

Cecilton OKs budget, outlines future

By Adelma Gregory-Bunnell agregory@cecilwhig.com | Posted: Tuesday, June 9, 2015 4:45 pm

CECILTON — The town's fiscal year 2016 budget, which holds the current property tax rate, was unanimously approved by the town council Monday night, while Mayor Joe Zang outlined the future of the town in his "State of the Municipality" address.

While the property tax rate was held at 21.995 cents per \$100 assessed value, the town's utility costs will increase 2 percent in a planned hike to keep up with maintenance costs. The usage rate for water and sewer will increase per quarter to a base (5,000 gallons) of \$132.94 and \$19.86 per unit (1,000 gallons).

The town hookup for water service also increased to \$6,444.12 while sewer service hookup increased to \$10,234.52, for a total of \$16,678.64 per home for utility service. The municipal refuse collection fee will continue to be \$255 per year.

Zang said that the next fiscal year looms like a "a light at the end of the tunnel" for Cecilton.

"Our vision for growth is working," he said. "Parklands at Cecilton has become a reality and with that, we as a town have shown that growth is a requirement for stability, that growth can be beautiful and that growth is the way to help pay for the services we provide for our residents."

Zang also commended the cooperation between the town, county, state and federal agencies working on the Pearce Creek-area water solution in Earleville.

"The Pearce Creek waterline solution is a huge part of what Cecilton is all about," he said. "We have stepped up to an enormous challenge of providing water to an area of our community 7 miles away. We have worked tirelessly on this for over a year and now can say that this is going to happen. The monies are appropriated, the design is all but complete and we will be connecting to over 200 homes in the communities of West View Shores, Bay View Estates and Sunset Pointe to the Cecilton Municipal Water System."

While thanking town employees for a year of hard work, Zang said there is much to be completed in the year ahead. He said the town will be working with Home Partnership Inc., to bring a senior housing complex to Cecilton as well as with the purchaser of Frisby's Meadows to complete the final



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phase of construction in that development. Zang said town officials would also be working with a developer to bring retail services, such as a restaurant, bakery, dry cleaner, drugstore and possibly a boating parts store, to the town's available space.

“Cecilton is once again a thriving small town,” he said.