

## Commissioners of Ridgely

### Special Meeting

June 28, 2007

There was a Special Meeting held on the above date at 7:00 pm to consider Ordinance No. 303 (changed to 304) for adoption of the FY 2008 Budget. Nancy Gearhart, President; Chuck Hunter, Commissioner; Linda Epperly-Glover, Commissioner; Joe Mangini, Town Manager; and Carol Balderson, Town Clerk; were present.

**Call to Order** – President Gearhart called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

**Purpose of the Special Meeting** – President Gearhart said the purpose of the meeting was to approve the budget and set the tax rate.

**Consideration of Ordinance No. 303** – President Gearhart read: “An Ordinance of the Commissioners of Ridgely to Adopt the Town of Ridgely’s General Fund, Water/Sewer Fund Enterprise Funds Operating and Capital Improvement Projects Budget and To Establish the Real Property and Personal Property Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2008.”

President Gearhart presented the following items for approval/disapproval:

- 1) **Trash Removal Contract** – 2 years – President Gearhart made a motion to approve this contract for 2 years at \$6.50/residential and \$25/commercial dumpster, seconded by Commissioner Epperly-Glover. Unanimously passed.
- 2) **Water/Sewer Rate Analysis Proposal** – Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to do in-house study now (outside one later if necessary for grants, etc.), seconded by Commissioner Hunter. Unanimously passed.
- 3) **Proposal for the Contractual Planning & Zoning Services with Peter Johnston and Associates** – President Gearhart made a motion to accept the initial proposal for \$5,000 to do the initial Comp Plan. If the water and growth elements are added it may be more than that. When this amount is expended it will have to come back to the Commissioners for additional funding, seconded by Commissioner Epperly-Glover. Unanimously passed.
- 4) **The Hayman Farmhouse** – To be discussed later.
- 5) **URS Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Engineering Services** – President Gearhart made a motion to approve that proposal in the amount of \$107,000, seconded by Commissioner Hunter. Unanimously passed.
- 6) **Loan for Street Work** – President Gearhart said the proposal was to take out a loan for \$250,000. We now owe \$150,000 for work on Third Street. Joe said he still feels a \$250,000 line of credit is the way to go. President Gearhart made a motion to take out a loan for \$150,000, seconded by Commissioner Hunter. Unanimously passed.
- 7) **Web Site** – President Gearhart asked about E-Code for Town Code. Original price was \$995 for new setup and \$550/yr. after that for maintenance. She said we need to pay the webmaster and she suggested \$100/mo. for the first six months after the site is up, and \$250/mo. for the last six months.

President Gearhart made a motion to increase the line item for Web Site Maintenance from \$1,000. to \$5,000., seconded by Commissioner Epperly-Glover. Unanimously passed.

- 8) Salary Increases – President Gearhart made a motion to increase the police officers' salaries (5 officers) by 7%, seconded by Commissioner Hunter. Unanimously passed.

President Gearhart made a motion to increase the salaries for Police Chief, Police Lt., and other employees (with the exception of the Town Manager) by 5%, seconded by Commissioner Hunter. Unanimously passed.

- 9) Commissioner Hunter asked Joe if they could review his contract before October. Joe agreed.

Commissioner Hunter made a motion to increase the Town Manager's salary by 5% pending early contract review, seconded by Commissioner Epperly-Glover. Unanimously passed.

The Commissioners agreed that cars will stay as they are for now.

President Gearhart made a motion to lower the real property tax rate to \$.51/\$100, seconded by Commissioner Hunter. Unanimously passed.

President Gearhart made a motion to hire an Administrative Assistant to Joe on a contractual basis for one year with pay up to \$40,000, seconded by Commissioner Hunter. Unanimously passed.

President Gearhart said about \$12,000 of that salary can come from the difference in personnel salaries (7% to 5%). \$10,000 can come from the General Fund difference of \$14,323. There is about \$9,000 more in the property tax (\$.50 to \$.51). \$5,000 can come from the Water Fund and \$5,000 from the Sewer Fund.

The July Town Meeting will be held on July 3 at 7:00 pm. The July Work Session will be held on July 12 at 7:00 pm.

President Gearhart made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 pm, seconded by Commissioner Epperly-Glover.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Balderson  
Clerk