

**Commissioners of Hebron  
100 North Main Street  
Post Office Box 299  
Hebron, Maryland 21830**

**Minutes of the Commissioners of Hebron Regular Meeting As Held on  
Wednesday, November 16, 2022**

**Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Commissioner President Colby B. Phippin. Commissioner Amelia A. Handy, Commissioner David L. Hooper, and Commissioner Kenneth L. Pick were present. Commissioner Chester M. Sebald was present via telephone. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited by all who were in attendance.

**Agenda**

Commissioner Hooper made a Motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Commissioner Pick. The vote was unanimous and the Chair voted Aye.

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the November 2, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Hooper made a Motion to approve the Minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Handy. The vote was unanimous and the Chair voted Aye.

**Police Report**

Deputy Handy gave the Police Report for the Town and surrounding area. A question was asked about the stopping of a 4-wheeler. Deputy Handy advised that contact had been made with the owner. Also, a truck hit the fire hydrant on Church Street.

**Building Permits**

A Building Permit for Sara Curry at 121 Chapel Branch Drive for adding wood panels to a fence was discussed. The Commissioners felt that she needed to get letters from the neighbors on each side advising that they had no objection as well as the approval of the Chapel Branch HOA, and then the Commissioners would consider it.

**New Business**

2. Bradley Street Sign

Town Attorney Steve Cox advised of some of the history of the signs on Bradley Street that disallow traffic over three-quarters ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) of a ton on the road. Quite a few years ago, there was an issue with a tow truck driver parking his massive tow truck along the road and preventing other vehicles from using the road, including fire trucks. George Phippin advised that a supplier of his was having an issue with the sign because the trucking firm that was used by the supplier was refusing to drive in the road, due to the signs. After some discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Hooper to remove the sign and send a letter to the trucking company advising that they can drive their trucks on that road. Commissioner Pick seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous and the Chair voted Aye.

**Old Business**

1. Christmas Festivities – Commissioner President Phippin and Commissioner Handy

It was reported that the new Christmas Tree should be shipped by next Monday and will be here by Wednesday. The Recreation Committee will put up the Tree by December 3, 2022. It will have an 11' tall metal pole and the information about it will be sent when it ships. Also, the Christmas Lights in Town will be put up soon.

2. Consulting Agreement – Steve Cox

Town Attorney Steve Cox advised that that the ARPA Funds Consulting Agreement had been revised, approved by the Consultant, signed by Commissioner President Phippin, and sent to the Consultant for his signature.

3. Web Payment Quote – Town Clerk

Town Clerk Melinda J. Stafford advised that there is a credit card payment module for the Town's financial system. There will be a Zoom Call on Monday, November 21, 2022 between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. with Commissioner President Phippin and Commissioners Hooper and Pick and whoever else can make it to discuss the costs and how it would work.

4. FMLA – Commissioner Hooper

Commissioner Hooper advised the Commissioners about the FMLA issues regarding Clyde Church. The FMLA would run concurrent with his leave from the Town. Whatever time is taken has to be concurrent with his leave, starting when he went out. The FMLA started on October 31, 2022 and the State said that he could back-date it to the day of his heart attack and he

## Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2022

did that. Therefore, the time has to be put back and we have to give him back his sick time. Therefore he still has all his vacation, etc. and was paid 90% of his salary. The end date should be January 13, 2023, which is when we should hear from his doctor. FMLA may go past that date.

### 5. State Highway – Commissioner Hooper

Commissioner Hooper advised that nothing much had changed. They were still working on getting signs and speed bump strips by the School and maybe at the entrance to the Town on Lillian and Main Streets. There is still speeding on Lillian Street and the sign that was there may be brought back. However, the State says that it cannot be put back until they complete a study so they will not be replacing the sign. The goal now is to put up speed cameras, like they have in other towns. We need to ask another town for guidance on how they did this. It was mentioned that the Sheriff's Department was on Rt. 50 down past Farmhouse Acres looking for speeders, but none on Lillian Street.

## New Business

### 3. Holiday Bonuses – After Discussion in Closed Session

The Commissioners had a Closed Meeting prior to this Regular Meeting. Commissioner President Phippin provided a recap of the discussion in the Closed Meeting, which was about Holiday Bonuses for the staff of the Town and the Planning Commission and the Recreation Commission. Commissioner Hooper made a Motion as follows:

\$200.00 for Mindy, Robin, Clyde, and Jimmy

\$100.00 for Jerry

\$50.00 for each of the five (5) members of the Planning Commission as a VISA Gift Card

\$25.00 for each of the five (5) members of the Recreation Commission as a VISA Gift Card

Commissioner Sebald seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous and the Chair voted aye, however Commissioners Handy and Pick abstained due to their membership on the Planning Commission and the Recreation Commission, respectively.

### 1. Broadband Letter of Support – Commissioner President Phippin

Commissioner President Phippin advised that Choptank Electric Cooperative was running fiber cable wherever they are running electric wires. They may run it to Hebron Savings Bank, but nowhere else in Hebron. Despite that, he suggested that the Commissioners send a letter supporting the laying of the fiber cable in the hopes that they may make it available to the entire Town. After some discussion, Commissioner Handy moved to prepare and sign such a letter. Commissioner Pinder seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous and the Chair voted aye.

## Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2022

### Public Comment

1. Burton Hatton inquired about the signs on the poles for Veterans. Commissioner Sebald advised that he will have more information in the next few weeks. He advised that Jeff Merritt of Minute Man Press has given him the best quote and a sample. He is a County Council Member Elect as well as a member of the Legion.
2. Commissioner Sebald advised that the small depot banner on George Nesbit's property needs to be taken down. He will return the banners to the Town that have been taken down.
3. Commissioner Sebald advised that this coming Saturday, the Hebron Fire Department will hold its annual Gun Bash and that he has a free ticket to give away, if anyone is interested.
4. Carolyn Insley inquired about an update on the cell phone service in Hebron. Commissioner Sebald advised that there had been a repeater loaner program that Verizon had, but that has been discontinued. He did advise that he was talking to Verizon and the last thing that he knew was that they need an antenna in the Town and wanted a letter from the Commissioners. Commissioner President Phippin advised that he had filled out a form on-line concerning putting an antenna on the water tower. He was supposed to have received a response within 48 hours. That was a month ago and he has never received a response. Town Clerk Mindy advised that she would contact Southern Corrosion and see what they might suggest.
5. Dan McHugh of the incoming County Executive's Office was present and, among other things, advised that they would be hiring a Grant Application Writer to assist the Towns in obtaining various grants.
6. Shanie Shields was present. She advised that her job is a servant of the people and to help everyone. She said that it will be a little different being behind the table on the County Council. She said that she gets sworn in on December 6, 2022 and that she would sign a letter to Verizon for the Town thereafter.
7. Nicole Kelley inquired about the vacant properties at 303 and 305 East Walnut Street. She has seen rats coming across the road and the back of the house is caved in. Commissioner President Phippin advised that he had sent a violation notice to 303 East Walnut Street and if nothing happens by the first of the year, the Town would take care of it. She also spoke of trees growing through electric lines. Shanie Shields advised that there may be a tax sale which may result in the transfer of ownership of the property. She and the Commissioners discussed how there is only one (1) Building Inspector in the County. The consensus was that we need to condemn the property and

## Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2022

tear it down and lien it. Commissioner Handy made a Motion to take the appropriate action and ask the County to get their Building Inspector, Tony, to inspect the property and have it demolished because of the rats, etc.

8. An inquiry was made about the house on Elm Street that burned down and if the owner will have to have the property surveyed. The Variance issue was discussed and it was thought that when he goes to the County, the owner may need to have the property surveyed and that it would be up to the County.

### Checks

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hooper and seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve the checks. The Motion was passed unanimously and the Chair voted Aye.

### Adjournment

A Motion was made by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Hooper to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was passed unanimously and the Chair voted Aye. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amelia A. Handy, Secretary