

Commissioners of Ridgely

Minutes January 8, 2007

The January Town Meeting was held on the above date in the Ridgely House at 7:00 pm. Linda Epperly-Glover, President; Nancy Gearhart, Commissioner; Chuck Hunter, Commissioner; Joe Mangini, Town Manager; David Crist, Supt. of Water/Wastewater; and Carol Balderson, Town Clerk; were present. Mike Campbell, Clinic Director, Caroline County Mental Health; and Lou Hayes, Chief of Ridgely VFD; were here along with residents on the attached list.

President Epperly-Glover opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our service men and women.

Chief Hayes reported on Fire Department activities as follows: They ran 1019 alerts for the year. Ridgely ran 493 ambulance calls plus Caroline County assists.

They have 8 new members, 7 of which are ladies serving as firefighters and medical personnel. 9 members will start training next month. Members have taken 3880 hours of training this past year.

The Fire Department applied for a grant of \$24,000 to replace large hose.

Chief Hayes reported the new president is Rick Baker.

Mike Campbell, Clinic Director, Caroline Co. Mental Health, spoke about the program. He started working with Caroline County in 1988. At that time they served 250 to 300 clients on a regular basis. They now have 900 to 1,000 clients. (110 of these have a Ridgely zip code.) The Clinical Staff has basically doubled since 1988, from 5 to 10.9 F-T-E. FY 2006 ended with a \$10,000 deficit. The Clinic is taking steps to help reduce costs. Presentations are being made to the various towns and civic organizations.

Approval of the Minutes – December 4, 2006 and December 18, 2006 (Special Meeting) – Commissioner Gearhart made a motion to approve the December minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Hunter. Passed.

Treasurer's Report – The Clerk-Treasurer reported the December General Fund balance at \$21,868.75, Sewer Fund balance at \$344,563.06, and the Water Fund balance at \$42,781.77. December bills submitted for payment approval.

Commissioner Hunter made a motion to pay the bills as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Gearhart. Passed.

Police Report – Joe gave the Police Report in the absence of Chief Evans. 1) Christmas time is know for the time for domestic type incidents, only 2 were reported this year. 2) The State's Attorney's office has decided that the group they were using to handle bad checks is not working out so Ridgely Police Dept. will again be getting all the summons to serve and the additional reports. 3) RPD is very proud of the fact that our range is being requested and being used by some very special people. During the past several weeks the U.S. Pentagon Federal Police have been here doing a sniper school for the FBI and NCIS. They like ours better than the one at Fort Meade. 4) All required training for the past year has been completed so we have no catch up as in past years. 5) Lt. Creason is still out and still doing radiation and chemo. It's still unknown if, or when, he will be able to return. We are hopeful, and he is in our thoughts. 6) Some of the stat numbers

are down but that's just due to being short-handed. The year-end numbers are all where they should be. 7) The old dog car has now been put back in service as our spare vehicle. All others are running fine and are in good shape.

Public Works Report & Water/Sewer – David Crist reported on activities. He asked about taking down the Christmas lights, when? Commissioners said anytime since colored lights are gone.

He also explained the problems with getting water meters read (interrogator is not working). Another interrogator has been ordered but is not here yet; wait, or estimate? Commissioners and Joe said wait another week.

Other Board/Commission/Committee Reports – **Economic Development Commission** – John Balderson reported that they discussed empty store fronts and are waiting to get the revolving loan fund started.

Planning/Zoning Commission – Joe reported that Ridgeway Estates received final approval with conditions. Ridgely Park – Working on Developer's Rights and Responsibilities Agreement.

Ridgely Historical Society – Cathy Schwab reported they talked about selling bricks to be placed in Railroad Park (memorial bricks).

Town Manager's Report – Joe reported the WWTP Capacity Management Plan shows a remaining capacity of 44,459 ga. on January 1, 2007.

Joe reported on Development Projects. He said the Weese Project needs a Public Works Agreement worked out. Jack Hall has this now.

Joe said the Planning Commission suggested hiring a consultant to review the Dev. Rights and Responsibilities Agreement for Ridgely Park.

Commissioner Gearhart suggested checking with Peter Johnston for recommendations. Joe explained that the costs would be paid by the developer plus 15% (includes Town Attorney and URS).

Commissioner Gearhart made a motion to notify the developer and make contacts for firms/individuals to contact as consultants, seconded by Commissioner Hunter. Passed. Joe reviewed the Municipal Capital Projects and the Municipal Grant Proposal/Projects Update.

Joe reported Ridgely was founded on May 13, 1867. This year will be the 140th anniversary and a celebration is being planned.

Old Business – Joe presented a list of folks to serve on the Greater Ridgely Rails to Trails Advisory Committee: Jerry Sutton, Parks/Rec.; Janice White, Historical Society; Leo Stepp, Tree Commission; Robin Eaton, Director of Public Works; Nancy Gearhart, Town Commissioner; John Balderson, EDC; and someone from Planning/Zoning (TBA). Ex Officio Members would be Sue Simmons, Caroline Co. Director of Parks/Rec., and Joe Mangini, Town Manager.

President Epperly-Glover made a motion to accept these recommendations – Discussion.

Commissioner Gearhart asked if all these folks had been contacted.

Commissioner Hunter said need a list of goals and amendments.

Commissioner Hunter seconded the motion with amendments. Passed.

It was agreed that the first Rails to Trails meeting would be held on January 29 at 7:00 pm.

New Business – Joe reported Resolution R-01-07 is “A Resolution of the Commissioners of Ridgely to Renew the Town of Ridgely’s Urban Renewal Line of Credit” (\$100,000). President Epperly-Glover made a motion to adopt Resolution R-01-07, seconded by Commissioner Hunter. Passed.

Joe read Resolution R-02-07 “A Resolution of the Commissioners of Ridgely to Establish a Local Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund”. This fund is to be established with Mercantile Eastern Shore Bank in the initial amount of \$25,000.

President Epperly-Glover made a motion to adopt Resolution R-02-07, seconded by Commissioner Hunter. Passed.

Joe said a letter was received from RVFD for permission to hold an Annual Motorcycle Awareness Day. The first to be held on June 9, 2007. This would include a Motorcycle Parade and Fun Day; food, bike show, burnouts, etc. in Martin Sutton Park. To conclude with DJ, etc. on Fire Dept. lot.

Commissioners approved event.

Joe read a letter received from Brenda Walls of Ridgely Pharmacy regarding community activities events proposals: Easter Egg Hunt downtown, Art in the Park, and Photo-Post Card Contest.

Jerry Sutton said the Lions Club has an annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Public Comments - Jerry asked that a Commissioner or Joe come to a Lions Club meeting to talk about park renovations.

Cathy Schwab asked about the airport project. Is there an airline offering anything to the Town? Need to check this out.

Commissioner Gearhart said this is a county project. Delta did the study.

Joe suggested they invite someone involved with the project to the February meeting. Agreed.

Commissioner Gearhart made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for personnel issues at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Balderson
Clerk