



# Commissioners of Leonardtown

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J. HARRY NORRIS  
Mayor

LASCHELLE E. MILLER  
Town Administrator

## **Commissioners of Leonardtown** **Town Council Meeting Minutes** **April 14, 2008 ~ 4:00 P.M.**

Attendees: J. Harry Norris, Mayor  
Walter Wise, Vice President  
Thomas Collier, Councilmember  
Robert Combs, Councilmember  
J. Maguire Mattingly, III, Councilmember  
Leslie E. Roberts, Councilmember

Also in attendance were: Laschelle Miller, Town Administrator; Rebecca Sothoron, Town Treasurer; DeAnn Adler, Plans Reviewer; Teri Dimsey, Recording Secretary; Jackie Post, Fiscal Clerk, Dan Burris, LBA; Wayne Davis, W.M. Davis; Gordon Stellway, Realtor; Glen Mattingly, Resident.. A complete list of attendees is on file at the Leonardtown Town Hall.

Mayor Norris called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. After the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Norris proceeded to take up the first item of business.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

The meeting minutes for the March 10, 2008 Town Council meeting were presented for approval.

**Mayor Norris entertained a motion to approve the March 10, 2008 Town Council meeting minutes; Councilmember Mattingly moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Councilmember Collier; no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.**

### **Treasurer's Report – Rebecca Sothoron**

Ms. Sothoron reported that in the packet is the financial information for March 2008. During the month, she transferred \$245,000.00 to the checking account. We are 75% through the budget year. Budget Amendments will be brought forward at next month's meeting for projects that the Council approved.

### **Police Report – Deputy Simonds**

Deputy Simonds introduced his supervisor, Cpl. Frank Fowler.

Deputy Simonds reported that they made the last arrest for the recent property destruction and the investigation was closed. There was a suspicious incident at the Courthouse involving a

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suitcase/suspicious package, which started out as a possible serious situation but was determined not to be an explosive device. We also had a juvenile apprehension/second degree assault that occurred with two students riding a bus in the parking lot of Leonard Hall and one of the juveniles was arrested.

Deputy Simonds stated that he attended a Class A Basic Mountain Bike Certification school in Charles County which was sponsored by LEBA. There are many advantages for utilizing a bike for different operations, as well as the events. He is also involved in Project Lifesaver and is handling only the clients in the Leonardtown area. Two other Deputies handle the north and the south end of the County.

The Cpl. and I visited Goddard Court, the retirement/senior center and met with Cindy Williams. The last two days of April and the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, they will be undergoing major renovations with the parking lot and are working with the fire house for temporary parking.

Mayor Norris thanked Cpl. Fowler for joining them today. Deputy Simonds and I went around to a couple of the business people. I am pleased to say that he handled himself very well, but to have that kind of a presence and to have a Deputy willing to go out and meet with the merchants right away is a big deal. I think that is what community policing is all about, that is a tremendous asset to us.

Deputy Simonds commented that there were a couple of concerns and he will continue to brief Council on how things are going. His presence with his dog Cairo will help a great deal. There are a couple of areas in Leonardtown that we will be keying on such as the concerns that relate to traffic. According to the CompStat Report, one of the hottest areas for traffic complaints/accidents is between the Exxon at Rte. 243 and Rte. 245. A good portion of reported accidents occur when people are coming out of Moakley onto Route 5 attempting to go southbound.

Mayor Norris stated again he and the Council appreciate all they are doing.

**Councilmember Collier moved to close the regular meeting and open the scheduled Public Hearing on Constant Yield Tax; Councilmember Wise seconded; no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.**

## **PUBLIC HEARING – CONTANT YIELD TAX**

### **Mayor Norris opened the Public Hearing on Constant Yield Tax**

Mayor Norris commented that the two public hearings are intertwined but we will address each one separately and asked Ms. Sothoron to explain.

Ms. Sothoron stated that the advertisement required by the State of Maryland appeared on April 2, 2008, in the Enterprise. The constant yield tax rate as determined by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation is .138 for Leonardtown. The proposed tax rate in the recommended budget is fifteen cents per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation and that would generate an additional \$32,371 in real property taxes. The Town tax rate and the fiscal year 2009 budget are scheduled for adoption at today's Council meeting. If the Council chooses to postpone adoption, it must set and announce a new date at today's meeting.

















