

**Commissioners of Ridgely  
Town Meeting  
August 3, 2009**

The 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; David Crist, Supt. of Water/Wastewater; Gary Foster, Police Chief; and Carol Balderson, Town Clerk; were present.

A list of residents in attendance is attached.

President Epperly-Glover opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

**Minutes** – July 7 – President Epperly-Glover made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Mumford. Unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – Clerk reported \$84,145.30 in General Fund, \$16,426.72 in Sewer Fund, and \$7,585.95 in Water Fund. Commissioners were given a check register list along with bill list this month.

Commissioner Mumford presented a letter received from Caroline Co. Administrator, Rick Barton, requesting reimbursement of \$11,612.92 which they had paid toward the Bell St. Pump Station.

President Epperly-Glover made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Commissioner Mumford. Approved.

**Police Report** – Chief Foster reported he is still waiting for a Letter of Proficiency from Wayne Collins in regard to the K-9.

The Chief reported the 3 old drug cases that were discussed at the last meeting have been discussed and reviewed with the Task Force and State's Attorney's Office. Due to the age of the cases and the lack of request for return of the money, the funds are considered abandoned, and will be placed in the general fund of the town as revenue (\$556.61).

The Chief reported the grant application for the bulletproof vests is being monitored.

Chief Foster said assaults and thefts are up from 2007 and 2008. Recommended residents keep tools, bicycles, etc. locked up. Calls for service in June went way up from 2007. Arrests are also up. He encouraged residents to notify the police with any information they may have regarding thefts, etc.

The Chief reported they are looking into changing the bar lights on the cars to LED which saves on the draw on the batteries. They can work this out in their budget.

There is a vehicle they have decided to sell: a 1994 4-wheel drive ambulance.

The Chief also reported they are working on a web site and a spread sheet or something that can help identify some of the items stolen.

Chief Foster said the bus drivers have expressed concern on Seward Rd. with the number of cars picking up students. He is monitoring this to decide how to ease the situation.

The Chief said they have a K-9 car that is in pieces and will probably be sold for scrap. They have a duty phone that was here when he came and they get about one wrong number a week. There are some phones that are not being used, and that could save some money.

Nancy Gearhart said the duty phone was intended to take the place of a town watch. It was to be used to report suspicious activities.

**Water/Sewer Report** – David reported 71 days holding capacity in the lagoons.

MRWA stopped in and gave his opinion on the WWTP. He thought they should look at changing the pumps out. He called Envirep about changing them out and is awaiting prices.

**Water** – Need to try to change from chlorine gas to hypochlorite solution at the tower site. Much safer to use.

David reported they need to look at putting a locking device on the hydrants at the Tech Park. People have been getting into them. 4 out of 5 hydrants are marked up and appear to have been opened.

**Public Works Report** – David gave the report. They picked up 13 loads of brush with one load of bags – 2-1/2 days.

Some discussion on the cleaning of the water tower. David said the tower would probably be down for a week (5 days).

Commissioner Mumford has suggested hiring a contractor to come in and chip the brush and we could use our crew for other things. To be discussed at Work Session along with sidewalks.

Commissioner Mumford also said they are looking into water and sewer capacities. How many lots in town are entitled to connect to water and sewer and haven't, what are the Fire Dept. and the school going to need, etc.

**Lister Estates/PDA** – Blair Carmean of the Public Drainage Assoc. spoke about Chicken Bridge. Part of the reason it was built was to help with the storm water management of the Town of Ridgely. Most PDAs drain rural areas.

Blair said in 2004 he received a letter from Joe about adding Lister Estates. They have charged the Town based on what the taxables were paying. He suggested \$3250/yr. (which was the amount paid by the taxables). The \$1250 being added as an arbitrary figure for Lister Estates. The expenses have been going up.

Commissioner Mumford read from the maintenance agreement regarding the stormwater management facilities which said that Lister Estates HOA would pay for the ditch (\$1250) and the culvert under the railroad tracks - \$670. There is nothing in the agreement about insurance.

Commissioner Mumford made a motion that Lister Estates HOA reimburse the Town for the \$670 MTA fee and drop the \$1250 fee for the ditch.

Many Lister Estates residents spoke against the fee; felt they were not being treated fairly.

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After much discussion Commissioner Mumford withdrew his motion. The Town Attorney will be asked if the legal document can be changed. Joanne Stepp asked about the legality of the pipe under Walnut St. by the Town.

**P & Z** – Commissioner Mumford said the Comprehensive Plan is nearing the end of the final review. P & Z will hold a public hearing and refer to the Commissioners.

**Historical Society** – Janice White reported they met on July 2. They discussed the Christmas ornament for this year. It will be the Brethren Church for their 150 year anniversary.

They discussed the phone building. The roof needs to be repaired/replaced. Mrs. Cherry donated a piece of sailcloth for the building.

They talked about the Grants Coordinator coming to Railroad Memorial Park to meet with JOK Walsh.

An architect is coming to look at the Railroad Station on Friday.

They are looking for some information on the caboose. Need proof of ownership.

**Old Business** – Commissioner Mumford said permission was granted to the Little League to dig a well at the Cow Barn Park.

A letter of support was sent in support of the Fire Department's grant application.

**Cell Tower** – Commissioner Mumford said after surveying, they found that the cell tower is 30 feet over on the Fire Dept.

**MDE/WWTP** – Commissioner Mumford said the only choice left is an 11% increase three times (3 yrs. ).

**Action Items** – **MDE MOU** – Commissioner Mumford said the Commissioners need to sign this resolution which commits the town to the increase in water and sewer rates. President Epperly-Glover read the resolution.

Someone asked a question about the residents having to pick this up because a developer pulled out.

President Epperly-Glover said that is not true. This upgrade needed to be done and has been explained by staff at several meetings. We were hoping the developer would pay for it but that did not happen.

President Epperly-Glover made a motion to approve the MDE MOU Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Mumford. Unanimously passed.

**Local Debt Policy** – President Epperly-Glover made a motion to adopt, seconded by Commissioner Mumford. Passed unanimously.

**Vehicle Sale** – Chief to submit list to the Commissioners for approval.

**Rails to Trails** – Nancy said they renegotiated the budget.

**Approve P/T position job descriptions/hiring process** – Commissioner Mumford said draft job descriptions were emailed to Commissioners. Commissioner Smith said they need to discuss in Executive Session.

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**Charter Review Process** – Commissioner Mumford said the Town Charter needs to be redone. Need to select a committee to work on it.

**Revise Property Maintenance Code** – Revision – Commissioner Mumford said a new one comes out

every 3 years. It needs to be updated. There are a couple of pieces missing.

**New Business** – Howard Johnson – Central Perk/Eat Inc. – Mr. Johnson said on the 29<sup>th</sup> he received some concerns from Commissioner Smith. He has provided certificates of insurance and cut the chains shorter that secure the tables and chairs. He invited the Commissioners over to look at what they have done.

Commissioner Smith said the town needs a code that allows outdoor dining.

One of the residents thanked Mr. Johnson for bringing the businesses to Ridgely.

COG - Need to designate a voting representative. Commissioner Mumford agreed to serve in this capacity.

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session to discuss personnel issues at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Balderson

Clerk

COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY  
Town Meeting  
Monday, August 3, 2009

Sign In Please:

- 1 Lee + Joanne Stepp
- 2 Archie B. Carroll
- 3 Lynn McQuinn
- 4 Brenda Pitt
- 5 Sharon Adams
- 6 Betty Jean Mumford
- 7 Janice White
- 8 Eric Gentry
- 9 David Forslund
- 10 Cathy Schwab
- 11 Rick Schwab
- 12 Dan B. Hays
- 15 ~~SHARON~~ PEMBERTON
- 16 DAVE STEPP
- 17 Harold Ketter
- 18 TOM MORRIS
- 19 KIM MORRIS
- 20 Chae E. Ory
- 21 Jim Frechette
- 22 Blain Carman
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