***Town Meeting***

By Rande Davis

**Senior Center Requests Grant**

The commissioners received a request for a supporting grant from Maura Gost, Business Director of Am Kolel Sanctuary Retreat Center, for the Gathering Place, a proposed ecumenical daytime senior center in Beallsville created

to provide activities for senior residents of the Poolesville, Beallsville, Dickerson, and Barnesville communities.

Gost reported that the goal is to establish a center that meets the needs of area residents, aged fifty-five and over. Last spring, the center circulated a survey to gain insight as to what activities and programs have the greatest interests among the residents most likely to use the facility.

With the central purpose to provide a venue for fellowship, they plan to offer, through a series of guest speakers, entertaining as well as educational programs, such as: health, taxes, and history. On the social side, they plan to offer games, cards, and group trips to various venues of interest to participants.

Their October 10 event featured various activities, including: tai chi, sharing of personal stories and histories, and a presentation entitled “Senior Life and Services.”

Area church and civic groups participating in the development of the program include the Odd Fellows, Monocacy Lions, St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Memorial Methodist Church, and Poolesville Baptist Church.

To become fully operational, the Gathering Place has applied for various donations and grants including the request from the town for $2,500. Currently, the organization is working through Am Kolel’s 501(c)3 status until it is able to establish its own charitable taxing status. Demonstrated financial support from the town further enhances the organization’s ability to obtain other grants.

A vote on the request was postponed by the suggestion of Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski so as to have the opportunity to hear from the public regarding support from residents for the program. Those wishing to comment may reach the commissioners through the town’s website.

NB: The writer is a member of the advisory board of the Gathering Place as is Commissioner Jim Brown. Mr. Brown will be recusing himself on the final vote.

**Commissioners Approve Ordinance #187 – Ethics**

In a unanimous vote, the commissioners approved changes to the town’s ethics provision in order to meet new law requirements of the Maryland State Ethics Commission regulating local governments.

**Financial Report**

Town Manager Wade Yost presented a FY2012 First Quarter Financial Report for the period ending September 30, 2012. He reported that revenue in the first quarter was more than in FY2012, but within their anticipation. The town received $474,797 of the projected annual revenue of $2,586,173.

In the category of expenditures, the first quarter report states that there were no out-of-the-ordinary expenditures. Total expenditures were $543,732 of the budgeted annual $1,775,596.

Within the Water/Wastewater (W/WW) budget, revenue was slightly ahead of expectations with $262,479 of the annual budgeted $1,003,000. W/WW expenditures were right where they were anticipated to be for the first quarter. The final cash assets of the town were as follows:

General Fund Account: $160,402

W/WW Account: $55,299

Investment Fund: $2,795,812

Total Cash on Hand: $3,011,513.

Of the total cash on hand, $869,805 remains in unrestricted cash reserves.

**Odds and Ends**

In miscellaneous matters, the town approved Patricia Wolford as an alternate to the Town’s Board of Zoning Appeals.

The commissioners received testimony from C.C. Dietz for a request to open a bed and breakfast in her historical home at Fisher and West Willard Roads. A catch-22 developed as the town requires a fire inspection for use and occupancy for any change of use or ownership; t he conundrum is that Montgomery County no longer provides the category fire inspection requested. For this specific case, inspection requirements will be handled directly through the Fire Marshal.