

Minutes for March 6, 2006

The March Town Meeting was held in the Ridgely House on Monday, March 6, 2006 at 7:00 pm. Chuck Hunter, President; Linda Epperly-Glover, Commissioner; Nancy Gearhart, Commissioner; Joe Mangini, Town Manager; Merl Evans, Police Chief; Robin Eaton, Director of Public Works; David Crist, Supt. of Public Works; and Carol Balderson, Town Clerk, were present.

The following folks were also present: Clay Owens-Times Record, John Balderson, Joyce Faulkner, Melvin Faulkner, Elsie Ebling, Rick Schwab, Cathy Schwab, Toby Gearhart, and Al Witkofsky.

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes – February 6, 2006 – President Hunter made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Commissioner Epperly-Glover. Passed.

Treasurer's Report – Clerk reported balances as follows for February – General Fund - \$172,285.89, Sewer Fund - \$171,219.38, and Water Fund - \$54,292.43

Police Report – Chief Evans reported that there were 8 canine deployments leading to 5 arrests with allied agencies. The department received and put into use a launcher, which can be used in a variety of ways for crowd control, etc. The Chief reported there will be an additional \$1000 for overtime through Highway Safety Office.

The ERT was called out on Valentine's Day. There were no incidents.

Public Works Report – Robin reported on projects, meetings, and classes. He said Gary is doing a good job with the skatepark. Robin said the Girl Scouts are interested in planting some flowers.

Water/Sewer Report – David reported 87 days in holding ponds.

Other Board/Commission/Committee Reports – **Parks/Recreation Committee** – Joe reported they are interested in getting utilities out to the Cowbarn Park. Water and sewer may be tied to a development project. They may want to meet with the Commissioners regarding more town involvement with that park.

Planning/Zoning Commission – Toby reported the Commission approved the initial proposal for the Tech Park (infrastructure).

Toby said the largest proposal, the McNomee Farm, looks like Ridgely. The proposed development would continue the grid system with alleys. Garages would be in the back. There would be one large stormwater management pond which may be stocked with fish.

Toby reported that the Cowbarn proposal would give the Cowbarn to the town with 2.3 acres and right of way access to the Little League Park. They would develop the

balance of the parcel. There is a lot to do on this.

Toby also reported that there is a proposal by Chuck Emerson for annexation under consideration.

Joe reported that a new conceptual plan will be needed for the Lister house project since the proposed road is not going to be allowed by SHA.

Toby said everyone is invited to Planning/Zoning meetings. The next one is March 22 at 6:00 pm.

President Hunter commented on development issues. Volunteers and staff are working hard.

Tree Commission – Toby reported that the commission met with DNR regarding developer fees. The town can get funds back for planting trees in town.

Town Manager's Report – Joe thanked department heads for their help with the address. He said he started his walking tour this afternoon – N. Maple Avenue. Joe read the “State of the Town” Address. Copies are available at the Town Office.

Old Business – Commissioner Gearhart made a motion to adjourn to a brief Executive Session concerning personnel (EDC appointments). After a 10 minute Executive Session the Commissioners reconvened the meeting. Commissioner Gearhart said the Ridgely Economic Development Commission can make a huge contribution to the future of Ridgely and its growth. There needs to be economic development to back up residential development. Joe and the Planning Commission are overburdened with the potential residential growth and the Tech Park. She said the commission will need to compile an inventory list of properties available and types of businesses existing and needed. Membership will consist of 5 members; 1 resident, 1 real estate broker, and 3 representing both large and small businesses.

Commissioner Gearhart nominated the following members: John Balderson – 1 year, Woody Woodworth – 2 years, John Guthrie – 3 years, Portia Dunst – 4 years, and Brenda Walls – 5 years. President Hunter seconded the motions. Passed. Joe read Resolution R-3-06 – A resolution of the Commissioners of Ridgely to revise the building construction/inspection fees for the Town of Ridgely. The fee for rental housing inspections be set at \$50 per unit in place of the \$35 presently charged and that it becomes a rental housing registration fee that includes a one time inspection valid for 3 years.

President Hunter made a motion to adopt Resolution R-3-06, seconded by Commissioner Epperly-Glover. Passed.

Commissioner Gearhart reminded Joe that a new letter needs to be sent to landlords. Commissioner Epperly-Glover agreed.

Joe read Resolution R-4-06 – A resolution of the Commissioners of Ridgely to recognize James Kingston. Served on Planning Commission for many years and donated a multitude of his own personal books to be used for the Greater Ridgely Library Project.

President Hunter made a motion to adopt Resolution R-4-06, seconded by Commissioner Epperly-Glover. Passed.
Joe introduced/read Ordinance #286 – Revising the schedule of system development fees. Increases water to \$3000 and sewer to \$5000.
Joe introduced/read Ordinance #287 – An ordinance of the Commissioners of Ridgely to amend Ordinance #279 establishing a Public Safety Impact Fee. Increases fee from \$500 to \$1000.
Joe introduced/read Ordinance #288 – Establishes a parks and recreation/Open Space Development and maintenance fee of \$1000 per dwelling unit.

Payment of Bills – President Hunter made a motion to pay February bills as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Epperly-Glover. Passed.

Town Commissioners Comments – Commissioner Epperly-Glover said she is hearing a lot about Rails to Trails and the caboose and telephone building additions to Railroad Park from citizens. They're excited.

Commissioner Gearhart said March 17 is the deadline for Town Talk articles. She also reported that on February 23 the 4th grade was here for a field trip.

Commissioner Gearhart reminded everyone to check to see if a building permit is needed before doing work and planting trees.

Commissioner Gearhart said the town's website is under construction by Arlene Hege.

Commissioner Gearhart suggested another Visioning Day event in regard to development potential.

After some discussion, it was agreed to hold a Development Meeting on April 29 at 1:00 pm.

Commissioner Gearhart proposed looking for a grant writer on a part time basis. Joe does not have the time to do it.

Joe suggested they discuss this at the Work Session.

President Hunter said he was hammered over tree removal. Feels property owners should be notified before a tree is removed in front of their house.

He also said the Town Election is coming up soon. Need some new people.

He went to the State House and met with Sossi and Pipkin concerning the annexation bill.

Public Comments – Cathy Schwab said they've lived here about a year and are enjoying the town.

Joe announced upcoming meeting dates.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Balderson
Clerk