

JOPPA/JOPPATOWNE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting Number 97(10-09)

October 5, 2009

The Joppa/Joppatowne Community meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the Joppatowne High School beginning at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. Meeting Number 97 was called to order at 7:04 P.M. by Chairperson Chris Rohe, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present were Chris Rohe, Gloria Moon, Paula Mullis, Betty Byrne, Ron Sollod, James B. Lyons, III, and Doris Carey. Chris Rohe recognized and welcomed members of the community, including Jane Walker, Delegate B. Dan Riley, Councilman Dion Guthrie and Sheriff Jesse Bane. Local Council members introduced themselves. Gloria Moon moved to approve the June minutes; the motion was seconded by Doris Carey.

Sheriff's Office / Community Policing Report

Deputy First Class Brad Crossley of the Harford County Sheriff's Office Community Policing Unit reported that there were 11,363 total calls for service in the County in September, up from 10,017 in 2008. Total calls for service in Sector 10 for September 2009 were 2,980; in 2008 there were 3,035 calls for service. There were questions from the community concerning recent car break-ins. Deputy Crossley suggested that locking cars can do wonders and will save a lot of headaches. Chairperson Rohe thanked Deputy Crossley for his presentation.

Update from Councilman Dion Guthrie

Councilman Guthrie stated that he is working on a number of things regarding dredging. It has been suggested by other council persons that each family over a five-year period pay \$800. He believes that after five years the sediment will have built up again. His suggestion is that the County should build a pond for the dredge materials; however, the County won't do it because it is extremely costly. There will be another meeting with engineers who know what is needed to get the dredging job done. However, dredging has been approved for Bush River. The bid to dredge Bush River has been reduced from \$2.2 million to \$1 million. Councilman Guthrie said he is opposed to the impact fee the way it is presently written. He believes the tax is unfair because only people who are purchasing new single family homes will be taxed. With an Excise tax increase, all County residents will be taxed when a different home is purchased in the County. People new to the County will not have to pay anything if they buy an existing house. In his opinion this is unfair.

Update from Delegate B. Dan Riley

Delegate Riley stated that BRAC meetings are being held in Annapolis. The delegation is trying to get AMTRAC to join them in the meetings. It appears that AMTRAC is stopping progress. Dealing with AMTRAC has proven to be difficult. AMTRAC must approve everything. He stated that there are jobs available with BRAC. However, one may be expected to go through an internship at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. Delegate Riley further stated that there are railroads in the State that need upgrading. He also mentioned that he will talk to members of the Maryland Department of Transportation for them to look at the seriousness of the problem with bridges in the State. He also voiced concerns about signs littering our communities. It seems as though signs go up late Friday night and are picked up Sunday night. There will continue to be a push to stop the littering. He also suggested

that the community should get in touch with their delegates with their wish list; however, it may be just that. Chairperson Rohe thanked Delegate Riley for his presentation.

Sheriff Jesse Bane stated that the Sheriff's Office has come to an agreement with the State Police over 911 concerns. All of the 911 calls in Harford County have been handled by the Sheriff's department. State routes are handled by the State Police. There has been an increase in service in the County. The Sheriff's Office and the State Police Department entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in March or April. Crime is down in the County. Calls to 911 are now being shouldered by the Sheriff's Office.

Community Updates from Community Council Members and Community Issues.

Community Council member Ron Sollod mentioned that there was a successful open house at the fire company. The turn out was pretty good. He also stated that it is time to change batteries in smoke alarms - around the time to turn clocks back. Also make sure your flu is open. Get chimneys checked at least every other year. Jim B. Lyons, III stated that there have been close to 4,000 ambulance calls this year. Approximately 20% truly merit an ambulance. He said because of BRAC, more people are moving into the County. Hospitals are overextended. We are fortunate where we live, because we have hospital choices up and down route 40. He also mentioned that since sprinklers have been put in new homes no life has been lost in those homes. Betty Byrnes encouraged the community to attend the United Methodist Church's Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 7th. She also mentioned that the fire company has lost one long-time member. Gloria Moon and Chris Rohe expressed their extreme disappointment with the lack of support from Councilman Dion Guthrie on Comprehensive Rezoning. They said the County Council sold us down the river. The council was given 20 requests and agreed with the community on only three. The lack of support blew the community out of the water. They stated that Dion didn't listen to what has happened since 2005. There was no public debate done in council chambers. Everything was rubber stamped and was embarrassing to watch. As far as the community council members know and what came across, there was no public debate among council members. It was all rubber stamped.

Councilman Guthrie said the comprehensive rezoning was debated in chambers. Paula Mullis reported that the Harford County Republican Women were asked to help co-sponsor a blood drive across the county. The drive will be held at the American Legion in Edgewood on January 23, 2010, from 10 AM to 4 PM. She said it is a very worthy cause. Doris Carey shared that there are many things going on at HCC. After 40 years working at the college and the last 4 ½ as president, Dr. Jim La Calle will retire at the end of June. HCC is responding to BRAC requirements through areas such as the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Division. New programs that are coming in this division are biotechnology degrees, electrical/computer engineering degrees, meteorology courses and many others. All of Harford Countians are urged to consider Harford Community College first when considering further education. Chris Rohe thanked everyone for coming out and participating in the community meeting.

Gloria Moon motioned and Betty Byrne seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Minutes by Doris G. Carey