



**CROFTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING  
Arundel Volunteer Fire Department Training Facility,  
2374 Davidsonville Road, Gambrills  
July 15, 2024 – 7:00 PM**

**Present:**

**Board Members:** Anna O’Kelly, Marsha Perry, Brian Riley, James Kitchin, Daria DeLizio, Stephen Tull, and Hal Sheldon.

**Staff:** Martin H. Simon, Jim Harvey, Chief Jason Jett, Cpl. Kyle Gable, Tara Gottschalck.

President Anna O’Kelly opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Announcements by President Anna O’Kelly:**

Anna announced that this meeting is being recorded to assist the Administrative Assistant with the transcription of the minutes.

There will be two public hearings on July 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM and 7:00 PM, at the Crofton Library regarding the proposed addition of 377 new homes at Two Rivers.

Crofton Summer Farmers Market continues Saturdays through October from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Crofton Library. The market features local and regional foods, crafts, and artwork. See [Croftonfarmersmarket.com](http://Croftonfarmersmarket.com) for details.

The CCA and Crofton Kiwanis together with the Crofton Farmer’s Market present the 2024 Crofton Pie Bake Off on Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Pie bakers will be judged for best fruit filled, cream, and savory pie. Registration is free and must be completed by July 17<sup>th</sup>. Participants may register on our website at [Croftoncommunity.org](http://Croftoncommunity.org). Proceeds will benefit the Crofton Christian Caring Council Baby Pantry.

The CCA Summer Concert Series ends this Sunday on July 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Crofton Country Club. Bring your chairs, blankets, and enjoy a picnic dinner while enjoying great music with Wicked Olde (Pop to Folk).

There will be no CCA Board meeting in August. The next CCA Board and General Membership Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM, at the Library Media Center at Crofton Elementary School, 1405 Duke of Kent Drive.

The Crofton Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Anne Arundel County Western District presents National Night Out on August 6<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, at the Crofton Country Club. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. The

Crofton PD will be participating in this event. There will be Touch-a truck vehicles, face painting, balloon twisting, crafts, food giveaways, and prizes. Please stop by and show support for our local first responders.

The Crofton 60th Anniversary Crofton night at the Bowie Baysox is scheduled for August 23rd at 7:05 PM. This is a Crofton 60th Anniversary Event. Kids will run the bases after the game, there will be 60's themed trivia and prizes throughout the evening, and the Town Manager will throw out the first pitch. Discounted tickets are available at Baysox.com, using the promo code "Crofton."

Crofton Town Hall will be closed for Labor Day on Monday September 2nd.

The CCA annual Ice Cream Social is scheduled for September 15th, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, at Town Hall's Back Yard. There will be face painting, balloon twisting, a bounce house, live music, and free ice cream.

The Crofton Teen Skate Night at Skate Zone is scheduled for September 15th, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. This is a free Crofton 60th Anniversary event for teens. Admissions, skate rentals, arcade credits, food and drinks and a DJ are included.

The Crofton Library has a long list of events. Visit their website at <https://www.aacpl.net>.

### **Guest Speaker –**

Anna introduced guest speaker, Senator Jim Rosapepe who has represented District 21 since 2007, which includes a portion of the Crofton Woods section of the triangle and surrounding areas of Crofton. He previously served in the House of Delegates in the 80's and 90's. He has served as the U.S. Ambassador to Romania. Senator Rosapepe provided a postmortem report on the 2024 Maryland Legislative Session.

Senator Rosapepe works closely with Delegates Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Mary Lehman, and Ben Barnes.

Senator Rosapepe is the Vice Chair of the Senate Budget Tax Committee. Ben Barnes is Chair of the House Appropriations Committee. Joseline Peña-Melnyk is Chair of the Health and Government Operations Committee. Mary Lehman serves on the Environment and Transportation Committee.

Public safety is a significant issue in the region. He spoke about legislation that was passed as a response to juvenile crimes that increased during the Covid shutdowns when schools were closed, including carjacking and windshield smashing. The new legislation requires more accountability and supervision and will provide increased rehabilitation services.

Senator Rosapepe spoke about the crackdown on drag racing and increasing road safety. Legislation was passed for placing speed cameras at stop signs.

He reported that legislation has passed for competitive rates to BGE, under the condition that they are lower rates. In the past alternate electric companies have been offering lower rates only for a short time, then raise their rates to exceed the current BGE rates.

Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk spoke about delegates voting on bills in both Prince Georges and Anne Arundel County. She reported that the delegates were able to provide a bond bill for \$225,000 for the Waugh Chapel Community Center, and they continue to work to assist local communities with other area projects.

Delegate Peña-Melnyk is the Chair of the Health Committee. This committee is in charge of bills that regulate hospitals, all health occupations, health insurance companies that operate in Maryland, state agencies such as Veterans Affairs, and all public health bills.

This committee has expanded Medicaid and created a health insurance marketplace known as Obamacare. There were six million people uninsured in Maryland in 2011. Today there are approximately 300,000 people uninsured, a reduction from 14% to 5%. The committee also proposed a bill to extend subsidies for young people that do not typically have health insurance.

The committee also regulates and has passed bills for long term care and assisted living care. They ensure that caregivers are licensed, and that nursing homes are inspected.

Delegate Peña-Melnyk reported on a bill that took 24 years to pass. The Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program is a program for the mentally ill that would ensure that patients receive monitoring, care, and housing. It is a voluntary program where the patient enters a contract with the courts and the Department of Health. Maryland was one of three states in the nation that did not have an out-treatment care program. The committee also created the board for prescription drug affordability.

The committee proposed a bill that bans the sale of the supplement Tianeptine, also known as “gas station heroin.” This unapproved dietary supplement sold in gas stations and smoke shops causes severe reactions leading to hospitalizations, usually affecting children and young adults. This bill was passed. A similar bill was proposed for the supplement Kratom, which has similar reactions. A modification to this bill was passed. It may be sold in Maryland with exception for minors (under 21 years of age).

The bill for the national suicide hotline has passed in Maryland. “988” is the hotline for Suicide and Crisis Lifeline for all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

The committee has been working with government operations that develop technology for Artificial Intelligence to create guardrails around this new technology.

Delegate Mary Lehman is serving her second term in the House. She works on the Environment and Transportation Committee, which is responsible for air, water, natural resources, etc. and transit, such as trains and light rail, the motor vehicle administration, traffic enforcement, and all the housing legislation, and ethics matters. She also serves on the Housing sub-committee at the county level.

Delegate Lehman spoke about housing and traffic laws that were given the most attention. With staffing shortages within law enforcement, there is less interaction with motorists. This will probably continue in the future where automated enforcement will increase. Currently, there are new noise cameras in two counties, Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties. This pilot program originally

included Anne Arundel County, but they have dropped out. This bill is known as the Camera Automated Noise Abatement System. It will be in place for two years then sunset and will have to be renewed. This legislation is in response to area residents' increased complaints of noisy cars with modified mufflers, and exhibition driving contests. It is suspected that this pilot bill will become permanent state law. These stationary cameras will measure noise levels of vehicles. If the noise level passes the acceptable level, a written warning will be mailed. A second warning will result in a fine of \$60.

Delegate Lehman reported on legislation passed for affordable housing. The legislation was passed to incentivize developers to set aside 20% of their new development as affordable, so they can build additional units. Affordable housing would meet the low income criteria. The Governor passed legislation focused on three areas. The first is area located within  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile to a transit hub. The second is former federal or state property that is now vacant. The third is property owned by nonprofit groups such as a faith-based group property.

An additional housing bill was passed that increases and strengthens renter's rights. Late rental fee payments were capped to \$50.00. House bill 693, established a state office specifically for tenant's rights. Many tenants do not know they are eligible for legal counsel.

In closing, Delegate Lehman mentioned a bill only passed in Anne Arundel and Montgomery Counties which allows the County Council to authorize the lowering of the speed limit on select roadways to 15 mph. Currently the lowest is 20 mph. This can only be done after a full engineering study and citizen support.

Senator Rosapepe, who works closely with Senator Pruski and Senator Gile, encourages residents to come to them with concerns.

### **Approval of Minutes** –

The minutes from the CCA Board meeting on June 17, 2024, require approval. James Kitchin requested a revision to his comment in the Citizen Comments. There were no additional comments or revisions needed for these previously distributed minutes. The minutes were filed.

### **Town Manager's Report** – *Martin H. Simon*

Martin thanked Greg Hintz and everyone at the Arundel Volunteer Fire Department for hosting this meeting.

Martin thanked Jim Harvey and Kathy Lavin, the community volunteers, and the AVFD volunteers at the Kidz Fest. The event was a great success and very highly attended. He thanked Chief Jett, Sgt. Sims and Ofc. Carrier for their assistance at the festival. There was an estimated six hundred to seven hundred people that attended.

Martin reported on the work that has been completed for the end of this fiscal year. The tree work at Hardy Field playground is completed. There is a park equipment delivery scheduled for the August 29<sup>th</sup>. The CCA and the CAC have split costs for the garage that requires an upgrade with a new roof and siding. The cost savings for the tax district is \$7,000.00.

The pointing up of the brickwork at The Orchards entrance is completed. The tree work on Crawford Boulevard is completed. Marty Mows will begin adding mulch to critical areas of all three playgrounds. Martin and Anna have decided to postpone the planting bed at Swinburne Avenue and Crofton Parkway until fall.

Martin provided a report of police overtime. There was a total of 9.5 hours. 4.25 hours were used for special events. 5.25 hours were used for late calls and court appearances.

Martin proposed a modification of Military Leave to the Policy and Procedures Manual since Cpl. Gable is a member of the Coast Guard Reserve. He requested reverting back to the language prior to the last change made a few years ago; "with pay" instead of "without pay," and from "without pay for 30 days" to "with pay for 20 days." This will put us in compliance with the policies of Anne Arundel County and other police agencies.

Stephen made a motion to change the policy to "with pay for 20 days", which was seconded by Marsha. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Comptroller's Report – James Harvey**

Jim handed out his report to board members. He reported that the last fiscal year (FY24) ended on June 30<sup>th</sup> with \$1,253,000 in income, and an additional \$5,000.00 from Anne Arundel County. Expenses were \$1,244,593.00, with a net of \$8,886.00 that will be held in reserve for FY26 once the audit has been completed. Jim noted the \$344,000.00 was held over from FY22 for use in FY24.

The CCA ended with \$150,412 in income; \$100,000 for the Forestry Easement program from the county, and the remainder from 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary fundraising.

There is \$6,800 in the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary fund that will be used towards the Homecoming and Octoberfest.

Jim recommends establishing a \$3,000 reserve fund and set it aside for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. James Kitchin motioned that \$3,000 be set aside in reserve for the Crofton 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events. Stephen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim will be making corrections on the budget reporting moving forward. Street and recreation lighting will be combined under Maintenance and Operations as "Electricity/Lighting".

Jim reported the discovery that the Gas Card/Other category had expenses put in twice in the spring of 2022, and not identified by the auditor. He will ask the auditor where to note the additional \$200 in the budget. (*These were subsequently reversed out.*)

Jim reported that we are paying more to Aflac in premiums than the withholdings taken from staff pay over time. The premium needs to be recalculated, and the withholding rate re-adjusted. He is seeking permission from the Board to use contingency funds to cover the shortfall of \$193.92.

James Kitchin made a motion to use \$193.92 of contingency funds to cover the shortfall of the recalculation of the withholdings for the AFLAC insurance premium for an annualized cost. Brian seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Jim received guidance from the Anne Arundel County Budget Office that durable items such as guns, radios, and cars that are sold to offset costs when being replaced should be reflected in the CSCBD budget, and not the CCA budget which should only consist of real property. The FY24 CCA budget currently lists \$46,849.70 in opening balance equity. This was the purchase of the Body Cameras that were bought with grant money issued by the state. He asked permission from the Board to move this balance to the tax district budget as recommended by the county.

James Kitchin moved to reverse the opening balance equity fund for the body camera equipment from the CCA budget to the tax district budget. Stephen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim commented on some miscellaneous financial items. The health insurance coverage for one employee has been delayed to August 1<sup>st</sup>. The six-month promotional period for the Sandy Spring account used for the CCA account has ended. The interest earnings have reduced from 5% to 3.14%. On July 2<sup>nd</sup> the following reserve transactions were completed:

- \$196,702.21 was moved from 3902 Money Held for FY25 budget to unrestricted access.
- \$400,000 was moved from 3600 Appropriated Fund Balance to Unrestricted Assets. This will be reversed in March once the second property tax payment from the county is received.
- The Body Camera fund and Police IT funds have been consolidated to one Police Equipment Fund.

Jim reported on upcoming events. The Crofton 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary night at the Bowie Baysox will have a 60's trivia contest, and prizes for the hippiest dance and grooviest outfit. The Homecoming capacity will be 200 and 160 for Crotoberfest. The committee is working on the details for amenities and pricing. The Homecoming Reception is scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup>, and Octoberfest is scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup>. The Crofton Pie Bake-off has 23 registrations. 100% of the funds goes to the Crofton Christian Caring Council Baby Pantry.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Education Committee** – *Hal Sheldon*

Hal had nothing to report.

### **Covenant Review Committee** – *Stephen Tull*

Stephen reported the committee is reviewing a complaint of a fence on Swinburne Avenue. He reported there was no resolution to a shed complaint that backs on to a residence on Urby Drive.

**Recreation Committee** – *Daria DeLizio*

Daria had nothing to report.

**Planning & Zoning** – *Marsha Perry*

Marsha reported she continues community outreach. Marsha joined residents from Crofton Colony to meet with Senator Dawn Gile and her staff regarding the flooding in their community, and proposed legislation to address their concerns. Crofton Colony appreciates the support of the Crofton Civic Association.

Marsha recently met with members of the Forks of the Patuxent Improvement Association who are very concerned about the building of three hundred seventy-seven new homes in the Two Rivers community. There are two meetings with the developers on Wednesday evening at 6:00 PM and 7:00 PM at the Crofton Library regarding these projects. The first meeting covers the age-restricted portion of the community. The second meeting covers the family or nonage-restricted area.

Marsha attended Julie Hummer's meeting last Thursday. Councilwoman Hummer represents West County Councilmanic district 4, which consists of Laurel, Fort Meade, Gambrills, Odenton, and Crofton. The meeting focused on the Patuxent wildlife preserve and how the five thousand acres came to be preserved in perpetuity through the Maryland legislature. The remainder of the meeting was focused on area re-zoning residential zones to commercial zones, and the concerns of residents about the development of the new units at Two Rivers. Residents complained that the new elementary school is already over capacity, and there is no middle school. Both Arundel Middle and Crofton Middle Schools are over capacity.

**Public Safety Committee** – *Brian Riley*

Brian had nothing to report.

**Finance Committee** – *James Kitchin*

James reported there is a Finance Committee meeting scheduled for August 22<sup>nd</sup> at Town Hall. He reported that the application for the county property tax exemption for the front property that the Town Manager reported on last month was approved on June 20<sup>th</sup>. The county's portion of the property taxes will go down to zero. There is a small portion of state taxes that remain. It will save the residents in the tax district approximately \$20,000. It will be prorated since there were eleven days left in the fiscal year, so there is a refund on the way from the county of \$662.72.

**Greater Crofton Council Liaison** – *Chuck See*

Chuck was not in attendance and did not provide a report.

**Maintenance and Operations** – *Rob Kendall*

Rob was not in attendance and did not provide a report.

**Police Chief Report – Chief Jason Jett**

Chief Jett reported that the department has responded to several heat related incidents. He reminded everyone to check on neighbors, stay hydrated and use precautions when outside in the hot weather. He reported that the department's newest employee, Ofc. Carrier has completed his training and is now on patrol duty.

The Chief reported on the monthly statistics for June. There were 491 calls for service, 280 patrols, 76 traffic stops, including 1 DUI.

He reported some equipment has been delayed. License Plate Readers should ship by month's end. New next generation body cameras should be received at the beginning of August. Global will complete the installation of all new car equipment once additional parts arrive. Other equipment such as flashlights and handcuffs are also on back order.

He reported that Ofc. Redding will be submitting his resignation. He was unable to be medically cleared for duty. Chief Jett will begin the process to hire a new officer.

The Chief reported on the recent complaint to the Police Accountability Board. The father of a DUI suspect who was arrested by Cpl. Gable filed a complaint stating that his son's rights were violated. Sgt. Sims conducted the investigation. It was determined that the claim is unfounded. It was sent to the Administrative Charging Committee who will make the final determination. The hearing is scheduled for August 5<sup>th</sup>. Sgt. Sims will attend.

The Chief provided an update on the new parking regulations for Crofton Parkway. The new signage from DPW is delayed, but he believes it will be completed soon.

Chief Jett reported on the status of 1460 Crofton Parkway. Residents have been concerned about the living conditions of the residents. It was suspected that the residence was without power, and there were feral cats on the property. He informed the Anne Arundel County Department of Health who investigated and found nothing concerning.

He reported that October 18<sup>th</sup> is the tentative date for the Crofton Police Department's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Trunk-Or-Treat. He is attempting to move the event to the Village Green or the Crofton Country Club since the event has outgrown the area at Crofton Elementary School.

The Chief reported that the Crofton police will have their own booth at National Night Out at the Crofton Country Club on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Marsha commented that Mothers Against Community Gun Violence (MACGV) are planning to have a booth, and they will be contacting Chief Jett.



**Citizen Questions or Comments –**

A resident asked about covenant enforcement. Stephen responded that covenants still apply. The committee encourages neighbors to come to an accommodation between themselves. If they cannot, the Board will vote to take legal action. The CCA does not have unlimited funding for enforcement. It relies on donations. Anna commented that the covenants are posted on our website.

The resident reported that the intersection of Spring Green Avenue and Crofton Parkway is dangerous due to overgrown landscaping on the corner lot that blocks the sidewalk and sight lines for oncoming traffic. Martin commented that someone in the community took it upon themselves to trim the property, making the owner unhappy. He continued that there is not a way to force residents to accommodate, however, reaching out to the owners by sending a good neighbor letter is helpful. He said he can also investigate placing a convex safety mirror at the corner.

With no other questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned for an Executive Session to discuss Legal Matters.

*Meeting minutes completed by Tara Gottschalck, Administrative Assistant (August 30, 2024)*

MS/JH/JJ(tg)