

## Minutes for October 2, 2006

The October Town Meeting was held in the Ridgely House on the above date at 7:00 pm. Linda Epperly-Glover, President; Nancy Gearhart, Commissioner; Chuck Hunter, Commissioner; Joe Mangini, Town Manager; Robin Eaton, Director of Public Works; David Crist, Supt. of Water/Wastewater; and Carol Balderson, Town Clerk; were present. A list is attached with others in attendance.

**Call to Order** – President Epperly-Glover called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for the school children involved in the tragedy in Nickel Mines, PA.

**Ridgely Volunteer Fire Dept.** – Chief Lou Hayes reported that through September the Fire Dept. ran 559 alerts. That is up about 45%. That does not count the paramedic units. They ran 397 times. As the area grows, so do the calls.

They currently have 15 members in training and have taken in 2 new members.

Over 25% of the department is female. The Hispanic and African American communities are also represented in the department.

They have started a Junior Cadet Program (not firefighters) for students ages 12 to 15. It's a leadership course. They can join the department, they will have advisors, they will have their own program, elect their own officers, and raise their own money. They must maintain a C average.

There is a votech program at MFRI for high school juniors and seniors. They offer everything from EMT to wild land firefighter. (17 elective credits for college)

They are having a teen dance for ages 11 to 15 from 7:00 to 10:00. They must be brought by a parent and cannot leave the building until they are picked up by a parent.

They will be having an Open House on October 21 from 1:00 to 4:00 in front of the Fire House. There will be a Fire Prevention Queen and Little Chief's contest, Sparky and McGruff will be there, fire engine rides, etc.

They are looking into a thermal imaging camera. The low bid is \$12,000.

Thanked the Commissioners for allowing them to do a quarterly report and for including them on meetings with developers.

He and the Deputy Chief attended a Life Safety Conference at Johns Hopkins. One of the workshops they attended was on residential sprinklers. Four counties have a law requiring these in new houses.

The Caroline County Fireman's Assoc. is presenting a plan to the Caroline County Commissioners on October 6 to require sprinklers in new houses.

Ms. Ebling asked about the status of a new fire house.

Chief Hayes said they have the assets, but can't afford a \$2.5 million project. He doesn't see it happening any time soon. The property is paid for. Payments would be about \$15,000 a month.

Jerry Sutton said he played in the golf tournament and it was a wonderful experience.

**Approval of the Minutes** – September 11 Public Hearing and Town Meeting – President Epperly-Glover made a motion to approve the minutes for the Public Hearing and the Town Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Hunter. Passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer reported \$22,206.13 in the General Fund, \$358,947.60 in the Sewer Fund, and \$42,225.57 in the Water Fund. Bills have been presented to the Commissioners for payment approval.

**Police Report** – Chief Evans was not present so Joe gave the report. Officer Mothersell attended and completed a 3-day training reference on Drug Intervention. Officer Carroll attended and completed a 3-day training reference on Child Sexual Assault Investigation and Interview. The Department made several more arrests in September for some older cases that had been closed.

Chief Evans attended the annual Chief's Conference and Training in Ocean City. The Chief and Lt. Creason attended the Chief's Challenge awards event at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel.

Two of our police vehicles are now black and white and the third one is being painted. The Department received notification that the county grant for the Md. Highway Safety Office has again been approved. The minimum amount is \$30,000 (could be more). There have been two citations issued at the skatepark for no helmets.

The Commissioners have asked to do a gang awareness meeting for Ridgely. The Chief needs to know when we want to do that. He's already talked to the presenters. Need to pick a date.

The shooting range is being used by several agencies.

Joe reviewed the written monthly report.

Commissioner Gearhart said there was a group of teenagers who formed a skate group with the original skatepark. If there is anyone interested in attending a meeting (adults and kids) to get a group started, watch for a notice to get organized.

**Public Works Report** – Robin reported on his department's activities in September.

Tree Commission meeting on Sept. 28. The Lions Club is interested in helping with some future plantings. They rode around and looked at some trees.

Lister Estates is winding down. Commissioners should check to see if there is anything they want to see corrected over there to be put on punch list. Let Robin know.

There were only two bids for Third St. Bramble was the low bid and may be able to get in here before the December shutdown.

Tomorrow meeting with someone at Strawberry Ct. to discuss some issues.

Have received a few job applications. This is a replacement position consisting of emptying trash cans on Central Ave., sweeping/maintaining the business district, weed eating parks, railroad area, trash at the parks, mowing grass, etc. Looking for someone who would be interested in getting into water and sewer certification.

**Water/Sewer Report** – David reported that lead and copper test results are back, okay.

Ben starts his classes this week.

Flushed hydrants last week. Had a transformer blow at the plant. Had to have that fixed fast.

49 days holding time in lagoons.

Looking at upgrade options.

**Other Board/Commission/Committee Reports – Economic Development Commission –**  
John

Balderson reported they met last month and went out and looked at the Hayman house. There is

some interest in making it into a conference center or a restaurant. They had some discussion regarding the Business/Technology Park.

They met with some people who want their help and they are trying to get into a position so they can help.

This month they are having a Business After Hours Social. Sunrise Distributing is hosting the social. All town businesses have been invited to attend. The Secretary for the Md. Dept. of Business and Economic Dev. has been invited and their people, the County EDC has been invited; hoping for a good turnout.

Joe said Sunrise Distributing designed and printed the invitations for the social. Having a problem finding a caterer.

**Planning/Zoning Commission** – Joe reported they met on September 27. Approvals were given for a sign permit for Provident State Bank drive-in window and a sign permit for Ridgely Pharmacy. Rob's Quality Car Care is interested in adding on to their business. The owners of the new Ridgely Pharmacy property have requested a minor subdivision so that the house can be broken away from the pharmacy. They will have to come to the Commissioners to get a waiver at some point.

Preliminary site plan approval was given to the Cow Barn property (36 unit town house development). There is still a lot to be done.

They reviewed Ridgeway Estates and the Weese Townhouse Project is sitting on his desk for review.

**Tree Commission** – Leo Stepp said they decided to plant 15 new trees in town with the help of the Lions Club and Scouts.

Skipped to New Business. Joe read Resolution R-07-06 “A Resolution of the Commissioners of Ridgely Extending Appreciation and Thanks to Janice White” for her time serving on the Planning/Zoning Commission, Tree Commission, special writing contributions to the Ridgely Town Talk, and for spearheading and chairing the Ridgely Historical Society.

Commissioner Gearhart made a motion to adopt Resolution R-07-06, seconded by Commissioner Hunter. Passed unanimously.

Joe read Resolution R-08-06 “A Resolution of the Commissioners of Ridgely Extending Appreciation and Thanks to Arlene Hege” for her time serving on the Planning/Zoning Commission, and as chief contributing editor for the Ridgely Town Talk.

President Epperly-Glover made a motion to adopt Resolution R-08-06, seconded by Commissioner Gearhart. Passed unanimously.

These resolutions were presented to Janice and Arlene by the Commissioners with pictures by Clay Owens.

**Town Manager's Report** – Joe reported that the WWTP Sewer Capacity Management Plan is still holding at 4,084 (13/14 homes).

**Weese Town House Project** – Preliminary site plan has recently come in for review.

**Lister Brick House Subdivision – Ridgeway Estates** – Also being looked at at the present time.

Mid Shore Regional Business Technology Park – Bids have been out. Groundbreaking should happen this fall.

Walnut Farms – Still pending.

128 Walnut Street Subdivision – 3 lots – still waiting for preliminary minor subdivision

Cow Barn Town House Project – 36 town houses – need preliminary

Ridgely Park – 400 unit single-family project – First phase to begin hopefully, in a year or two. 100 houses in each phase.

**Municipal Capital Projects** – Sewer/Infiltration/Inflow Project – They are reviewing results of smoke testing. The aim is to complete the engineering this year and start the work next year.

WWTP Upgrade Project – Couple of things going on. 1) Engineers working on plan (about \$9.2 million) for a standard type upgrade. 2) Newfields – Innovative project (\$5 to \$6 million). Aqueonics coming in a little less – a very innovative type project. The State is looking at this. Could be a prototype in the state. It is very environmental. Also could be done rather quickly.

Water Storage Tank – A 500,000 gallon tank is being planned for the Business Technology Park.

New Well – Won't need – just need to get Well #4 on line.

Greater Ridgely Rails to Trails Project – Working directly with the State. Need to get an advisory committee started. Need a reasonably priced consultant. Need names for Work Session.

**Old Business** – Resolution R-6-06 and Ordinance No. 300 – Chuck Emerson Annexation – Needs to be deferred to the meeting on November 6 – Public Hearing.

**New Business** – Consideration of approval for bids on the FY 07 Municipal Street Project – Third Street Renovation.

Joe read the minutes from the bid opening – Two bids received – 1) David A. Bramble - \$160,000 2) Skyline Contracting - \$453,097. URS recommends Bramble.

Not sure if this can be done this fall.

President Epperly-Glover made a motion to approve the Bramble bid, seconded by Commissioner Hunter. Passed unanimously.

Consideration of Approval for the Lease with Global Signal – Joe explained the circumstances with Sprint. We get lease money once a month. Global Signal has taken over the Sprint operation and has offered the town an easement purchase arrangement. Instead of \$1200/month, it would be \$174,000 for 37 years. After reviewing it, recommend approval. The money would be split with the Fire Dept. Part of town money could go for EDC loan funds, and retire some debt or put in general fund reserve.

Commissioner Gearhart made a motion to approve the 37-year lease, seconded by President Epperly-Glover. Passed unanimously.

Designation of Halloween night and time – Halloween will be observed on October 31 with Trick or Treat from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Jerry Sutton said the Lions Club will hold their costume judging and games at the Fire House at 7:00 pm.

**Public Comments** – Al Witkofsky complained about the sidewalk situation on N. Central

where a new house is going up at Lister Estates. The sidewalk has been ripped up for two weeks. This is the route children use to walk and ride bikes to school.

Joe said he talked to them once, will talk to them again.

Commissioner Hunter said he would call the school Supt. of Public Works tomorrow as well.

Cathy Schwab asked if anyone had asked about directional type signs for businesses located off Central Ave.

Joe said no one has come to EDC about it.

Robin said SHA would have to be involved with that.

John Balderson said some people are mowing and blowing it out in the street. Can the Commissioners come up with some resolution to stop this? It looks a mess.

Joe said he will call MML and see if any other towns have anything to cover this.

Al Witkofsky complained again about the September motorcycle ride through town to the Benedictine School. Why do they have to come through town, and why do they get so much cooperation from the police? It's getting bigger and it's noisy.

Commissioner Hunter said the State Police ride with them in both lanes, and there is no warning to the residents that this is happening. It's dangerous.

Cathy Schwab said someone should call the State Police Captain.

Commissioner Hunter said he would call.

Rick Schwab asked about a traffic plan for trucks when the new landfill opens.

Joe said the Town has voiced their concerns about that. The understanding is that truck traffic is going to be directed on the other side of town, not through town.

The second idea is the Town takes over the state roads in town.

Jerry Sutton said on Saturday, October 14, the Lions Club is having a chicken BBQ and yard sale in Martin Sutton Park. The yard sale starts at 7 am and chicken should be ready by 10 am.

**Town Commissioners Comments** – Commissioner Gearhart said the town is trying to promote economic development. Home businesses are part of this and there are quite a few in town. It has been requested that we name alleys.

Some discussion.

Joe said some research needs to be done on this.

Commissioner Hunter reminded folks there is an election coming up in November. Local elections are important.

President Epperly-Glover thanked everyone for coming, appreciate the input.

**Payment of Bills** – President Epperly-Glover made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Commissioner Hunter. Passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gearhart thanked Arlene Hege for her work on the town paper. She also thanked Cathy Schwab, Elsie Ebling, Kim Wold - writer, Michelle Guthrie – Kid's Page, Janice White - History, Lions Club, Missy Gunderson for Girl Scouts, Elementary School, Boy Scouts, and Fire Dept.

President Epperly-Glover read the list of upcoming events.

Joe said the town has gone into a 5-year contract with Strategic Energy; saving about 15%. On October 9 there will be a new face in the Town Office, Sara Wright has been hired as secretary/receptionist.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol A. Balderson, Clerk