

Commissioners of Ridgely

Minutes June 4, 2007

The June Town Meeting was held on the above date in the Ridgely House at 7:00 pm. Nancy Gearhart, President; Chuck Hunter, Commissioner; Linda Epperly-Glover, Commissioner; Joe Mangini, Town Manager; David Crist, Supt. of Water/Wastewater; Merl Evans, Police Chief; and Carol Balderson, Clerk/Treasurer; were present.

The following invited guests were present: Herman and Portia Dunst, David Redgraves (and parents – Mike and Mary Redgraves), and Lindsey McCormick.

The following citizens were also present: Chastity Crist, John Balderson, Cyndi Dashiell, Ted Wold, Kim Lorence, David Hege, Arlene Hege, Janice White, Byron Downes, Bill Moore, Leo Stepp, and Elsie Ebling. Times Record was also present.

Call to Order – President Gearhart called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence in honor of those who have given their lives for our country.

Opening Comments - President Gearhart thanked everyone who contributed to the Strawberry Festival. It was a beautiful day. The Chief estimated 6,000 people in town.

Introduction of Invited/Requested Speakers – President Gearhart introduced Herman and Portia Dunst, Managers of Medifast Distribution – Their business has been very successful in Ridgely. They hire more people than any other single business in town (100). Last year they were fourth in growth in the State of MD in the stock market. They do a lot for our town. They also participate in some of the commissions in Ridgely.

President Gearhart presented them with a framed Town Seal.

Herman Dunst said they started about 3 ½ years ago with 11 employees and now have 100. They are talking about expanding another 50,000 sq. ft. They are a public traded company and last week they signed on Genie Francis (Hollywood star) as their spokesperson. He thanked Joe and the Town employees and Commissioners for helping them get started here. He expressed gratitude to the Police Dept., always there when needed, as well as the Fire Dept.

President Gearhart introduced David Redgraves. She read Resolution R-03-07 “A Resolution by the Commissioners of Ridgely to Recognize David Redgraves for His Becoming An Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America”.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to adopt Resolution R-03-07, seconded by Commissioner Hunter. Unanimously passed.

The Resolution and a town mug were presented to David.

Commissioner Gearhart introduced Lindsey McCormick, who was voted Teacher of the Year for Caroline County. She read Resolution R-04-07 “A Resolution of the Commissioners of Ridgely to Recognize Lindsey McCormick of the Ridgely Elementary School for being Selected as Caroline County’s Teacher of the Year 2007-2008”.

Commissioner Hunter made a motion to adopt Resolution R-04-07, seconded by Commissioner Epperly-Glover. Unanimously passed.

The Resolution and a town mug were presented to Mrs. McCormick.

Approval of the Minutes – May 7, 2007 Regular Meeting – Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Commissioner Hunter. Unanimously passed.

May 21, 2007 – FY08 Budget Hearing – Commissioner Hunter made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Commissioner Epperly-Glover. Unanimously passed.

Treasurer's Report – Clerk reported a General Fund balance of \$164,189.01, Sewer Fund balance of \$299,429.78, and Water Fund balance of \$43,710.69.

A bill list was presented to the Commissioners.

Police Report – Chief Evans presented the monthly report to the Commissioners. He reported that Lt. Creason is back to work; and that the Strawberry Festival went well with no problems.

Public Works Report & Water/Sewer Report – David Crist reported that the crew spent the month of April getting ready for the Strawberry Festival.

Third Street paving is done.

David reported he has a meeting next week with a representative to get Well 4 done.

Other Board/Commission/Committee Reports – EDC – John Balderson reported there was no meeting in May. The next meeting will be held on June 13. He has been informed that Mr. Brodie is preparing to put a Day Care in the old New Roads building, and is working on the Rt. 480 project.

John also reported that there are some issues with 2 of the Commission members. They have been here sporadically—Wed. night does not suit them, but it does suit the other members.

Parks/Recreation Athletic Field Advisory Committee – President Gearhart said there will be another meeting next week. Still putting figures together to come up with the total plan to include a snack shack with restrooms, a playground, and one more field. Then they will pursue grants.

Planning/Zoning Commission – Joe reported they met on May 30. There were several building permits approved. The major order of business was the review of the concept plan for the shopping center to be located between the cemetery and Quality Car Care. There were several folks here from the Cemetery Assoc. The Commission approved the concept plan. Presently, it is going to include a drive-in on each end. There was a discussion of a fence being put up by the developer and a buffer all around the property. The Commission also talked with Shane Johnston of Redman/Johnston. Looking for a proposal from them for assistance with development plans and updating the Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Regulations, and Design Guidelines.

Tree Commission – Leo Stepp said they had a short meeting on May 31. They discussed 29 trees in Lister Estates. There won't be any more meetings until September.

Rails to Trails Advisory Committee – Joe said they met on May 17. He briefed them on the change in the State Grant. \$200,000 can be used to hire someone, construction, etc. That amendment is on its way back to us.

There is a lot of interest in the caboose.

Ridgely Park will undertake the trail from Cow Barn to N. Maple. The next meeting will be held on June 11. Sylvia Ramsey from SHA will be here. She will talk about the easement situation.

Ridgely Historical Society – Janice White reported they won a trophy for the Best Appearing Float in the Strawberry Festival Parade.

The engraved brick project is going very well.

Town Manager's Report – Joe said the Town has received three letters regarding the FY08 Budget. At some point they should be read into the record.

WWTP Sewer Capacity Management Plan – Commissioners have copies.

Development Projects – Joe reported the Weese Town House Project, Ridgeway Estates, and Walnut Farms have Public Works Agreements pending. They will be given to the Planning Commission for review at the same time as Commissioners. Should schedule for approval on July 2.

The DRRA for Ridgely Park has been signed. There are approved amendments to that. Our Town Attorney said the original Ord. 303 which adopted the DRRA needs to be amended/replaced with Ord. 305 which is on the agenda tonight for consideration.

Municipal Capital Projects – Joe reported that we are now in the midst of our WWTP Upgrade. Plan to continue with spray irrigation and to increase capacity to 300,000 gpd. All costs will be paid for by Ridgely Park.

Water Storage Tank – Joe reported there is an issue with the County to be resolved.

The painting of the Ridgely House is almost completed.

Joe wants the Commissioners to approve an engagement letter from Municipal Services Group to perform a rate analysis study for water and sewer rates. They are not tied to the state or the county. The fee is \$5,000.

Mr. Redgraves complained that Seward Rd. is in bad shape from the placement of the infrastructure for the Tech Park.

Joe said the Town will call the County. It is a County project.

Bill Moore said the hedge needs trimming at the Lister house. Can't see when you come out.

Joe said a call will be made tomorrow

Mr. Moore also reported the County knocked out a light pole. His wife called Chuck Emerson.

New Business – Ordinance No. 305 – “An Ordinance of the Commissioners of Ridgely Approving the Ridgely Park Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreement Between the Town of Ridgely and Ridgely Investments”.

Joe said Ord. 303 needs to be repealed. Ord. 305 includes all the changes in the DRRA. Commissioner Hunter made a motion to adopt Ord. 305, seconded by President Gearhart. Unanimously passed.

Resolution R-05-07 – “A Resolution of the Commissioners of Ridgely to Participate in the Alternate Contributory Pension Selection Plan of the State Retirement Agency of Maryland”.

Joe reported the Md. General Assembly has approved, and the Governor has signed legislation establishing this plan. This increases the contribution from the employees

considerably. The Town's portion will increase by about 1% of the salary. The benefit to the employee will be an increase of about 30%.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to adopt Resolution R-05-07, seconded by Commissioner Hunter. Unanimously passed.

Town Commissioners Comments - President Gearhart said they received a request from Caroline Cruisers for a fall car show in the park. They have contacted the Lions Club about participation as a food vendor. She suggested they contact the Fire Dept. as well. Up until last year they had a Fall Fest together.

President Gearhart made a motion that they contact RVFD as well, seconded by Commissioner Hunter. Unanimously passed.

Joe will send a letter.

President Gearhart acknowledged a letter from the Little League requesting a donation. She suggested they wait to see what happens with the park grants, etc.

Commissioner Hunter made a motion to hold off on the donation until they see what happens with grants, seconded by President Gearhart. Unanimously passed.

Kim Lorence said she was glad to see a Town Booth at the Strawberry Festival.

Commissioner Hunter said he was not aware of the costs for the town mugs and banners.

Joe said he notified all the Commissioners by email about the mugs and asked for approvals to order. They were not ordered until he got the okay.

Joe said the banner for the 140th Anniversary was requested by the Ridgely Historical Society. The veterans banner was requested by one of the veterans to President Gearhart.

Arlene Hege said the parade was very nice but needed some music.

Some discussion on this.

President Gearhart reviewed the list of announcements of upcoming events/meetings.

The Tourism Council is back up and going. If anyone is interested in that let President Gearhart know.

Ted Wold asked if anyone could attend the MML Convention.

Joe will forward information to him.

Payment of Bills – Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to pay the bills as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Hunter. Unanimously passed.

Commissioner Hunter thanked everyone who has sent him emails and letters about the budget process. It will not be finalized until the end of June.

Meeting adjourned to Budget Work Session at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Balderson, Clerk

