

Minutes

Commissioners of Barnesville

Town Meeting

June 16, 2025

9 people attending, including 3 commissioners

Call to Order at 7:32pm

Motion to approve the May minutes, Approved.

Financial Report—in May, the income was greater than the expenses as it has been for the majority of the fiscal year. The discussion focused on the upcoming fiscal year budget. The first priority in FY26 will be to transfer the bulk of the town's savings in the Maryland Local Government Investment Pool in order to earn greater interest than in the current commercial CDs and Savings accounts. The speed camera revenue is expected to be double what was received in FY 2025, however there is no predictability in the date of payment. These funds are earmarked for safety related expenses.

Capital Expenses are budgeted for 20k in FY 2026 and include expenses related to improving town facilities such as town hall and the park.

General expenses were discussed: Administration subcategory with 24k will include clerk, consultants, and other services. The audit, convention, dues, postage, and bay tax expenses are predicted to be similar to last year. The office supply budget was increased in order to purchase new equipment for the office. Professional services are expected to include legal fees and/or other consultation. Facilities maintenance and repairs expenses includes utilities, insurance, ground/exterior maintenance, repairs/replacements, and trash service.

Public Safety expenses will include street lighting, and traffic enforcement, evaluation, and signs. Discussion included the need for additional traffic enforcement patrols, if funds available. A proposal to conduct a traffic study was discussed. The goal of the study would be to provided updated information, the last study was conducted prior to the presence of stop signs in Barnesville. The study would be to determine the timing and volume of traffic, speeds, stop sign violation frequency, and safety in town. The information would be used to determine patrol times and placement, effective location of feedback signs, and effective location of traffic cameras.

Community Engagement expenses will include events and outreach, donations, and new curb appeal grants. The commissioners propose holding more community events with dedicated funds. The curb appeal grant is intended to help residents make improvements to their properties. More details on the application process and requirements will be determined.

Feedback from the community included: asking what is the balance of the town bank account (\$660k +)—how to involve more people in community events, through pro-active communication—options for guest speakers as special events—what is the status of the revised

master plan and how will it be implemented, the commissioners will work with the town attorney to jumpstart work on the plan and if additional funds are needed to implement the plan, they will be available—the master plan is a vision for the board, commissioners, and attorney to identify actionable steps in developing resolutions/ZTAs—a request for greater transparency on funds held in town accounts, traffic violation issued and paid, and resolutions. Motion to approve the FY 2026 budget. Approved.

Committee Reports:

Beautification and Sustainability-no report. A comment: they would like to provide input on the curb appeal grant program.

Board of Appeals—no report.

Capital improvements—no report.

Planning and Zoning—Nominations are open for board members.

The standard term for a planning board member is 5 years and can be renewed upon request. The Town Commissioners are actively soliciting nominations for the planning board for the next two months. Nominees will be introduced during the August town meeting and will be asked to share their goals as a member of the planning board. Appointed planning board members will be required to complete education training course through the state.

Traffic Calming—of the 12 municipalities in Montgomery County with camera monitoring, only Barnesville and Chevy Chase receive revenue. For RSSC patrols in May, there were 113 violations issued in the 30 hours of traffic enforcement. Approximately 40 of those violations were on the weekends, additional patrols will be held on weekends in the summer months. The fastest speed was 70mph on Beallsville Rd, with a traffic stop and 3 violations issued.

Community Connections—Welcome Bags will be put together soon. On June 27th and 28th, the Barnesville history boards and artifacts will be on display in the Town of Poolesville's John Poole House for Heritage Montgomery. Holly Larisch has been coordinating with Heritage Montgomery and the Poolesville Historic Medley to include Barnesville's information at the event. Holly requests assistance in setting up the display and welcomes everyone to attend. Additional town historical materials have become available from town residents. Holly has worked with Julie Soper, Donna Mitchell, and the Menke's to coordinate with Heritage Montgomery and the African American Museum in Frederick. It was recommended that the town hall have a display cabinet(s) for artifacts or materials.

Communications—the town website is being updated. Information and news may be sent to the town clerk.

New Business:

June 26th will be a public hearing with Montgomery County Planning Board on the solar farm project.

Father Kevin of St. Mary's Parish passed away and services will be held at St. Mary's the town will make a donation in his honor.

Motion to adjourn. Approved. 9pm