

PRESS RELEASE/PSA  
For Immediate Publication

Report of the

Calvert Shores Municipality Committee

Public Information Meeting on March 2, 2015

The Calvert Shores Municipality Committee holds a monthly Public Information Meeting on the first Monday of each month in the Chesapeake Ranch Estates' Clubhouse. At each meeting the Committee intends to have speakers that are experts in municipal government or related field.

At the March meeting, Dan Mears, the town manager for La Plata, spoke about the functions a municipality typically performs, including collecting property taxes and franchise fees; providing roads, water and sewer systems, and other amenities; and services such as police protection. La Plata was incorporated in 1888, and updated its charter most recently in 1988; it has about 3,000 homes, which is about three-fourths the size of the proposed municipality of Calvert Shores. Even though La Plata is an incorporated town, it has about 18 home-owner associations (HOAs) that provide services unique to each HOA. Mr. Mears advocated for a council-manager form of government, which focuses policy development on the legislative branch of the municipal government while assuring the residents that a skilled administrator with experience and continuity in municipal administration implements those policies.

Mr. Mears stated that La Plata has a budget of nearly \$6 million, and that about 15% of the budget comes from a municipal tax, and about 25% from commercial taxes. La Plata also obtains income through franchise fees, for example, from television- and internet-cable companies. La Plata operates mostly on a cash basis, with some indebtedness in the form of municipal bonds issued in large part for projects to improve the environment. The town provides roads, water and sewer systems, parks and recreation facilities, and policing, among other services; county and state police officers supplement its police department. Near the end of his presentation, Mr. Mears discussed the tornado that devastated parts of La Plata in 2002, noting that being a municipality was instrumental in gaining direct access to Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and Maryland Emergency Management Administration (MEMA) aid, and obtaining funds to rebuild the town.

The next Public Information Meeting will be on Monday, April 6, at the CRE Clubhouse.

Contact information available at [www.calvertshores.org](http://www.calvertshores.org)