

MINUTES for BUDGET WORKSHOP
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
May 6, 2020

A budget workshop of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was held on Wednesday, May 6, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Michael Bailey (who arrived a little late), Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Tom Gilbert, Michael McNiesh, and John Zimmerman, Public Works Director Bob DePaola, and Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins, and Communications Specialist Samantha Fowle and Matt Fowle. The meeting was open to the public via FaceBook Live and advertised for the public to tune in to the meeting, as the building is still closed based on Governor Hogan and CDC directives.

No motions were made during the workshop.

Burgess Weddle made the following announcements:

- Town Hall is still closed to the public. Office and maintenance staff are working staggered schedules in order to comply with State orders.
- Announcements are being made on The Walkersville Wire, and citizens are encouraged to sign up via the town website, www.walkersvillemd.gov.
- Bulk trash is still scheduled and has been approved by Frederick County for June 13, 2020.
- Curbside yard waste pick up still occurs every Tuesday, and is acceptable in containers marked "Yard Waste" or recyclable paper bags (plastic bags will not be picked up).

The budgets for the General Fund and the Water Fund will be introduced at the May 13, 2020 Town Meeting.

Some of the items discussed for the budget were:

- Possibly reducing the property tax rate to .14 per \$100 of assessed real property value, down from current rate of .16. Burgess Weddle noted that our rate of .16 is still the lowest tax rate in the State of Maryland for a municipality of 3,000 or more in population.
- Discussed implementing a surcharge of \$50 a year on water bills. \$25 to be added on each 6-month bill in an effort to increase income for the Water Fund to help it meet operations and capital improvements. The surcharge will increase the Water Fund revenue while the 2-cent decrease in the tax rate will reduce revenue in the General Fund.
- Staff was directed to gather costs incurred for closing the Frederick County operated HFP mulch pile.
- Mr. DePaola requested new ceiling fans be installed in the new water plant to circulate the warm air that will collect in the tall ceilings. Cost is \$7,000+. He was directed to get this approved at the Town meeting.
- Need for increased microphones and update of sound system in the meeting room was discussed.
- A road repair/replacement schedule was requested. This has already been prepared by Mr. DePaola and staff, but was not available for the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Gloria Long Rollins, Town Manager