

## Unapproved

### Commissioners of Ridgely

#### Minutes November 3, 2008

The November Town Meeting was held in the Ridgely House on the above date at 7:15 pm (following a Public Hearing). Chuck Hunter, President; Linda Epperly-Glover, Commissioner; Kathy Smith, Commissioner; Joe Mangini, Town Manager; Robin Eaton, Director of Public Works; David Crist, Supt. of Water/Wastewater; Joanne Stepp, Admin. Asst.; Merl Evans, Chief of Police; Carol Balderson, Town Clerk; and attached list of residents were present.

**Call to Order** – President Hunter called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our service men and women.

**Approval of the Minutes** – October 6, 2008 – President Hunter made a motion to approve the minutes of October 6, 2008 as written, seconded by Commissioner Epperly-Glover. Approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer reported a General Fund balance of \$170,719.03, Sewer Fund balance of \$25,762.12, and Water Fund balance of \$7,503.60.

**Police Report** – Chief Evans reported there have been pharmacy robberies all over the tri-county area. Most are not related.

There was a home invasion in the Greensboro area and two of the suspects were detained by our officers here in town, both Ridgely residents.

There was an armed robbery yesterday at NCHS, drug related. The two suspects were arrested by our officers here in town—one of which is a Ridgely resident.

Halloween again this year went well with no Halloween related incidents—no eggs, soap, etc.

There was a theft of three dune buggy type vehicles on October 30. They were recovered at 6:45 am and stored. The victim did not even know they had been stolen until the police found out who the victim was and advised him. They now have three suspects in the case.

There were 6 adult arrests, 2 juveniles, 5 drug, 1 DUI, 18 traffic citations, and 62 warnings.

They will be watching the election results closely in regard to the threat of activity depending upon who wins and/or loses the election.

Commissioner Smith asked again about curfew enforcement. She said she spoke with Jonathan Newell.

Chief Evans said what do you do when you pick up a juvenile for a curfew violation, parents won't come get him, and there is one officer working and he gets another serious call.

Cathy Schwab asked about loitering.

President Hunter said they investigated this a while back. The problem was getting it to stick in court. He said they need to call Jonathan Newell and see what he says.

Nancy thanked the Police Dept. for escort service for her father's funeral.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover commended the Police Dept. for a quiet Halloween.

**Public Works Report** – Robin reported on department activities. The crew has completed street tree trimming; alleys in process. Getting some barrels for trash. Bramble is expected in here to do street work the third week in November, if the weather holds; if not it will be early in the spring and the price will remain the same. The state is trying to get some work done before they get hit with budget cuts. Electric service upgrade (Choptank) for the WWTP is scheduled for the same week. Robin reported that he and David attended a tree class on October 16 in Westminster. He has info on disk so that it can be shared with the Tree Commission.

He talked about some pump issues at the Tech Park.

Working on Tree City info and completed the roads report. Should be getting something from the county soon on the transition for Seward, Hog Lot, and Racetrack Rds.

Robin reported he had been working on progress meetings: got Lister Est. punch list taken care of, there are some Bell Street Pump Station issues with Ridgeway, and the plaza on 480.

Commissioner Smith questioned his plan to pave Oak St. when it is in the DRRA for Ridgely Park to do.

Robin said he wanted to do it a couple of years ago; he doesn't think the street will make it. He said it will be two years probably before they come. Maybe we could get a separate bill for Oak St. and get reimbursed.

Joe recommended Robin check with Bramble to see if we could get the other streets done this fall and wait until spring for Oak St.

**Water/Sewer Report** – David Crist reported that there is 119 days holding capacity in the lagoons. DMR Q&A Study came back from EPA. We passed all parameters.

He reported on other department activities.

**WWTP Upgrade Update** – 1) Irrigation rigs A and D have been taken down and are being stored at the WWTP. 2) All electric controls have been unhooked for both systems. 3) Most of the existing lines have been marked and located. 4) Ready to start on Zone 4 as soon as the silt fence is put in place.

**Other Board/Commission/Committee Reports** – **EDC** – John Balderson reported there have only been two businesses respond for the Business Social on November 12 at 7 pm. Nancy asked if anyone checked with the new day care to see how they were doing.

Joe reported there are 10 children, she has received her first check, and an open house is planned around the end of the month.

Joe said the Dept. of Business and Economic Dev. is interested in putting some money into the project.

**Planning & Zoning** – Martin Sokolich reported they had a meeting on October 22 and finalized the operating agreement with Cyberridge.

They discussed the two ordinances that were discussed at the Public Hearing tonight. There were two sign permits for small businesses on 6<sup>th</sup> St. A permit was approved to replace steps and sidewalk on Railroad St., a tax credit was approved for a home on Central Ave.

They heard that they would soon have the information to sign off on the Comprehensive Plan – land use element, etc.

Nancy asked when the fence between the cemetery and Subway would go up.

Joe said they are allowed a reasonable amount of time to do this.

Martin said there were questions about the fence height.

Some discussion on the fence.

Rails to Trails – Joe reported this has not been scheduled for the Board of Public Works yet. The rails are to be removed by the state (that is in the lease agreement). JOK Walsh wants to preserve the rails between Central Ave. and Park Ave. The construction plans are completed and changes would take more time and money. Some discussion.

Ridgely Historical Society – Nancy reported they talked about the Cow Barn Event they had and the Holiday Celebration here. Some of them are planning to dress up and be greeters, they are hoping for a train display. The Christmas balls this year will be Mr. Ridgely himself.

Rick Schwab said they made over \$800 at the Cow Barn Event. They had an original water color picture donated and they are doing raffle tickets 6/\$5 or \$1 each.

Jerry Sutton said the Lions Club now has a web site – [ridgelylions.org](http://ridgelylions.org).

President Hunter made a motion that the town pay the \$100 charge for the portapottie at the Cow Barn Event, seconded by Commissioner Smith. All approved.

Commissioner Smith asked if the Historical Society got involved in the renovation of historic buildings.

Nancy said they have not been physically involved.

Commissioner Smith said she would like to see their involvement with the renovation of the train station.

Town Manager's Report – WWTP Sewer Capacity Management Plan – Joe reported there is about 38,000 gallons left.

The MDE funding application was completed and submitted.

Joe reported the town resolved the issue with the Caroline Co. Tech Park – 36,000 gals. will be reserved for Phase II in the second part of the WWTP Upgrade where we will go from 200,000 gals. to 300,000 gals. which would accommodate the remaining portion of Ridgely Park.

Development Projects – No movement except for the Tech Park, as discussed. There is a Progress Meeting here tomorrow.

Municipal Capital Projects – Joe reported the county is probably going to let us have  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre for a water storage tank. Perhaps that project could begin next year.

Joe reported he called Blades Construction in regard to the Municipal Public Safety Facility. Has not heard back from them yet.

The gazebo has been completed in Martin Sutton Park.

Municipal Grant Proposal/Projects Update – Joe called the Secretary at DBED and has not heard back regarding the loan fund.

Have been approved for funding of the 2008 Coastal Communities Grant for P/Z work.

Other Pending Issues – 1) Carriage House and 2) there is going to be a closed Executive Work Session of the Commissioners on Thursday, November 6 at 7:00 pm here at the Ridgely House to receive input from the Town Manager in regards to plans and proposals to consider revisions to the town's FY 09 budget.

Commissioner Smith asked where they were with the façade easement for the Cow Barn. Joe reported it should be done in time to go to P&Z in November (19).

**Old Business** – Ordinance No. 315 – “An Ordinance of the Commissioners of Ridgely Amending the Town of Ridgely’s Zoning Ordinance” – Joe read the ordinance regarding the “front” yard setback in the Airport/Tech Park zoning district.

President Hunter made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 315, seconded by Commissioner Epperly-Glover. Unanimously passed.

Ordinance No. 316 – “An Ordinance of the Commissioners of Ridgely Amending the Town of Ridgely’s Zoning Ordinance” – Joe read the ordinance regarding repealing Ordinance No. 242.

President Hunter made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 316, seconded by Commissioner Epperly-Glover. Unanimously passed.

Consideration of Re-Appointment of Herman Dunst to the Ridgely Ethics Commission for a three (3) year term – Commissioner Smith asked what needed to be done to submit other names for this position.

President Hunter said have them submit in writing and they will hold this until the next meeting.

The Carriage House – President Hunter said the Town Attorney has recommended a formal motion for this. Commissioner Smith received a letter from the developer regarding the \$7500 payment (up front) to pay for moving this building. Commissioner Smith made a motion to move the Carriage House to a temporary location on Mrs. Dorr’s property.

President Hunter asked her to amend her motion to include: “that if this project is to continue and succeed it must be accomplished with, and when, grant funds are available and obtained, or donations are received from other sources other than additional Ridgely municipal funds”.

Commissioner Smith amended her motion to include that no additional Town of Ridgely general fund money is to be spent on any future rehabilitation or renovation of the Carriage House. If this project is to continue and succeed it must be accomplished with, and when, grant funds are available or donations are received from other sources other than additional Ridgely municipal funds. President Hunter seconded the motion.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover opposed. Motion passed.

Joe went back to the Ethics Board nomination. He said in the past, when an individual has been serving on a commission, and has been inquired about it and wants to be reappointed, the normal thing has been that the commissioners have reappointed that individual. If there are other people who are interested in serving, there are other commissions and committees to get involved in. We have an individual who for two months has stated that he would like to be reappointed, and he feels it is disrespectful to him to hold this off. The policy has been in the past that if the name is brought up, unless there is something dramatically wrong, or some concern, that the individual would continue for at least another term.

Commissioner Smith submitted Betty Jean Mumford and Kim Wold for Ethics Commission.

Some discussion on the selection process.

Joe pointed out that the Ethics Board was given staggered terms and Mr. Dunst had only served one year.

President Hunter made a motion to reappoint Herman Dunst to the Ethics Board, seconded by Commissioner Epperly-Glover. Passed.

**Public Comments** – Eddie Vance said St. Lukes UMC in Denton is the host site for the Thanksgiving Dinner. It will be held Thanksgiving Day. Folks can eat there or have it delivered to their homes. There is no charge for it.

Chief Evans said since he has been in Ridgely he delivers 50+ dinners every year in this area.

Nancy said the “Live Nativity” will be held again this year on the Carroll lot next to Town Hall on Dec. 13 from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. She asked for permission to have a reception in the Ridgely House afterward.

Nancy also asked for an updated budget to go on the web site.

Nancy asked if the employee job descriptions have been done yet.

Discussion on Veterans’ Day holiday, close on Monday, Nov. 10?

Al Witkofsky said that is a very important day and should be observed on “the day”.

Mr. Witkofsky said he was disappointed to read in the paper about the financial problems the town is having. He said it was upsetting to read in the paper that one of the solutions was to reinstate a trash fee. Residents should not be expected to pay for this—the hurt needs to start here.

President Hunter said it will start here. It’s not going to be laid on the doorstep of the citizens. There are only so many ways things can happen; you have to cut expenditures, you have to cut staff, and increase revenues.

President Hunter made a motion to pay the bills as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Epperly-Glover. Passed.

President Hunter reminded folks that they can email or call in their budget concerns.

President Hunter made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 pm, seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Balderson  
Clerk

