

**Commissioners of Ridgely  
Minutes  
July 7, 2009**

The Town Meeting was held on the above date in the Ridgely House at 7:00 pm. Linda Epperly-Glover, President; Kathy Smith, Commissioner; Dale Mumford, Commissioner; Gary Foster, Police Chief; Robin Eaton, Director of Public Works; Jack Hall, Town Attorney; and Carol Balderson, Town Clerk; were present.

Martha Jarrell, Lee Stepp, Joanne Stepp, Archie Carroll, Elsie Ebling, Rick Schwab, Cathy Schwab, David Forslind, Gerald Sutton, and David Hege were also present.

**Opening** - Commissioner Mumford opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

**Approval of Minutes** – June 1 – Commissioner Mumford made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Commissioner Smith. Unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – Clerk reported a General Fund balance of \$33,066.81, Sewer Fund - \$16,419.19, and Water Fund - \$7,581.90.

Clerk presented bills for payment approval.

Commissioner Mumford suggested to Robin to check on street lights to verify amount. He also questioned a reimbursement for tree work at a residence. Robin responded that it was approved by the Tree Commission.

There was also some discussion on a bill from MTA for the 36" drainage pipe on Walnut St. It was questioned why it should be paid when we have a lease with DNR for the tracks.

Robin will contact them to get more info.

Commissioner Mumford asked about the status of Kiddie Kastle payments. There are 2 months owed.

Jack Hall said we have a deed of trust.

Commissioner Mumford made a motion that Jack Hall send a letter requesting a business plan, seconded by Commissioner Smith. Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Mumford made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by President Epperly-Glover. Unanimously approved.

**Town Attorney** – Jack Hall said the state is requiring all towns to submit a Statement of Debt Policy by Sept. 1. He has inquired as to what the state would like to have. He was referred to a web site and presented a draft copy to the Commissioners for comments.

**MOU with Co. Commissioners relating to the Upper Choptank and Tuckahoe Creek Watershed Characterizations** – Jack Hall explained that the county had a study of the land mass that feeds into these waters. They want the local communities to use this as a source for making decisions about what their practices would be. His concern is that it not be overblown, reference only. He added a statement that this is not binding.

Commissioner Mumford made a motion that President Epperly-Glover sign the MOU with the disclaimer, seconded by President Epperly-Glover. Unanimously passed.

**DRRA – Ridgely Park** – Jack Hall said he spoke with Joe Stevens, Atty. for Ridgely Park, who said he will talk with his clients about correctly ending this agreement.

**Lister Estates Dev.** – Jack Hall said Chicken Bridge assessment goes with the land.

\$1250 plus \$670 annual fee would fall on Lister Estates homeowners, if the town would not pay it.

The Stepps said Lister Estates residents should not have to pay this separate fee when the town pays for other residents. They have to pay for the upkeep of their stormwater management ponds.

Commissioner Mumford said it is his understanding that when it was the Lister Farm they paid fees for the ditch. He feels the cost of the culvert should be borne by Lister Estates. The drainage ditches benefit from this. He suggested the HOA pay the MTA annual fee, and the balance be forgiven.

After much discussion, the subject was tabled until next month.

Concepcion Letter – Jack Hall said it is felt that services should not be extended without annexation, and annexation is very expensive. Commissioners agreed that a final letter needs to be sent.

Police Report – Chief Foster reported that he has attended two forums by the Gov. Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

Ridgely Police assisted Greensboro Police with Fireworks Night.

K-9 Status – Training through Wayne Collins is considered complete pending receipt of “Letter of Proficiency” from Mr. Collins. Departmental review will take place soon to put K-9 “Kitta” and Pfc. Ewing in service for use as a drug detection team.

Three old cases have been discovered in the evidence room where currency was seized during drug arrests. The total amount of these three cases is \$556.61. These will be reviewed at the next Task Force Advisory Meeting. These funds should be able to be processed and returned to the Town and applied to the K-9 fund.

A grant application for the bulletproof vest reimbursement has been approved, pending funding of 50% (approx. \$900.)

There has been an increase in calls for service. There was a robbery at Batter Up Restaurant on June 11. The investigation is continuing. There was a first degree assault at Tuckahoe Gardens on June 16, and there were three thefts that occurred where property is still missing: 1) Coleman inflatable boat, 2) Razor scooter, and 3) a bike – West Coast Chopper style (missing gas tank).

Six or seven bikes have been stolen. Bike locks are available at the Police Dept. (free). Email is up and running, Chief’s email address is listed on the homepage.

Six out of eight police vehicles are in serviceable condition. Two of the black and whites are to be evaluated for serviceability.

Overtime funding from CTSP for the second quarter has been submitted for payment.

All officers also received Domestic Violence training.

Commissioners Mumford and Smith commended the police department – have received good comments.

Nancy said she thinks bike registration should be put back on web site. Chief said he is not yet familiar with it.

Cathy Schwab reported that people are not stopping for pedestrians in the crosswalks-requested signs.

The Chief reported there is a form on the web page for information for people on vacation.

**Water/Sewer Report** – David reported that the CCR report will be put on the website and in the newspaper.

59 days holding capacity in lagoons. Met with MES about leachate from landfill.

**WWTP Upgrade** – David reported that URS had a survey crew come out to shoot the elevations at the plant. MCET came in and took a look. Options need to be explored.

**Public Works Report** – Robin reported on department activities. The gas tank has been removed from the shop area.

The new trash contract started this week. The driver has had this route before.

June 3 was pre-bid on Rails to Trails, bid on June 22-only received 3 bids.

Robin reported that there is some kind of short in the Lumina. Needs some direction as to what to do with it.

Commissioner Mumford said Second and Third St. have some cracks that need filling. Martin Sokolich asked about the bids for Rails to Trails.

Robin said Bramble was the apparent low bidder for the whole project. All bids were much more than funding available.

Nancy said she met with Pace Design. They talked about cutting down the length.

**Board Reports – Planning & Zoning** – Martin Sokolich said they met on June 24. They approved 3 demolition permits; a house at 308 Caroline, a house at 5 E. Fifth St. – new houses to go up. They also approved a demolition permit for an accessory structure at 505 Central Ave. They also approved a new business – a coffee shop across from Town Hall.

There were a couple of properties with violations that were discussed and will need to be handled by the Commissioners.

Caroline Co. is having a meeting tomorrow night to discuss our draft Comprehensive Plan.

**Historical Society** – Cathy Schwab said they have decided to put the Church of the Brethren on this year's Christmas ornament. They have been here 125 years.

They have about a dozen vendors for the Farmer's Market, a couple of crafters.

**Old Business** – **Status of regional waste** – Commissioner Mumford reported the next meeting with MES will be here at 1:00 pm on July 21.

Joanne Stepp asked if there will be a public meeting to ask questions. Residents are concerned about the leachate.

Commissioner Mumford said if they can come to an agreement with MES a public hearing will follow.

Joanne suggested including both options in the resolution. 1) 12% increase with MES deal or 2) 11% per year for 3 years.

There was much discussion on the amount of the offer, how many allocations for new homes will be lost, and the dollar amount of the increases.

Marie Jarrell thanked the Commissioners for their support of the class reunion from Ridgely School. It was the last class to graduate from there. She asked that the Commissioners take ownership of some documents that were given in honor of that occasion to be hung in the Ridgely House.

Commissioner Mumford made a motion that if the dual resolution is acceptable to MDE, the Commissioners be allowed to sign the document before the next meeting, seconded

by President Epperly-Glover. Passed unanimously.

Commissioners agreed to suggest Frank Kratovil attend the October meeting.

Skateboard Park – Commissioner Mumford said the language and behavior has been so bad that something needs to be done. Parks and Rec Commission should discuss/review.

YCMA request regarding waiving skatepark fee for tournament – Okayed.

Commissioner Mumford explained the reorganization of the Town Manager position.

Consider a part time fiscal clerk at \$5,000 to help with auditor concerns of separation of duties and a part time Zoning Administrator at \$6,500.

Commissioner Smith asked Jack Hall if these positions needed to be advertised. He will check into that.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Balderson  
Town Clerk