



**CROFTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING  
Crofton Elementary School, Crofton  
February 12, 2024 – 7:00 PM**

**Present:**

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

**Staff:** Martin H. Simon, Chief Jason Jett.

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 Winter Farmers Market returns Saturday February 24<sup>th</sup> and March 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Crofton Library. The winter market will continue every other Saturday through April 20, 2024. The market features local and regional foods, crafts, and artwork. See [Croftonfarmersmarket.com](http://Croftonfarmersmarket.com) for details.

February 14, 4:30PM to 8:30 PM, Valentine’s Day Open House, Historic Linthicum Walks, 2295 Davidsonville Road, Gambrills. Tickets \$30. This event was cancelled due to lack of interest.

February 17, 11:00 AM, Author Series featuring Stephanie Verni’s “The Letters in the Books”, Historic Linthicum Walks. Tickets \$10.

Town Hall is closed Monday February 19, 2024, for President’s Day.

February 25, 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM, the Bureau of Watershed Protection's Education & Outreach Coordinator, Sally Albright, will discuss resources available for County residents that support sustainable stormwater management practices, including tax credit incentives for individual residents, the Watershed Restoration Grant Program for nonprofits, and other resources for addressing stormwater concerns in your community. Come find out how you can help reduce pollution in our watershed at Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church, 1657 Crofton Parkway.

Coffee with the Chief – You are invited to have coffee with Chief Jason Jett at 9:00 AM on the morning of Wednesday, February 21st in the Squad Room at Town Hall. This event is limited to the first 12 people to register online at [Croftoncommunity.org](http://Croftoncommunity.org). This is your chance to share your ideas, comments, and concerns in person. If there is a public safety issue in particular that you’d like to discuss with Chief Jett, you can use the registration form to let him know in advance, in case any research is necessary

before the meeting. If this first Coffee with the Chief is well attended, future events will be scheduled and anyone who registers beyond the first 12 people will be given priority for the next Coffee with the Chief.

Free Fire Safety Training – Annapolis Community Emergency Response Team (AAACERT), a 501 (c)3 non-profit focused on educating the public about emergency preparedness and response, has acquired a digital fire extinguisher training system. In coordination with the Fire Department, they have developed a fire safety training presentation and demonstration/training for the community. This 45-minute presentation will be held at the First Baptist Church of Crofton at 1690 Crofton Parkway on Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM and is free to all Crofton residents. The presenter will discuss putting out small fires, and focusing on fire prevention, and safely responding if there is a fire. The training system presents a realistic digital fire that a trainee can “put out” using a fire extinguisher that emits a laser rather than a chemical.

#### Crofton Library Events:

February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM, African American Genealogy.

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM, Beginner Yoga.

February 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM, Crofton Houseplant Club.

The next CCA Board meeting will be Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM, at the Media Center, Crofton Elementary School, 1405 Duke of Kent Drive, Crofton.

The Annual CCA Easter Egg Hunt is March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Crofton Elementary School Field, 1405 Duke of Kent Drive, Crofton. Please arrive by 11:30am as the hunt kicks off promptly at 12:00 PM. The Easter Bunny will be onsite with over 10,000 eggs stuffed with candy and prizes. Rain Date is March 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Annual CCA Cherry Blossom Festival is March 30<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, on Crofton Parkway between Eton Way & Eton Way. There will be food trucks, live music, a community yard sale, kid’s activities, and our own amazing Cherry Blossom Tress along Crofton Parkway. Rain Date is April 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

Martin added an event to the community calendar. On February 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM, at Discoveries, the Library at Annapolis Mall, the Anne Arundel County transportation department will host a public meeting to present the County’s draft Transit Development Plan, a component of the County’s Transportation Master Plan, Move Anne Arundel! This document will serve as the master plan for the transit services the county will implement over the next five years. These include expanded routes, electric vehicles, upgraded facilities, and new micro transit zones. They are looking for public input. You can review and comment on the plan at [aacounty.org](http://aacounty.org).

Martin reported that Town Hall has invested in an on-line training program for all staff. All employees have completed modules on harassment prevention, diversity and inclusion basics, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Martin reported there is a chance CCA Board officers may be required by the County Council to undergo training regarding the Maryland Open Meetings Act. This Bill (12-24) would mandate any civic association that administers a special tax district, such as the CCA, to take an online module offered by the Attorney General's office. If passed it would require compliance within ninety days of being elected to an officer's position: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. He suggests we add this information to the Elections Committee descriptions of officer positions.

Martin and Anna attended the district 7 town hall meeting and voiced support of extending the sidewalk on Route 424 from Staples Corner to Bell Branch Park. It was well received by Councilwoman Leadbetter, and County Executive Pittman. He encouraged residents to comment in support of the project at [budget-comments@aacounty.org](mailto:budget-comments@aacounty.org).

The other important issue that received the most attention at this meeting was support for police. Several officers of the Fraternal Order of Police and Sheriff Sesker pleaded for additional support for County police, and the County Sheriff's Department. There were 34 additional issues discussed including teacher's pay and pickle ball.

Martin reported that he, Sgt. Sims, and Chief Jett gave a tour of the community to two representatives of DPW Traffic Engineering to address long term parking complaints by community residents of commercial vehicles, boats and trailers parked in the community. Chief Jett is providing a list of locations to Traffic Engineering who will create a map with current signage and suggestions on ways to discourage the owners of these vehicles to park and leave their vehicles in the same areas over extended periods of time. Once the plan is completed, the Board will determine how to communicate this to the community. The idea is to implement time restrictions on parking in certain targeted areas. DPW reported they have had success with this approach in other areas of the county. Chief Jett added there are some that can be established immediately. Others are more involved and would take longer.

Martin presented the monthly police overtime report. There were 8.75 hours of regular overtime hours paid. Ofc. Gable used 7.75 hours to handle of two DUI's, and Sgt. Sims used 1 hour for a meeting with the Chief that ran late. There was no overtime paid for special events.

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

Martin reported in Jim's absence. Pre-reconciliation reports for the tax district and the CCA were distributed to Board members before the meeting. There was nothing of consequence to report. Jim pointed out the need to add to the revolving fund to provide for the dry period from July through December.

The report mentions the increase of the unemployment insurance tax rate which has doubled but will go back down next year when a former employee is removed from the "experience calculation."

Jim noted in 2023 new tasers were purchased for the police department. The old tasers were sold to Accredited Security for \$1,985.00.

Jim reported the CCA annual Maryland Property report was filed on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Jim reported that QuickBooks is adjusting the way we use their software. They are forcing consumers to switch to an on-line version which has serious concerns and terrible reviews. He recommends moving to a new software.

The February edition of the E-Advocate has been distributed.

Jim reported the Crofton Salutes Our Heroes program currently has two sponsored banners for veterans in the community and two general banners. There is a third in progress. Information is posted to the website. They will be hung along the parade route from the Country Club to Town Hall.

Jim reported the sponsorship flyers for the Golf Outing have been distributed to the committee. This event will fund the remainder of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events. The Country Club contract has not been finalized.

There were four hundred people who signed up for the Crofton Let's Move Fitness Week. Despite severe weather, the event was popular with the participating businesses.

The Crofton Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the Taste of Crofton event. The February 22nd date was not viable and has been pushed back. A new date is to be determined.

The Easter Egg Hunt and Chery Blossom events have been announced in the E-Advocate. There are currently fourteen participating vendors in the Cherry Blossom Festival.

Stephen asked if clubs can be rented at the golf outing. Martin confirmed rentals are available.

## **Committee Reports**

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

Marsha is waiting on information and had nothing to report until next meeting.

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

Brian did not have anything to report.

### **Finance Committee** – *Renee Speer*

Renee was absent from the meeting and did not provide a report.

### **Recreation Committee** – *Daria DeLizio*

Daria was absent from the meeting and did not provide a report.

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

Chuck reported the next GCC meeting will be held on February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Waugh Chapel Village Commons Community Center. This meeting's topic will be Riedel Road safety concerns. Representatives from County Traffic and Engineering will be present.

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

Stephen reported the committee approved two fences in the R section.

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

Rob had nothing to report.

**Education Committee** – *Hal Sheldon*

Hal is still seeking volunteers to report on local school events.

**Police Chief Report** – *Chief Jason Jett*

Chief Jett reported the January statistics. There were eight hundred eight calls for service, One hundred eighteen traffic stops, and four hundred twenty seven patrol checks.

Chief Jett reported on the criminal activity in the area. Ace Hardware in the Crofton Center continues to experience thefts and assaults on a weekly basis. The Crofton police does patrol this area regularly. The owner has reached out to county police and the Crofton police department requesting in store police support. Given the decrease in police personnel, they are unable to comply. The Crofton police have increased patrols in the shopping center and in store walkthroughs and have added suspect photos to their Facebook page to help identify and file charges on these suspects. He has created a detailed plan to address this situation that he will present to the Board in a closed session.

Chief Jett reported on the car club incident on Sunday morning at 1:00 AM. Approximately two hundred cars blocked the intersection at Route 3 and Davidsonville Road. These vehicles drove erratically on the highway, shutting down all traffic for at least a half hour. These incidents are frequent in industrial parks, around Arundel Mills Mall, and other areas of the County. While not in the jurisdiction of the Crofton police department, these events sometimes spill over into the Crofton Center which is within the jurisdiction of our police department. The Chief has received complaints from residents about this incident. The department will assist county police when requested. The Chief remarked that these situations can be difficult to navigate. The drivers antagonize police by standing in front of police vehicles not allowing them to move and shooting fireworks at them. He will work with County police to develop a plan on dealing with these incidents moving forward.

Chief Jett reported there has been an increase in traffic enforcements as a response to resident complains of motorists in the community exceeding speed limits and ignoring stop signs. There were one hundred twenty-eight citations written last month. Additionally, there were fifty warnings, and two DUI citations. The Chief credits Ofc. Gable for this increase in traffic enforcement.

Chief Jett reported he is investigating grants available for equipment that would be available in June and July of this year. One grant is for updating traffic enforcement equipment. The second is for new firearms. County police and the Sheriff's department are upgrading to new Glock 45's with optics mounted on the sight to improve targeting. Ofc. Gable will oversee these. These should be completed by the fall. The pricing estimate is \$6,000, and current firearms can be returned for a price to offset this cost. Once completed there will be a training and re-certification. This upgrade is important for the department since re-certification can be problematic for older firearms since most agencies cannot certify outdated equipment. The Chief will work with Comptroller on this.

Chief Jett reported there is one viable applicant to fill remaining open position in the police department. He remains cautious since all agencies are in competition due to the current shortage of police officers.

Chief Jett reported that Ofc. Redding's condition is improving, and he is hoping to be medically cleared and back to work by early April.

Chief Jett reported on the Polar Bear Plunge on February 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Chesapeake Bay. The Chief, Sgt. Sims, and Ofc. Gable participated and raised \$1,000 for the Maryland Special Olympics. He plans to make this an annual event. He thanked all who donated.

The Chief asked if anyone has additional parking complaints or suggestions to please contact him or the Town Manager.

The Chief reported there are six participants signed up for Coffee with the Chief. He is looking forward meeting with members of the community.

### **Approval of Minutes –**

The minutes from the CCA General Membership and Board meeting held on January 22, 2024, require approval. There were no additional comments or revisions needed for these previously distributed minutes. The minutes were filed.

### **Other Business –**

Anna stated that she has completed her task of forming the CCA Elections Committee. The Elections will take place on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The committee must have a minimum of five people and a maximum of nine. She was able to recruit seven members: Marisa Holden, Jessica Hood, Shannon Hyland, Nancy Kervin, Mandy McNeely, George Percivall, and Bill Sapero. Anna stated the Treasurer is the one known open Board position. With no additional comments or questions, the Board accepted the formation of this committee.

Marsha asked about the rationale behind the County Council's proposed legislation for the training of Board officers that oversee a special tax district. Martin responded that Shannon Leadbetter will be asking this question at the County Council session tomorrow. Marsha will listen in on this session.

### **Citizen Questions or Comments –**

Resident Susan James commented further on the QuickBooks revised subscription and cloud based program explaining that she has been going through the same issues. She will email Jim. She also asked if there is a way to restrict parking by enforcing measured spaces.

Luann Dodson suggested using the far lot of Country Club for overflow parking. She suggests asking if they would consider renting it to residents to park boats and trailers. Martin will pass that suggestion along to management there. Hal asked if the firehouse still allows trailer parking. Martin said that they only do this on a limited basis. Jason commented that that Crofton Country Club area lot is not well lit and that it may not be that secure. Martin added that during tournaments and Festival on the Green those lots are used and may be difficult to move the vehicles out. She asked about the vehicles parked by the lake entrance. The Chief agrees that it does block the view. He added this was also

discussed with traffic engineering about adding new signage there and is on the list he is providing them.

Stephen mentioned he spoke with one owner of a trailer on the parkway who often has them parked on side of her house where recycle bins and trash cans are. The Chief has spoken to the resident before and believes that traffic engineering can help with this. Anna pointed out that it is a covenant violation to park boats and trailers in driveways. Only personal passenger vehicles are allowed in the driveway. Rob mentioned the area at Swann Park. The Chief said we need to be mindful of where we add signs because it could create problems in other areas. Traffic engineering says if a particular program is not working, it can be changed.

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 (March 7, 2024)*

MS/JH/JJ(tg)