

## **Fallston Community Council Meeting Notes September 22, 2009**

Attendees: Don McCreesh, Dave Williams, Jim Riley, Larry Kreis Jr., Morita Bruce, Dina Miller, Andy Pisano, George Twigg.

Guests (and organization represented): Donald Hopps (HCSO), Joe Woods (County Council, District B), Jean Wilson (Delegate McDonough), Jim Franczkowski, Chritine Brigandi, Patrick Hess, Beth Scheir.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Don McCreesh. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

### **Sheriff's Office - Crime Report**

Cpl Donald Hopps provided the June through August crime statistics for the Fallston-area sectors. Statistics on calls for service to the Harford County Sheriff's Office are available at [www.harfordsheriff.org](http://www.harfordsheriff.org) (look for "Crime Reports"). Numbers of auto thefts, burglaries, thefts, rapes and assaults were typical for the summer. Cpl Hopps announced that too many garage doors are being left open, especially those that offer entry into the house itself. Garage doors should always be kept closed, and entry doors should be locked when working outside except for a door that you can keep an eye on while working.

### **Guest Speaker - Director, Department of Public Works**

Robert Cooper announced that Harford received \$3.1 million from the American Recovery and Investment Act. About \$1 million will be used to reconstruct Pleasantville Road from Grafton Shop to the Baltimore County line, to improve drainage and safety. Vale Road will be reconstructed from Route 924 to Red Pump, and will include curbs and gutters. The part of Wheel Road at the Laurel Bush traffic circle will also be improved, to be followed later by repairs to Laurel Bush itself.

The one-lane Watervale Road bridge is now closed and is proposed to be replaced by a new two-lane bridge. A temporary bridge should be in place by some time in November. The section of Carrs Mill near the Bread & Cheese Branch (stream) is also being improved. Mr. Cooper was asked about the added traffic expected because the Watervale Bridge is becoming two lanes wide and how it would be handled, and he responded that a "30% Plan" would be provided for the community to look at. A public input meeting should be scheduled for January 2010.

Larry Kreis requested an explanation of why curbing was installed only at certain seemingly-random locations during the recent road resurfacing in the Woodridge Manor neighborhood. Some of the rework now causes water to come down driveways when it rains, which was not previously a problem. He also said that major resurfacing, although pleasing, was unnecessary. Mr. Cooper promised to check into it.

A McDonalds restaurant is being built at Amur Village, requiring tunnelling under two roads to the current Burger King location to extend water lines. Sewer will be extended across the road from the current diner/gas station corner.

Access to the Fallston Activities Center will be off Oakmont, plus a right-in-only and right-out-only access on Route 152. The County is talking to Wilson Hess regarding a right-of-way for an access road at the Oakmont stoplight for the Brandywine neighborhood. Mr. Hess has agreed to sell, but action has been delayed a year due to budget problems.

Mr. Cooper invited community input as to the levels of customer service being provided by the private solid waste haulers serving the community. Recently, the county's largest privately owned solid waste business had been sold and Mr. Cooper wanted feedback that the service levels are still satisfactory.

## **County Council Representative**

Councilman Joe Woods thanked the community groups and everyone who contacted him regarding Comprehensive Zoning. The information and concerns shared by residents determined how he voted on the rezoning issues.

The county's Natural Resources Element Plan which was submitted to the Council by the Administration is missing a lot, and the Council will again hold off voting on it to take time to improve it. The maps included are not clear enough either.

Councilman Woods asked those present for their opinions on repealing the School Development Impact Fee on new homes. There was general discussion, with most opinions supporting keeping the Fee.

Councilman Woods is in the process of visiting the county's departments, schools, and neighborhoods. An important neighborhood problem is tall, unmanaged grass, abandoned houses and/or abandoned swimming pools due to foreclosures, and he is trying to figure out what the county may be able to do about these impacts on neighboring homes.

## **State & County Government**

Jean Wilson provided information from Delegate McDonough, and said that he would like to talk to FCC at our November 24th meeting. Impact fees may be one item of discussion.

There are two updates for FCC contacts with the Administration. Jim Riley's contact for development issues will be Moe Davenport, and Morita Bruce's contact for planning and zoning issues will be Pete Gutwald or his staff.

Andy Amasio talked with Jeff Stratmeyer and Joe Caudill in DPW, and learned that they only have information on work in progress, not planned work. In-progress work reports are:

- In 2-3months a temporary bridge will be installed on Watervale until the new bridge is done.
- The design of the Oakhurst extension to Brandywine has been stopped because there is no money in the budget.
- There will be no groundbreaking on the new WalMart until 2010.

## **New Business & Community Updates**

Dave Williams announced that:

- Fire Safety Month is underway, concentrating on burn injury prevention. The website has very useful information.
- Fallston VFD is visiting YBES, and there will be a display at the Fallston VFD building on October 11 from 10:00 - 3:00 for the public (all ages).
- Fundraising letters and newsletters have been sent out.
- A Fallston resident is raffling his house, with the excess funds/profit over the assessed value of the house to go to FVFD. The house is in the Fallscrest area. Tickets are \$50 apiece and the drawing is planned for November 18. More information is on the website.

Chief Joe Woods also noted that the Alarm Code law needs to include a way to appeal the fines imposed due to false alarms. Sometimes the property owner is not the entity at fault for the false alarm and a way needs to be found to tie the responsibility to the correct entity.

There will be a Community Input Meeting for 200 Mountain Road (Amur Village) at 6:30 on October 16 at the Fallston library.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

**Future Meeting: November 24, 2009 at 6:30 pm, Fallston VFD meeting room**