



**CROFTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
First Baptist Church, Crofton
June 17, 2024 – 7:00 PM**

Present:

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

Staff: Martin H. Simon, Jim Harvey, Chief Jason Jett, Cpl. Kyle Gable, Ofc. Jon Carrier, 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.

The 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 for details.

The CCA and Crofton Kiwanis together with the Crofton Farmer’s Market present the 2024 Crofton Pie Bake Off on Saturday July 20th 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 17th. Participants may register on our website at Croftoncommunity.org. Proceeds will benefit the Crofton Christian Caring Council Baby Pantry.

The CCA Summer Concert Series continues every Sunday through July 21st 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. Scheduled bands include:

- o June 23: Six Pack Rodeo ~ Country with a Kick
- o June 30: Bay Winds ~ Classical Band Music
- o July 7: Built 4 Comfort ~ Blues
- o July 14: Bay Jazz Project ~ Jazz
- o July 21: Wicked Olde ~ Pop to Folk

On June 18th, 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM, there is a Luminis Blood Drive hosted by the Greater Crofton Chamber of Commerce, at their offices at 2126 Espey Court.

On June 19th, Town Hall is closed for the Juneteenth holiday.

On June 29, the Crofton Pride Parade and Resource Fair will begin at 9:30 AM. The parade will walk from Crofton Elementary School to Prince of Peace Church and back to the school. The resource Fair will be held in the parking area of Crofton Elementary School.

On July 4th, Town Hall is closed for Independence Day.

On July 13th, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM, KIDZ FESTIVAL will be held at the Crofton Village Green with parking at the Crofton Country Club's commuter lot across the street. This is a 60th Anniversary Free event for kids aged 2-14 and will feature; Touch-a-Truck vehicles, Bike Rodeo (Bring your bikes), Cakewalk (contest with free cakes), Sidewalk Chalk Art (chalk provided), Pit Beef (on sale from AVFD), Face Painting, Snow Cones, a Bounce House, and more. The Crofton Police will provide safe crossing of Crofton Parkway from the Crofton Country Club to the Village Green.

The next CCA Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 15th at 7:00 PM at the Arundel Volunteer Fire Training Center, 2374 Davidsonville Road.

There will be no CCA Board meeting in August.

The Crofton Chamber of Commerce presents National Night Out on August 6th, 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 60th Anniversary Party at the Bowie Baysox is scheduled for August 23rd at 7:05 PM. This is a free Crofton 60th Anniversary Event. Kids will run the bases, 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 Library Events, 1681 Riedel Road, Crofton. For details visit their website at <https://www.aacpl.net>. Some special events:

- June 29, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Annapolis Opera presents: Stories through Music
- July 6, 13, 20, 27 (Every Saturday): 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Plant Clinic: Ask a Master Gardener
- July 3, 1:00pm - 2:00pm, Flying V Theatre presents: Bulleketroet
- July 4, Closed for Independence Day
- July 9, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM, Rock and Rhyme with Mr. Jon and Friends
- July 11, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Adult Book Club: The Splendid and the Vile by Erik Larson
- July 16, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Baba Bomani's Open Mic

Anna introduced guest speaker, Greg Hintz, President, Arundel Volunteer Fire Department

Mr. Hintz provided a summary of the merging of the Arundel Volunteer Fire Department with the Riva Volunteer Fire Department that was announced by Anne Arundel County Fire Chief Trisha Wolford. The purpose of the merger was to add support and strengthen both stations. It would allow career staff and volunteers to combine efforts to provide continuous community safety service in the county.

Last year, the Fire Chief notified the volunteers that they needed to move out of the station but could return on Sundays for four-hour shifts. The volunteers fought back to maintain their space.

After the merger was announced, county Fire Chief Wolford approved renovations to Station 7 to accommodate both career staff and the volunteers. Instead, the remodel focused solely on the needs of career staff and eliminating spaces for the volunteer's live-in program. The Chief promised additional living space in detached trailers and has now rescinded this offer too. The Chief promised cross-staffed access to all equipment, and has now rescinded, making it impossible for the volunteers to operate fully. They also have leadership training programs that are now at risk. At present the volunteers own the training center building, and the equipment with maintenance by the County.

Mr. Hintz spoke about how these changes have impacted the volunteer programs with regards to recruitment and maintaining staff. He believes this puts the area at risk for twenty-four-hour service. The goal of the Volunteer Fire Department is to provide the best services for the community.

The merging with Station 3 does not allow a matrix level combination that works together. The Deputy Fire Chief is attempting to maintain a separation of the volunteer staff and the career staff. At present there are 140 volunteer staff, and 45 operational staff. They are currently losing volunteers because of this. He added that career staff are also being removed from the volunteer station in Bowie. It is continuing in other areas of Anne Arundel County.

They are exploring building onto the site. The County says they do not have the time to consider this. A resident asked about a rumor last year the County has explored building a new fire station on Route 424 closer to the school. This is no longer an option since the Board of Education has not relinquished the land. Greg mentioned that the County did meet to plan to build a new fire station in the County, however, the volunteers were not invited to this meeting.

He is asking for residents to write to the County Executive to show support for the volunteers of Station 7 and treat them as career staff.

Greg commented that in the County the union contract dictated the staffing required to run each station. The union proposed having full staffing at all stations by FY26. Fire Chief Wolford responded that it would happen in June of this year. James clarified there are national standards by accredited organizations that the contracts are following. This would be career staff meeting the minimum standards for twenty-four hours. Greg responded that those standards do not account for volunteer staffing. He added that the volunteers have always stepped up to fill the career staff vacancies.

Approval of Minutes –

The minutes from the CCA Board and General Membership meeting held on May 13th, 2024, require approval. James Kitchin requested a revision to his comment in the Citizen Comments section regarding school funding. 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 reported on recent events. There were eighty-two participants in the CCA 60th Anniversary Golf Outing, which resulted in a \$10,000 profit. Martin and Marsha thanked Jim for all his efforts with this event.

The Summerfest event was very successful with four hundred attendees. Martin thanked Jim and Gina Knudson, the Board members, and volunteers who assisted at this event.

The Kiwanis/Team Surlis 5/10K Race had three hundred fifteen participants cross the finish line. Martin thanked the Crofton police and Anne Arundel County police for their assistance in keeping the runners safe.

The Summer Concert Series so far has been well attended and on schedule with favorable weather.

Martin, Marsha and other CCA members attended the inaugural Community Association Summit on June 1st, hosted by Anne Arundel County Community Engagement and Constituent Services, along with the Growth Action Network. It was a worthwhile event to bring community leaders together.

Martin reported on current maintenance and operations projects. Three trees at Hardy Field have been removed in time for the installation of the new playground equipment. He thanked Keith who is now able to take care of small tree concerns in-house since the purchase of a new chainsaw and pole saw.

He thanked Pastor Matt of the First Baptist Church for allowing Keith to use their water this week for the power washing of the brickwork on Clubhouse Gate. The brickwork at the Orchards is scheduled for repair in the next seven to ten days.

Martin and Jim met with new Board member James Kitchin, to provide an overview of his responsibilities as Treasurer. James has already assisted Martin with the application for a tax exemption filing with the county for the forestry easement property.

Jim asked Martin to consider the CCA's participation in the county's Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration storm drain marking program. The program provides medallions that can be affixed to stormwater drains in the community. The medallions have reminder message that read "NO DUMPING – DRAINS TO BAY." There is no cost for materials. There are approximately two hundred thirty on the county roads within the triangle. He suggested they can be installed slowly over time by Keith or present it as a Scouts project. We could encourage the townhome regimes to follow suit. He asked for the Board's input. The Board suggested making it a Scout's project.

Martin reported there was 41 hours of police overtime expended since the last Board meeting. Sgt. Sims and Cpl. Gable worked the 5/10K event and Cpl. Gable worked 8.5 hours for the Summer Fest concert. Cpl. Gable also had 5 hours of court overtime and 21.5 hours patrolling the Crofton Centre, which has resulted in a reduction in shoplifting.

Stephen asked about the County Golf Stream Restoration project. He asked to re-post the project information on the Listserv. Residents have been asking about the project. Jim will also add information to the next E-Advocate. Martin added that the Country Club is now negotiating with the County on access to the property for this project.

Comptroller's Report – *James Harvey*

Jim handed out his report to the Board members and discussed highlights. He reported that we are currently 2.4% overbudget in income due to earned interest. We are 25% underbudget in expenses due to personnel shortages and absences. In the FY25 budget the BOD reclassified and created some new expense categories. He made these changes in advance of the beginning of the new fiscal year. However, this will mean that reports for the close of FY24 will use these revised expense categories and reports for the close of FY24 will not be entirely consistent with previous FY24 reports. QuickBooks can only have one chart of accounts per company file.

Jim reported there was \$20,000 put into the “new” contingency reserve fund, however we had forgotten that we created a contingency reserve at the end of FY23 and put \$50,000 into that account. There is now \$70,000 in the contingency reserve fund. Jim recommends that in the FY26 budget we budget \$3,000 to \$5,000 for the contingency expense. This being a small amount for contingencies that may arise that need to be addressed immediately. Anything else can be brought to the BOD with a request to release funds from the contingency reserve fund.

He reported at the beginning of the year we will begin consolidating police IT and police body camera reserve funds into one police equipment fund. The Board approved transfers will take place July 1st.

Beginning on July 1st, we will provide group health insurance for Jim.

Jim reported the FAMLI paid leave for employees will be covered by Hartford. They cannot provide a quote until the beginning of next year. They are waiting for the state to provide guidelines. This is an FY26 budget requirement by the state.

Jim renewed Constant Contact early to get a 30% prepayment discount. The annual renewal was \$553 vs. \$924 paid last year.

On June 10th, Jon Carrier was hired as our newest police officer, and the department is at full staff. Ofc. Carrier will begin receiving SEP contributions once he completes ninety days of employment.

The police department has received a \$1,000 donation from a resident for equipment. It has been added to the CCA's police equipment reserve fund for future use.

Axon is upgrading the police body cameras at no cost. Our agreement with Axon includes two upgrades at no cost to the CSCBD.

Jim reported on the 60th Anniversary Golf Outing. There were eighty-two golfers, and the event made a little over \$10,000.

There was a second round of Crofton 60th Anniversary shirt sales which made \$309.00.

The Kidz Fest, a 60th Anniversary event, is scheduled for Saturday July 13th and is expected to be the biggest event of the year. We anticipate attendance between 500 and 600 people. We are in need of volunteers for this event.

On Thursday, June 20th the 60th Anniversary committee will meet at 7:00 PM at Town Hall. There is \$6,000.00 in the CCA 60th Anniversary funds available for the remaining events this year, after setting aside \$3,000 for the 70th Anniversary. This will significantly offset the costs of the tickets for the Homecoming event and the Octoberfest event.

Jim announced that our Social Media report has increased due to all the events. 23,000 email messages were read by residents and we made over 90 social media posts in May.

Committee Reports

Recreation Committee – *Daria DeLizio*

Daria had nothing additional to report.

Greater Crofton Council Liaison – *Chuck See*

Chuck reported the next GCC meeting is July 11th at 7:00 PM at the Waugh Chapel Community Center. On May 28th a traffic safety meeting for Riedel Road/Johns Hopkins Road was held by Zoom with Nestor Flores of Anne Arundel County. Andrew Pruski and Stuart Schmidt attended. They discussed safety remediation for those roads.

Covenant Review Committee – *Stephen Tull*

Stephen reported there was an approval for a fence on Eton Way. He reported there is an issue with an oversized structure built on Tarleton Way backing to a property owner on Urby Drive.

Maintenance and Operations – *Rob Kendall*

Rob announced some upcoming projects in the community; The trimming at Lake Louise, Ivy removal from trees at Swann Park, and the re-mulching of the playgrounds. Martin commented that the Lake Louise tree trimming has been moved to the fall. There will also be a revised planting bed at Swinburne and Crofton Parkway.

Education Committee – *Hal Sheldon*

Hal commented on his report from last month regarding the reduction of teaching positions in the county. Since then, the county has repurposed unused funding and was able to restore eight teaching

positions. James added that the funding was from a charter school, New Village Academy, which was supposed to open at the Annapolis mall. The mall pulled out of the contract, so the school cannot open. There were several million dollars that were to be used for this project, and those funds have been reallocated for the purpose of adding additional teachers in the county schools. The County Executive has no authority over where the funds go; it is up to the school superintendent.

Finance Committee – *James Kitchin*

James will try to set up a meeting of the Finance committee before the next meeting. He met with Jim and Martin to assist with the tax exemption request, which was filed today.

Public Safety Committee – *Brian Riley*

Brian had nothing to report.

Planning & Zoning – *Marsha Perry*

Marsha attended the Community Association Summit meeting. County Executive Steuart Pittman was in attendance. Marsha reported on GAN representative Pat Huecker's letter to the county. The letter was sent to all GAN members. In summary it reports that in May 2023 through May 2024, county Planning and Zoning has granted 289 modifications of the 471 that were requested. 43 were denied. 10 have been withdrawn. 4 have been suspended. 125 are pending. Martin will scan and distribute to the Board members.

Marsha is meeting with the Greater Crofton Chamber of Commerce regarding upcoming Crofton 60th Anniversary events.

She added that she spoke with the owner of the Nautilus Diner, who verified they are not selling to Sheetz or anyone else.

Martin asked about the Board of Appeals hearing on June 12th for the Route 450 properties. Marsha said there was a low turnout, and she will report more once she receives an update from the meeting.

Police Chief Report – *Chief Jason Jett*

Chief Jett introduced the newest officer, Jon Carrier. He is a thirty-five year veteran of Anne Arundel County Police. Ofc. Carrier introduced himself and spoke about his experience. His last four years on the force was with the Crisis Intervention Team. Before that he was a school resource officer for twenty years. He also worked with Sgt. Sims in Laurel City. He is local to the area and appreciates the opportunity to join the department.

Chief Jett reported on May statistics. There were 432 calls for service, 105 traffic stops, and 181 patrol checks .

Chief Jett authorized Cpl. Gable to operate an impaired driving operation for Cinco de Mayo which resulted in one DUI. There were 4 DUI traffic stops in May.

Chief Jett reported the Crofton police performed two nights of overnight shifts related to the recent wheel thefts in Arrive apartments. There was some suspicious activity noted, but no arrests were made.

He reported on parking concerns in the community. The jet ski and trailer near Crawford Boulevard has been forced to move back from the exit ramp on Crawford Boulevard. The new signage by DPW has been put in place. Additional signage for the other problem areas is delayed, due to the fire damage to DPW's sign shop.

The Chief reported that theft in the Crofton Centre has significantly slowed since they began additional patrols. Beginning July 1, the overtime patrols will be terminated. If there is an increase in thefts and shoplifting, then he will revisit the use of overtime to cover patrolling in the area.

Chief Jett reported on special event coverage. The Crofton police department participated in the Armed Forces/First Responders Parade, the Police Unity Tour, the Summerfest, and the Kiwanis/Team Surlis 5/10K. Upcoming events include the Crofton Pride parade, and the Kidz Fest. He announced he is honored to be a judge in this year's Crofton Pie Bake-off. The Chief and Sgt. Sims both attended the promotion ceremonies for Crofton Elementary School and Crofton Woods Elementary School and wished the 5th graders well as they move on to middle school.

Chief Jett announced that almost all the equipment ordered has arrived. They are waiting on the LPR's (License Plate Readers) which have a ship date at the end of June. There is equipment from Global Safety which also arrives at the end of June. Upon arrival, all equipment can be upgraded in the patrol vehicles.

The Chief announced the department has begun its annual MPTC training and weapons qualifications to maintain all officer's certifications. He is adjusting the officer's schedules to reduce interruptions in service to the community. Training will continue over the next few months.

Hal mentioned the County Executive's announcement which says there is a special program to procure LPR's at a significantly discounted price. The Chief will investigate this program.

The Chief reported that Ofc. Redding has not yet been medically cleared for duty. He has a July 12th visit with his doctor to reevaluate. The Chief would like to open applications beginning in July. He would like to have applicants on deck in case Ofc. Redding is unable to return.

Hal asked if there is a bush hog available for the front property. Martin explained that the property is now maintained by the county Forestry Department. He will contact them about our scheduled maintenance.

Other Business –

Jim asked the Chairs of all sub-committees that require a budget (Recreation, Public Safety, and Maintenance and Operations) to meet with him between July 8th through August 7th in preparations for the FY26 budget.

Citizen Questions or Comments –

Resident LuAnn Dobson asked about the camper with the extension cord hook up over the sidewalk. The For Sale sign is no longer up and the cord is no longer tied down. The Chief said he plans to speak to the resident tomorrow.

She asked about the home on Crofton Parkway by Harcourt. The Chief said there is someone living in this home, without power. He will investigate and report to the County Health department any hazardous conditions. Anna commented that it is the son of parents who have recently passed away. Martin added that there has been a county ticket on this property for quite a while. The county was allowing them additional time for maintenance and repairs given the recent passing of the parents.

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 (July 1 , 2024)

MS/JH/JJ(tg)