8
9 **PRESENT AT CONVENING**
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11 Mayor Robert C. Willey
12 Council President John Ford
13 Councilmember Megan M. Cook
14
15 Councilmember Kelley K. Malone
16 Councilmember Pete Leshner
17 Councilmember Leonard E. Wendowski, Sr.

18 Also present was Town Manager Mr. Robert Karge, Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch and Town Clerk
19 Mrs. Kathy Ruf.
20

21 **OPENING REMARKS BY MRS. COOK AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**
22

23 At 7:00 p.m., President Ford called the meeting to order. Mrs. Cook led the audience in opening remarks and
24 the Pledge of Allegiance.
25

26 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 17 AND DECEMBER 28, 2012 MEETINGS.**
27

28 Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, minutes of the December 17
29 and December 28, 2012 meetings were approved.
30

31 **INTRODUCTION OF CHIEF SONNY JONES**
32

33 Chief Jamie McNeal discussed the quarterly report for 2012. He stated that the total calls for 2012 were 872
34 with 28 training drills.
35

36 Chief McNeal reported on the death of past Chief PJ Dyott. Chief McNeal introduced incoming Chief Sonny
37 Jones.
38

39 **ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.**
40

41 Mayor Willey asked for an Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue and for the advice of counsel.
42

43 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**
44

45 Mr. Karge reminded everyone that the Public Works Department will be picking up loose leaves until the end of
46 the month as well as Christmas trees.
47

48 Mr. Karge stated that the Glebe Road project is on schedule.
49

50 Mr. Karge reported that the Public Works Department has been dealing with a sink hole at the intersection of
51 Washington Street and Glebe Road.
52

53 The Town of Easton has recently been awarded a \$41,000 grant from MD Department of Transportation for the
54 Rails-to-Trails spur line which would be approximately 3.2 miles connecting the existing rail trail to Rt. 33. He
55 stated that this grant is for engineering and design only.
56

57 Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, approval was granted to pursue
58 the grant from MD Department of Transportation.
59

60 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**
61

62 Mrs. VanEmburch stated she will be reporting on the progress of the DRRA with Shore Health Systems during
63 the scheduled public hearing.
64

65 **RESOLUTION NO. 6014 AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES FOR**
66 **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY.**
67

68 Upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 6014 was
69 approved.
70

71 **EASTON UTILITIES COMMISSION REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF CROSS-TOWN WATER**
72 **MAIN AND SEWER FORCE MAIN EXPENDITURE.**

73
74 Mr. Grunden discussed the capital expenditure cross town water main and sewer force main expenditure. He
75 said to be compliant with the Charter; he is asking council for approval for the expenditure. Mr. Grunden stated
76 that an ordinance may be forthcoming. He reported that Phase 2 of the project started some time ago. Mr.
77 Grunden stated that they are rerouting the sewer force main to be better stewards of the environment.

78
79 Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, the expenditure was approved.

80
81 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

82
83 Mrs. Cook discussed the MLK basketball tournament which will be held January 21 at the Easton Middle
84 School from 8:30 – 4:00 p.m.

85
86 President Ford reminded everyone that the next council meeting which is January 22 is on Tuesday.

87
88 **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PETITION OF SHORE HEALTH SYSTEM, INC. TO ENTER INTO A**
89 **DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF**
90 **EASTON AND TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND REGARDING PORTIONS OF PARCELS 38, 75**
91 **AND 129 ON TALBOT COUNTY TAX MAP 17, WHICH CONSIST OF 199.299 ACRES, MORE OR**
92 **LESS.**

93
94 At 7:15 p.m., President Ford opened the Public Hearing.

95
96 The Town Attorney offered general remarks and discussed the history of the project. She introduced County
97 Attorney Mike Pullen, SHS Attorney Ryan Showalter, Joe Stevens, Esq., on behalf of the Town of Easton and
98 Mike Silgen (SHS) were present and have worked in a collaborative effort on the DRRA. Ms. VanEmburch
99 stated that the DRRA is only one part of the process and the at site planning level.

100
101 Ms. VanEmburch gave background for the process. She stated that SHS had submitted the petition, it had been
102 referred to the Planning Commission which found the project consistent with the town's comprehensive plan.
103 She stated that the next step is the public hearing which is being held this evening.

104
105 Ms. VanEmburch gave a quick general overview of changes that have occurred since the workshop.

106
107 Mr. Tony Kelly was present on behalf of Shore Health System. He gave a brief presentation on the architecture
108 of the new hospital project.

109
110 Mr. Gregory Wonga and Mr. Tony Kelly, project director discussed the concept of the project stating it is to be
111 perceived as a village on the shore.

112
113 The project will consist of a six story building, 110 feet tall. All patient rooms are private rooms centered on
114 family zones. Mr. Kelly stated that they are looking forward to breaking ground and looking forward to
115 building the hospital.

116
117 At 7:40 p.m., President Ford invited the public for comments related to the DRRA. There were none.

118
119 President Ford stated that the Public Hearing would be left open until the next meeting in case there are minor
120 changes to the public document.

121
122 At 7:41 p.m., President Ford recessed the public hearing until the next meeting.

123
124 President Ford asked if there were other business to come before the council.

125
126 Ms. Marie Parris, Ratcliffe Manor Road stated she resides in Easton Village with her family. She stated that her
127 son cannot go to Easton High School due to the redistricting. She discussed the School Board's decision to send
128 those residents to St. Michaels High. Ms. Parris asked the council to advocate to the school board to encourage
129 them to make a decision to allow her son to take classes at Easton High School.

130
131 President Ford sympathized with the situation but stated the Town Council has zero effect on the policies of the
132 county council.

133
134 President Ford asked for a motion to convene into Closed Session to discuss personnel and for the advice of
135 attorney.

37 At 7:51 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, the Town Council
38 convened into closed session.

39
40 At 8:30 p.m., upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, President
41 Ford adjourned the Closed Session and reconvened back into public session.

42
43 At 8:31 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, President Ford
44 adjourned the regularly scheduled Council meeting.

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47 _____
48 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk
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