

**Commissioners of Ridgely
Town Meeting**

October 5, 2009

Prior to the meeting, at 6:30 pm, Miss Madge Thomas was recognized for her 100th birthday with proclamations from the Town and the State, and refreshments were served.

The October Town Meeting was held in the Ridgely House on the above date at 7:00 pm. Linda Epperly-Glover, President; Dale Mumford, Commissioner; Lou Hayes, Commissioner; Nick Cappella, Zoning Administrator; Jack Hall, Town Attorney; Dan Divilio, Times Record; and Carol Balderson, Town Clerk; were present.

The following citizens were present: Jerry Sutton, David Hege, John Balderson, Joanne Stepp, Leo Stepp, Nancy Gearhart, Elsie Ebling, and Denzil Cheek.

Opening – President Epperly-Glover opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our service men and women.

Lou Hayes was sworn in as commissioner to finish out the term of Kathy Smith.

A & C Contractors – Chuck Bieller and Gary Flynn made a presentation on system devices/products for saving energy.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer reported balances as follows for September: General Fund - \$27,534.31, Sewer Fund - \$16,432.23, and Water Fund - \$7,591.33.

A bill list and check register were provided to the Commissioners.

Auditors are expected to finish up at Town Hall tomorrow.

Commissioner Mumford made a motion to pay the bills as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Hayes. Unanimously approved.

Reports – Written reports were turned in for Police, Water/Sewer, and Department of Public Works. Copies are available for the public.

Commissioner Mumford said department heads will give oral reports at the Work Shop meetings and turn in written reports for Town Meetings.

Old Business – **Comprehensive Plan** – Jack Hall explained an amendment discussed at the Public Hearing has been added to address the Cowbarn property.

Commissioner Mumford said the Comprehensive Plan was to have been submitted by Oct. 1.

Commissioner Mumford made a motion to adopt an amended Comprehensive Plan by Ordinance 327, seconded by President Epperly-Glover. Unanimously approved.

Personnel Manual – Commissioner Mumford said the personnel manual has been redrafted and the Commissioners met with staff the other day. There are some issues that need to be resolved. Hope to be ready to pass in November.

Rails to Trails – Jack Hall reported that Bramble sent a contract signed by them. Some things needed to be corrected. He added addendums including the bid, the request for bid, the response to the bid, the specs for the project, and conditions for small projects. Nancy reported after anticipated expenses are paid there should be \$16,750.66 left. Need to have some for unexpected items.

Construction of Phase 1 (Maple Ave. parking lot to Cowbarn) should only take about a month and they hope to start mid-October.

Commissioner Mumford make a motion to approve the contract agreement with Bramble and Ordinance 328, seconded by President Epperly-Glover. Unanimously approved.

Borrowing Authority – Md. Water Quality Financing Admin. – Ordinance 329 authorizes the Commissioners of Ridgely to issue and sell a bond (\$1,550,000).

Commissioner Mumford said the first payment in Aug., 2010 would be \$10,000, Feb., 2011 would be \$27,000, Feb., 2012 would be \$53,000, as of Feb., 2013 the payment goes to around \$80,000. No interest loan.

Joanne Stepp asked if money would be earmarked for this.

Commissioner Mumford said funds can be borrowed, but it is stipulated that if the sewer fund can't cover it the general fund will.

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

Charter Amendment Resolution – Commissioner Mumford asked about waiting on the fine increases until the whole charter is redone.

Jack Hall said he felt it would be better to do this one now. It was requested by the code officer.

Mr. Hall said this can be enacted tonight. It will become effective in 50 days unless it is voted to referendum within the next 40 days. It should be posted on the town bulletin board and it will run in the newspaper 4 weeks.

President Epperly-Glover read a portion of the resolution.

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

Chris Jennings from Jack Hall's office will be working with the town on the full charter revision.

President Epperly-Glover said we still don't have a charter review committee in place.

Several letters went out, only a couple of folks have responded at this time.

Looking for a broad base of folks from the town to serve.

Town Administrator – Commissioner Mumford said the position has been advertised and we already have had some inquiries. October 21 is cutoff date. Probably a month to six weeks away.

Coastal Community Grant – Commissioner Mumford said this needs to be completed. It pays for a good portion of Shane Johnston's time on the Comprehensive Plan.

New Business – Truck Parking – Commissioner Mumford said a number of issues have been brought forth.

Nick Cappella said we have a problem all around. Right now the ordinance is in the Zoning Code rather than the Town Code. If it was a town ordinance the police could enforce it. Right now you are allowed one commercial vehicle to be parked adjacent to your property. The vehicle is not allowed to run or have refrigeration units running.

Commissioner Mumford said this needs to be discussed at the Work Shop.

Commissioner Mumford said we passed the ordinance regarding water/sewer rate increases. Missy suggested a wording change regarding out of town use (Section 3 – Resolution R-07-09). He changed it to read: "Users of Town water and sewer who

reside outside the corporate limits of the Town are required to pay the full cost of delivering water and sewer service. Additionally, the quarterly fee includes administrative and other costs of town government. The fee is equal to 50% of the minimal usage fee.”

Commissioner Mumford made a motion to approve the clarification of this resolution, seconded by President Epperly-Glover. Unanimously approved.

President Epperly-Glover announced a ribbon cutting for the Telephone Building on October 20. Time to be announced.

Joanne Stepp asked about the grant for the Railroad Station grant.

Haven't heard anything more.

Halloween Trick or Treat will be held on October 31 from 6 pm to 8 pm. The Lions Club will hold a Halloween Party at the fire house on October 31 starting at 7 pm.

The Christmas Parade will be Dec. 5. Lineup will be at 6:15 pm.

Nancy said we have to decide where to move the recycle bins.

The Railroad St. parking lot and the treatment plant were suggested. After some discussion, Commissioner Hayes made a motion to move them out to the wastewater treatment plant, seconded by President Epperly-Glover. Unanimously approved.

Nancy said the Historical Society is requesting the show case that was moved to the porch be moved back inside (out of the sun). Some discussion on moving required by Fire Marshall.

Rev. Cheek said the Church of the Brethren is celebrating 125 years on October 18.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Balderson
Clerk