

March 31, 2009

Present:

Commissioners Joanne Clark, Michael Brady, Robert Snyder, Donna Hunt and Philip Dinkel, Town Manager Cheril Thomas, Administrative Assistant Sabrenia Yohn, Secretary Dorothy Olley, and approximately 12 members of the public.

Call To Order:

President Clark called to order the special public working session of the Commissioners of St. Michaels at 3:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Edgar M. Bosley, Jr. Municipal Building (Town Office), 300 Mill Street. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Announcement of Prior Closed Session:

President Clark noted that the Commissioners had met in closed session at 1:00 p.m. to discuss personnel matters related to the first draft of the 2010 Town Budget, and legal matters related to Westside Village, pursuant to Maryland Code, State Government Article § 10-508, (a)(5) and (8), and administrative matters regarding capital projects.

Special Presentation by Tad duPont on Town Finances:

President Clark introduced Tad duPont, resident and business owner. Mr. duPont presented his outlook of the short term effects of the economic downturn on the financial health of the town and urged the Commissioners to economize and cut costs immediately in anticipation of a worsening economic picture. Mr. duPont's outline and recommendations are attached and made a part of these minutes.

Comments from the Public: There were no questions from the Commissioners. President Clark then called for public comment. James Valliant of Green Street provided historical information related to Mr. duPont's comments regarding reduced activity in the container shipping industry as a bell-weather for a slowing economy. John Booth, owner of the Inn at 5 Gables urged the Commissioners to increase the Tourism Board's advertising budget. Ted Doyle of Perry Cabin Drive said that Town contributions to the Tourism Board and Fire Department are built in to the Town budget, but that an increase to maintain the current funding level was a choice the Commissioners could make. Bonnie Booth, owner of the Inn at 5 Gables suggested that grant money from the State, particularly the Main Street Maryland project, should be pursued.

Comments from the Commissioners:

President Clark and Commissioner Brady thanked Mr. duPont for his presentation.

Adjournment:

There being no further comments from the public or the Commissioners, President Clark adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy C. Olley
Assistant Town Clerk