

Commissioners of Ridgely

Minutes March 16, 2009

The March Town Meeting was held at the Ridgely House on the above date at 7:00 pm. Chuck Hunter, President; Linda Epperly-Glover, Commissioner; Kathy Smith, Commissioner; Joe Mangini, Town Manager; Robin Eaton, Director of Public Works; Chuck Creason, Acting Police Chief; Linda Evans, Exec. Director of Hospice; Dan Divilio, Times Record; and Carol Balderson, Town Clerk; were present.

The following residents were also present: Dale Mumford, Betty J. Mumford, Lee Stepp, Joanne Stepp, John Balderson, Rich Schwab, Cathy Schwab, Portia Dunst, Elsie Ebling, Young Woo, Jerry Sutton, Beatrice Brodie, Zebulon Brodie, and David Hege.

Call to Order – President Hunter called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our fallen soldiers.

President Hunter introduced Linda Evans – Executive Director, Caroline Hospice Foundation, Inc. – They have 3 beds in the Hospice House. They also serve people in the county who wish to die in their own homes. There is no charge to stay at the Hospice House. Fundraising and donations are the ways they operate. They also need volunteers from all parts of the county. There are a lot of different ways to help. She passed out some information and read a poem sent to them. They don't accept government money, but would take items for silent auction, etc.

Approval of the Minutes – December 15, 2008 – Special Meeting/Work Session and Executive Session – President Hunter made a motion to accept as written, seconded by Commissioner Epperly-Glover. Unanimously approved.

January 5, 2009 Executive Session and Town Meeting – President Hunter made a motion to accept as written, seconded by Commissioner Epperly-Glover. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – Clerk reported a General Fund balance of \$85,593.81 (street loan proceeds included - \$59,000+), Sewer Fund balance of \$45,830.62, and Water Fund balance of \$7,565.08.

Public Works Report – Robin reported on his department activities and meetings during the month. The crew took the cemetery fence out next to Subway and he attended Pesticide Recertification training.

Robin also reported Saturday, April 25 will be the Arbor Day plantings starting at Martin Sutton Park at 9 am. The town was recognized as a Tree City USA for the second year. They had a snow event on March 2. That event put alley pickups behind.

Robin and David went to Vortex on Feb. 19 and learned how to build pumps. They brought some parts and 3 pumps back with them.

They had a meeting here on Mar. 5 with some Lister Est. residents concerning the pumps. Town signs – Redgraves has been up for about a year and a half.

The Benedictine School requested to be put up on town signs – “The Benedictine School is Celebrating 50 years of Learning for Living”. Commissioners approved.

Bramble is ready to come in and do the streets that were put off last fall. It will be a little cheaper since the cost of asphalt has dropped. There was a 2 to 1 vote in September, and the money is sitting in the bank. He has a signed contract. Streets to be done are as follows: 1st St. between Park and Caroline, 2nd St. between Caroline and Sunset, 2nd St. between Md. and Central, Oak St., and Elm Ct.

Commissioner Smith recommended waiting until some issues with the budget are resolved. President Hunter said the vote of 2 to 1 still stands.

Gas – This was discussed in Sept./Oct. Had some prices come in on some different items. He recommends using the Wright's Express Card. Foster's have agreed to work with us (give us a discount as well). We will get 2 cents back per gallon per contract. We won't have to pay the fees associated with it because we are a government agency. He would get rid of the gas tank at the shop, keep the diesel fuel, and change it over to non-road fuel (no tax) which would be used for the lawnmowers, backhoe, tractor, etc. He needs a new pump, a new meter, and it would be locked. The only people having keys would be his department.

He also has a very good price for fuel oil and will probably be switching over.

Commissioner Smith asked if he had anything in writing.

Robin said he did not, because they did not want their numbers out on the street.

Commissioner Smith said it is hard to approve that way.

Robin said none of the prices delivered will be cheaper than buying from a pump. That is his reasoning for going with the card.

Robin said their working on the budget and trying to get some ballpark garbage figures. Contractors don't want to give out unless they are for bid packages because they don't want their prices out on the street.

Commissioner Smith said she understood that Denton is paying \$4.95/household.

Dale said sometimes you can piggyback with another jurisdiction for the same price.

Robin will call on this.

Commissioner Smith asked about moving the recycle bins.

Robin and Joe will work on this. This will need to be done in the next couple of months.

Water/Sewer Report – Robin reported 84 days holding capacity in the lagoon. Stream discharge is stopped now. MDE did their annual inspection and everything okay. A sewer line was replaced on School St.

The pipes are in for the WWTP Upgrade. They are waiting for pumps to come in.

Other Board/Commission/Committee Reports – EDC – John said they did not meet. Since the last meeting Batter Up and Red Brick Pizza have opened up. Queenstown Bank will be opening up the end of the month. Joe is working to get the Musselman building going.

Parks/Recreation Committee – Joe said the Little League paid for the electric at the Cowbarn Park. They will be turning in receipts to the County to get reimbursed.

Planning/Zoning Commission – Martin Sokolich reported they met with Shane Johnston and they are just about ready with a draft for public review. They approved a sign for a business across the street.

Joe reported there will be a Parks/Rec. meeting tomorrow night at 7:00. Rails to Trails members will be here as well. Cindy Todd is going to present the redesign of the project so that it can go out to bid.

Historical Society – Rick Schwab said Joe was to give them a memo concerning the brick project and the proposed town clock. He suggested a credit for bricks for Commissioners, etc. Call him with any questions.

Old Time Ridgely Days will be held on May 2 from 10 to 4. Looking for volunteers, cake donations for cake wheel, etc. Cathy Smith asked for suggestions.

Tree Commission – Nancy said they are working on the Arbor Day event on April 25. They will start at the Ridgely House at 9 am.

Police Report – Captain Creason reported an armed robbery at Connolly’s Market on Feb. 4. They are awaiting DNA/fingerprint results. One arrest warrant has been issued to date. Case open

Feb. 11 – They assisted the Drug Task Force with a search and seizure in town. There is one individual awaiting charges.

Feb. 13 – Served 2 criminal summons for animal cruelty, one by RPD and one by Humane Society

Feb. 14 – Assisted Delaware State Police – Stolen motor vehicle recovered in town

Feb. 18 – Suspected arson/burglary on Md. Ave. Anyone with information should contact the Fire Marshall’s office.

Capt. Creason went on to say that on Feb. 21 Cpl. Carroll will be resigning. That will leave him and two patrol officers.

They have completed about 95% inventory of their agency.

Town Manager’s Report/”State of the Town Address” – Joe read his address.

Other Pending Issues – Robin talked about the Vortex pump meeting with Lister Estates residents (about 10 folks were here).

Consideration of Appointment of A Member to a Five-Year Term on the Ridgely

Planning/Zoning Commission – Commissioner Smith made a motion to appoint Jeff Garrett, seconded by Commissioner Epperly-Glover. Unanimously passed

President Obama’s Stimulus Program – Joe said the WWTP Upgrade, the water storage tank, assistance with planning of the Public Safety Building, and I & I were included in the package that went out. This all comes to about \$10 million.

Old Business – R-04-09 – “A Resolution of the Commissioners of Ridgely to Reinstate the Fee for Solid Waste Removal” – Nancy questioned the figures on the bulk trash costs. Robin said the actual out of pocket costs he came up with is approximately \$11,000 (tipping fees and hauler). Fuel was not included.

Joe said the major difference is the labor costs (he figured 3 men every Tuesday).

Nancy said she questions this every time it comes up. She feels the costs are inflated.

Joe said he has suggested spring and fall cleanups for free. Anything in between would be charged for.

Nancy said it has been suggested to check to see where the pickups are, rather than run the equipment up and down all the alleys.

President Hunter made a motion to reinstate the trash fee at \$37.50/qtr. (R-04-09), seconded by Commissioner Epperly-Glover. Commissioner Smith opposed. Motion passed.

Ordinance No. 320 – “An Ordinance of the Commissioners of Ridgely Accepting As Public Streets, and Assuming Responsibility for the Maintenance of Portions of County Roads Located within an Area Which Has Been Annexed to the Town of Ridgely” – Robin said roads included are the remainder of Seward Rd., Hog Lot Road from Seward Rd. to Racetrack Rd., and Racetrack Rd. out approximately a mile. There was an agreement with the county about six years ago where the town would take these roads over after water and sewer lines were installed.

Joe reported the county passed this a couple of months ago.

President Hunter made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 320, seconded by Commissioner Epperly-Glover. Passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 321 – “An Ordinance of the Commissioners of Ridgely Accepting as Public Streets of the Town, and Assuming Responsibility for the Maintenance of Lister Lane, and Robin’s Court, and that Portion of Carroll Lane Lying Between Lister Lane and Walnut Street in Lister Estates” – Robin said these are in good shape now.

Nancy said she thought there was a two-year waiting period before we took it over.

Joe said the Public Works Agreement calls for only one year.

This was deferred.

Ordinance No. 322 – “An Ordinance of the Commissioners of Ridgely to Approve the Façade Easement for the Preservation of Ridgely Landmark Historic Sites and Structures” – President Hunter made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 322, seconded by Commissioner Epperly-Glover. Unanimously passed.

New Business – Dale Mumford asked about the 2009 Budget Update and when the 2010 Budget would be started.

Clerk had hoped to have the 2009 update for this meeting.

Joe said he plans to get with the Commissioners in April and introduce the 2010 Budget in May.

Nancy questioned overtime.

Joe said there was overtime for snow removal.

Cathy Schwab volunteered to come in and do some filing, etc. to help out at the town office.

Nancy asked if there was an ad out for police officers. There is.

Capt. Creason said they hope to be able to hire an officer already trained, don’t have time to train. He has an application for an experienced officer now. He would like to have authorization to hire this person now.

Commissioner Smith said they had an application that was not submitted to the committee when it should have been. That candidate was added to the list and wound up in the interview process. They used a point system to evaluate. Captain Pinder assisted in the interview process. They have chosen a candidate, although it is not official at this time. Hopes he will be starting the end of this month.

Rick Schwab asked what the process was, how many candidates there were, and how many were interviewed.

Commissioner Smith said there were 15 applicants. The committee narrowed it down to their top 5.

President Hunter made a motion to pay the February bills, seconded by Commissioner Epperly-Glover. Unanimously passed.

President Hunter announced that they would be adjourning to Executive Session to discuss personnel issues – 9:00 pm.

Jerry Sutton said the Strawberry Festival will be held on May 24. Ridgely Lions have a web site now. If anyone is interested in participating as a vendor/crafter they can obtain an application there (ridgelylions.org). It's going to be bigger than ever.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Balderson
Clerk