

**Commissioners of Ridgely**  
**Minutes**  
**June 1, 2009**

The June Town Meeting was held in the Ridgely House on the above date at 7:00 pm. Linda Epperly-Glover, President; Kathy Smith, Commissioner; Dale Mumford, Commissioner; Gary Foster, Police Chief; Robin Eaton, Director of Public Works; David Crist, Supt. of Water/Wastewater; Jack Hall, Town Attorney; Dan Divilio, Times Record; and Carol Balderson, Town Clerk; were present. The following residents were also present: Chastity Crist, Lee Stepp, Joanne Stepp, Arlene Hege, David Hege, Betty J. Mumford, John Balderson, Scott Johnson, Jerry Sutton, Linda Ross, Joyce Faulkner, Melvin Faulkner, Elsie Ebling, Janice White, Martin Sokolich, and Archie Carroll.

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

President Epperly-Glover thanked Commissioner Mumford for his work on the agenda, etc.

**Approval of Minutes** – Jan. 26, Feb. 2, Feb. 24, Mar. 16, Apr. 6, Apr. 20, May 4, and May 18 – President Epperly-Glover made a motion to approve all minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Smith. Unanimously approved.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Clerk reported a General Fund balance at the end of May of \$75,476.30, Sewer Fund Balance of \$25,989.14, and Water Fund Balance of \$7,578.73.

President Epperly-Glover made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Commissioner Mumford. Unanimously approved.

**Proclamation – Ridgely School 50 Year Reunion** – President Epperly-Glover read the Proclamation for the last class to graduate from Ridgely High School. All Commissioners signed. She also read a Citation from Governor O’Malley.

**Town Attorney** – 1) MOU with County Commissioners re. watershed characterization – Mr. Hall said it’s a 100 page document explaining how the area was formed. It takes you up to what the current condition of the watershed is into the Tuckahoe or the Choptank Rivers. It talks about the impact of a population explosion. They have asked the towns to agree to accept it, or refer to it as a source document for our own local zoning and water treatment, etc. Mr. Hall said he felt the Commissioners should agree to it with caution. He will provide a disclaimer stating that nothing in the document involves any legislative action, etc. Need a resolution authorizing President Epperly-Glover to sign it.

Commissioner Mumford made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, authorizing President Epperly-Glover to sign. Passed.

2) Response re: promotion/pay – Police Dept. – Mr. Hall said this was a previous employee. There is no basis for this. The Commissioners approve pay increases, not the Police Chief. He responded to the letter.

3) Trash Contract – Mr. Hall said bound by bid.

Commissioner Mumford made a motion to accept the bid from Allied Waste, seconded by President Epperly-Glover. Commissioner Smith opposed. Motion passed.

4) Lister Estates Bond – Mr. Hall reported that there was nothing in the Public Works Agreement

regarding bond. Streets have not been accepted because there are still some issues. The amount being held is more than the amount of the punch list (\$300,000).

5) Kiddie Kastle Learning Center – Mr. Hall said the Town cannot let the debt payments get behind. Mr. Hall said he was informed that the State Legislature is requiring all towns to adopt a public debt policy by September 1. He will investigate and advise.

Mr. Hall said the DRRA with Ridgely Park calls for a payment of a quarter of a million dollars on May 24 on the Rails to Trails and there was supposed to be a pedestrian trail system built. He will send a letter requesting funds so that we are on the record. Motion by Commissioner Mumford that letter be sent, seconded by President Epperly-Glover.

**Police Report** – Chief Foster reported that Cpl. Creason has attained training as a Field Officer. Tfc Rhodes has completed initial field training and is now patrolling alone. All four have taken taser training for recertification. Tfc Rhodes has also been recertified in radar. In June Tfc Rhodes will be recertified in First Responder Training which is emergency care. The Chief is slated to pick up radar training. They will all be taking Domestic Violence Training. The Chief will be attending three seminars put on by the Governor's Office: 1) regional technology forms/crime and accident reporting, etc., 2) graphic training, and 3) speed camera program.

No problems with the Strawberry Festival.

Increase in overall crime over last two years.

Have canine now – Pfc Ewing has about 50 hours training with the dog.

**Water/Sewer Report** – David reported 46 day of holding capacity at the sewer plant. Discharged 19 out of 31 days in May. Checked out two water complaints (both okay).

**WWTP Upgrade** – David reported start up was scheduled for May 13. The engineer made a mistake in the elevation and the plant is not functioning. They are still able to use the old pumps to discharge. Waiting for the engineers to come back to us with a letter stating it was their mistake, and they will rectify it and make it right. They are supposed to come up with a list of ways to fix it. They want to install a foot valve. The Town wants them to reinstall the pipe work at the proper elevation.

**Public Works Report** – Robin reported on his department activities.

President Epperly-Glover said she heard good comments about the work that was done by the town crew preparing for and cleaning up after the Strawberry Festival.

Some discussion on tree issues – Lister Estates.

Commissioner Smith said they met with Charlie Coppage of SHA today. They talked about some work on Central Ave. They were working on it this afternoon. They are to send some guys out to spray and clean up the gutters.

Commissioner Mumford said they also talked about the large holly tree in Railroad Park being in the way. Some discussion on taking it out.

Robin said there are only a few things left to be done in the Ridgely House per the Fire Marshall.

Commissioner Smith said they also talked about a parking time limit on Railroad St. by the train station. They talked about signage, need to decide on a time frame.

President Epperly-Glover said some time ago it was decided to post no parking signs on Rt. 480 between Central and Md. Ave. Nothing has been done yet.

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EDC – John Balderson reported there was no quorum and no meeting.

Historical Society – Janice White reported the Strawberry Festival was the main topic of discussion at their meeting.

Commissioner Smith said the Farmer's Market is scheduled to begin on June 12 from 4 to 7 at the Railroad Park. They will have natural meats, produce, flowers, a baker, etc.

Planning & Zoning – Martin Sokolich reported they met on May 27. They heard from the County Planning and Zoning on their Water Resources Study. They heard about what is going on with the WWTP. Mr. Carroll was here with his attorney to find out if he will be able to carry on with his plans.

The developer for Ridgeway Estates came in and they talked about the planned buildout. The property had changed hands. The type of houses they thought they could sell a few years ago has changed.

Overhead Doors have had some issues with overflowing their boundaries.

Some discussion regarding the burned out house on Park Ave.

They approved permits for the Humane Society for receiving animals, a dance studio at the Brodie building on N. Maple, and a rear addition at 505 Md. Ave.

Missy requested getting some things on the same page with the county, ie, accessory building sizes, etc.

Martin said there should be a Comprehensive Plan available for review soon.

Commissioner Smith asked how they can make sure a developer does not change plans originally approved – Ridgeway Estates ranchers instead of 2-story colonials.

Martin said there is a question of what should happen and what does happen. Can't find anything to tie him to a particular style dwelling. Need to apply some flexibility realizing the situation has changed.

Mr. Hall said the town cannot specify unless it is in the ordinance.

Joanne Stepp said in regard to 207 Park Ave., there are some houses that have similar issues and nothing has been done. All should be treated the same.

John Balderson said in regard to Overhead Doors, EDC was told they were working with Mr. Musselman to possibly buy that building.

Tree Commission – Robin reported that they discussed reimbursement to a resident for some tree work done.

**Old Business** – Status of Regional Waste – Commissioner Mumford said there is a meeting scheduled here Thurs. morning by MES. He said MES spoke at the Municipalities dinner about the leachate going to Cambridge. The 0% interest loan through MDE will cost the town \$77,000/yr.; the current loan is at 6% interest. We are staying with the Constant Yield Tax Rate because of the difficulties. There may be a need to talk with MES about the leachate.

Rails to Trails – Commissioner Smith said the lease came through today with DNR.

**New Business** – Renewal of Auditor – Commissioner Mumford said Faw Casson has merged with Trice Geary & Myers. Commissioner Mumford made a motion to approve TG&M (\$19,000), seconded by Commissioner Smith. Unanimously approved.

Resolution re: LOC Centreville National Bank renewal – Commissioner Mumford said they will get back to us in the next few days.

Budgets – FY09 – Final Ordinance modification – Ord. #323. President Epperly-Glover introduced and read the ordinance.

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Proposed FY2010 Budget – Ord. #324. President Epperly-Glover introduced and read the ordinance.

**Public Comments** - Jerry Sutton said the Methodist Church will be having a chicken dinner on June 13 to raise funds for a new roof – tickets on sale.

Janice White requested a mail box at Town Hall for the Historical Society.

Commissioner Smith said send request by email.

Archie Carroll said his townhouse development is dragging out. The façade easement was approved last November. Here we are in June, and we need some kind of ordinance. Hoping we won't go a few more months and find out we need something else. This will be 12 buildings of 3 units each. The town would receive \$36,000 in impact fees. Time is money.

President Epperly-Glover thanked Commissioner Mumford for his hard work. Grateful for his experience.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Balderson  
Clerk