

**Police and Public Safety
Commission Meeting
14 March 2013**

The Boonsboro Police and Public Safety (P&PS) Commission held their monthly meeting on Thursday, 14 March 2013 at 7:00 PM in the second floor conference room of Town Hall. Members present were Commission Chairman Chris Sarnecki, Commission Members Cindy Collier, Bob Glausier, and Scott Stavrou. P&PS Council Liaison Sean Haardt was present and Police Chief Charles Stanford arrived at 7:30 PM. (Chief Stanford advised Sarnecki of a previous engagement and indicated that he would be late.) There were no guests in attendance. Sarnecki welcomed and thanked those in attendance. After additional review of the previously delivered 14 February 2013 P&PS Commission Meeting Minutes, **Motion** by Commission Member Collier, second by Commission Member Glausier to officially approve the 14 February 2013 P&PS Commission Minutes. Motion carried. Liaison Haardt requested that he be provided with an additional hard copy of the Minutes for future meetings for his records.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Sarnecki directed the Commission's attention to the previously delivered Agenda for 14 March 2013 Meeting and the Final Draft of Boonsboro's National Night Out (NNO) Mission Statement. The drafting of an official Mission Statement for the NNO stemmed from a request by the Commission for clarification and guidance from the Mayor and Town Council. This request was for determining what businesses/organizations were deemed appropriate for participation in NNO. Collier volunteered to craft the statement and, after various permutations, the Final Draft was presented at the 14 March 2013 P&PS Commission meeting. After additional review of the Final Draft Motion, **Motion** by Collier, second by Glausier to forward the Final Draft to Council. Motion carried. Sarnecki volunteered to forward a copy of the Commission's Final Draft to Assistant Mayor Howard Long per their discussions in February 2013.

Sarnecki reported that the initial operating budget for this year 2013 NNO is one thousand dollars (\$1000.00). After consulting previous records and notes, Sarnecki reported that the Commission had received an additional three hundred and forty dollars (\$340.00) from business donations for the 2012 NNO event. This was a decrease from the 2011 donations which totaled four hundred and fifty dollars (\$450.00). In the interest of conserving funds, Sarnecki proposed reusing last year's banners, provided that they are in good condition, to advertise the time and date of the NNO with slight modification to make them suitable for this year's event. It was reported that the cost of new banners is approximately one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) and are purchased from the online NNO superstore. Sarnecki requested that Town Manager Debra Smith locate last year's banners and advise of their condition for use this year. Consensus was reached that this was a viable option to explore considering the possible cost increases for the Washington County Antique Tractor's (WCAT) Barrel Rides, Magician Michael T, DJ services and miscellaneous expenses. Sarnecki recalled that two (2) banners were placed in front of the Boonsboro Police Department (BPD), along Potomac Street (MD Route 34), one (1) banner was placed at each end of Main Street (US Alternate Route 40), near the Boonsboro Ambulance and Rescue and the intersection of Rohrsville Road (MD Route 67) and the fifth banner was placed on Maple Avenue (MD Route 67), near the intersection of Campus Avenue.

During the 14 February 2013 meeting, the Commission agreed to renew its invite to the First Hose Company of Boonsboro and the Boonsboro Rescue Company to determine their willingness to have an active presence in future Commission meetings. Sarnecki contacted Ms. Mary Jane Blickenstaff, President, Boonsboro Ambulance and Rescue via telephone on 6 March 2013. Ms. Blickenstaff initially felt that her attendance or the attendance of a representative would probably not be possible due to their busy schedules. Upon completion of their discussion, Sarnecki sent Ms. Blickenstaff an email with information on the Commission, its objective and its meeting information. Ms. Blickenstaff responded to Sarnecki's email on 14 March 2013, advised that she would attempt to attend the Commission's 11 April 2013 meeting and provided him with a report of the Boonsboro Ambulance and Rescue's monthly activities which was presented during the Commission's 14 March 2013 meeting.

In similar manner, Sarnecki spoke with Mr. Oley Griffith, Chief, First Hose Company of Boonsboro. Chief Griffith acknowledged that the Commission had in the past extended an open invitation for himself or an appointed representative to attend the Commission meetings, however; their busy schedules made it difficult to attend. This overextension was attributable to most of his staff's permanent or full-time employment in addition to their work with

the fire company. Also, Griffith reported that he and members of the First Hose Company of Boonsboro attend approximately ten (10) meetings per month throughout the county (Hagerstown, Smithsburg, etc.) This cumulated into a situation of "too many meetings and not enough staff." Chief Griffith noted that he currently meets with Town Manager Smith once or twice per week and would gladly present to her any concerns that may fall under the Commission's purview.

Glausier stated that he has not seen a representative from either organization in his ten (10) years with the Commission. When queried by Liaison Haardt, the Commission thought it would be beneficial to have some form of representation by both organizations. Collier suggested that the Commission send both organizations copies of the Commission's minutes going forward in the hopes to stimulate their interest in attending future meetings. The consensus was this was a suitable action.

Sarnecki mentioned the recent passing of Donald "Donny" Lee Shumaker during the Commission's 14 February 2013 meeting. Mr. Shumaker at various times served as President and Chief of the First Hose Company of Boonsboro and on the Commission. Sarnecki felt that it might be fitting to consider renaming Fire Hall Alley, located behind the First Hose Company of Boonsboro, to commemorate Mr. Shumaker. Sarnecki reviewed the Town's criteria for naming of the four (4) alleys by the Commission in early 2012 and determined that there were no conflicts with said criteria. Moving forward, Sarnecki was going to contact the Washington County Planner to confirm there were no existing named alleys or streets similar to Shumaker and report back the findings.

NEW BUSINESS:

Haardt began with the distribution of hard copies of the Boonsboro Meetings and Events Calendar for April 2013 and asked the Commission to consider changing its regularly, monthly scheduled meeting date and time of the second (2nd) Thursday. He reviewed the reasons behind his request and acknowledged the schedules of the Commission Members. Haardt cited that there are two (2) commission meetings scheduled at the same time and day - the Boonsboro Municipal Utilities Commission (BMUC) Chairman/Liaison by Kevin Chambers of Town Council and the aforementioned P&PS Commission. In discussion with other Council Members, Haardt felt that this was not an advantageous situation because it hindered the ability of Council Members from attending both meetings. He also felt that due to the BMUC's importance as a critical infrastructural entity that it would be better served by the ability to have two (2) Council Members present. The most recent example of this was during floods associated with Hurricane Sandy of late October 2012 that led to raw sewage flooding resident's homes such as Mr. Tom of Stouffer Avenue and property on Della Lane. This resulted in some very emotional meetings with residents visibly upset and with pressing questions and the need of guidance from the Council Members. Lastly, Liaison Haardt pointed out that the simultaneously scheduled commission meetings left it impossible for him and residents to attend both meetings if so inclined.

Another matter of concern for Haardt was the lack of Commission Minutes prior to the monthly Mayor and Town Council meetings. He felt ill prepared to properly respond to questions from both the Council and residents present at the meetings and believed it was evident during the 4 February 2013 Mayor and Town Council meeting where the trio of Messrs. Ross Cunningham and Rodney Cline and Pastor Joseph Donovan addressed their concerns and questions about Commission's recommendations on Cemetery Lane. Sarnecki accepted responsibility that the Minutes are sometimes late and noted that the Minutes from the Commission's 13 December 2012 meeting were unavailable due to the Christmas holiday and that the Commission did not meet in January 2013, however; Sarnecki followed Haardt's direction and sent the Commission's recommendations on Cemetery Lane to Town Manager Smith so it would be an agenda item for the 4 February 2013 Mayor and Town Council meeting. Looking back, both Sarnecki and Haardt agreed that it would be have been better not to send recommendation prior to the 4 February 2013 Mayor and Town Council meeting but to review it at the Commission's 14 February 2013 meeting. This would have allowed Haardt ample time to prepare, review, discuss and familiarize himself with the recommendations at the Council's Workshop meeting on 25 February and prior to the Mayor and Town Council's 4 March 2013 meeting.

Those present attempted to find a workable resolution. When queried by Glausier if Haardt preferred to serve on the BMUC, Chief Stanford felt that it was not a preference but a desire by Haardt to be involved in both commissions which was affirmed by Haardt. Stavrou questioned whether the heavy work load on the BMUC was transient in nature. Haardt responded that the BMUC would be better served by his ability to attend both meetings on a consistent basis. During their discussions on 28 November 2012, Sarnecki and Haardt considered changing the presentation of Agenda items so

he could provide his liaison report earlier. Stavrou believed that by Haardt making his liaison report first it, would give him the ability to then excuse himself and attend the major remainder of the BMUC meeting. After further discussion, Haardt considered this to be a quick fix that would not address the underlying issue of two (2) commission meetings at the same time and night. The major hurdle to finding an alternate date/time was conflicting schedules and non-alignment of free blocks of time. Another major obstacle was that the Commission members already adjusted their personal schedules to make the second Thursday of the month a workable proposition and to switch days after already adjusting their schedules for nearly two (2) years would be difficult. After debate, it became apparent that no consensus could be reached and that individual schedules would need to be reflected upon in greater detail.

The agenda item of discussing the NNO registration form was tabled for the next meeting due to the time constraints.

LIAISON REPORT:

Haardt reported to the Council the ongoing work of the Commission's effort to finalize a draft Mission Statement for the NNO. He would present the final draft of the NNO Mission Statement during the Council's Workshop Meeting on 18 March 2013. Haardt reported that Officer Martin Pitsnogle officially became a town employee on 6 March 2013.

POLICE REPORT:

Chief Stanford reported that Mr. Ross Davis of 206 Weldon Drive in Kinsey Heights complained of residents parking on the road near his home. After further review, Stanford determined that emergency vehicles could pass and deemed it as not currently an issue that the Commission needs to become involved in. Stanford believed that call was precipitated by an incident in which a high school student parked his vehicle in a neighbor's yard, which led to a call to the BPD. The student left in his vehicle before the arrival of the responding BPD officer. The responding officer believed it was possible for vehicles to park in the street without hindering traffic. Collier observed that vehicles parked on Lanafield Court do not deter the maneuverability of the First Hose Company of Boonsboro's Heavy Duty apparatus (Truck 6) during their Santa Claus visit at Christmas. Stanford also reported that were some complaints of sidewalk congestion outside Turn the Page Bookstore Cafe during book signing events. Stanford reported that this issue was easily solved with a polite request by the responding BPD officer to those waiting in line to make room for pedestrian traffic.

FIRE & RESCUE REPORT:

Ms. Mary Jane Blickenstaff, President, Boonsboro Ambulance and Rescue Company, provided Sarnecki the following information, via email, on 14 March 2013. As of 24 February 2013, the Boonsboro Ambulance and Rescue Company responded to 204 calls, with ninety-four (94) of those calls during the month of February 2013. The Sharpsburg, Halfway or Community fire departments covered additional calls while the Boonsboro Ambulance and Rescue Company responded to other calls. Their annual awards banquet was held on Saturday, 9 March 2013 at the Benevola United Methodist Church in Boonsboro. Numerous Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics are attending their certification classes. On 5 and 6 April 2013, five (5) Paramedics will participate in training at WISP Resort in McHenry, MD. The Boonsboro Ambulance and Rescue Company will hold its "Money Bonanza" at the Boonsboro American Legion. Their first chicken barbeque and bake goods sale will be held at the station on 20 April 2013. Finally, the Boonsboro Ambulance and Rescue Company will hold their biggest fund raiser of the year, their annual Carnival, 24 May through 1 June 2013.

Chairman Sarnecki advised that the next Commission is Thursday, 11 April 2013 at 7:00 PM.

The meeting closed 8:30 PM with a motion by Commission Member Stavrou, second by Glausier and moved into Executive Session to clarify roles, responsibilities and expectations of Commission members and liaison.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Christopher J. Sarnecki, Chairman, Police and Public Safety Commission