

**Commissioners of Ridgely
Town Meeting**

November 2, 2009

The November 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; Carol Balderson, Town Clerk; and Dan Divilio, Times Record; were present.

The following residents were present: Joanne Stepp, Lee Stepp, Elsie Ebling, Joyce Faulkner, Melvin Faulkner, Martin Sokolich, Denzil Cheek, Nancy Gearhart, Cathy Schwab, Rick Schwab, and Gerald Sutton.

Opening – 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 announced that written reports are available from department heads.

Commissioner Elected – President Epperly-Glover stated that the appointment of Lou Hayes as a commissioner was not properly done previously and will be done tonight. President Epperly-Glover made a motion to elect Lou Hayes, seconded by Commissioner Mumford. Unanimously passed.

Lou Hayes was then sworn in by the Town Clerk.

Minutes - September 21 – President Epperly-Glover made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Mumford. Unanimously approved.

October 2 – President Epperly-Glover made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Mumford. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – Clerk reported balances as follows for October: General Fund - \$290,288.75, Sewer Fund - \$16,569.62, and Water Fund - \$1,593.08.

Bill list presented to the Commissioners for payment approval.

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

President Epperly-Glover explained that when she comes in to sign checks she looks at all the bills and initials them.

Old Business - MDE WWTP Loan – Commissioner Mumford reported that the loan was approved and the town received a check to pay the bank loan.

Sidewalk Café/Sidewalk Sales Ordinance - \$200 vs \$50 – 6 month permit – After some discussion, Commissioner Hayes make a motion that the permit fee be \$50 for a year rather than 6 months. President Epperly-Glover seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Personnel Manual Ordinance – President Epperly-Glover read Ordinance 330 adopting a revision to the personnel policies. President Epperly-Glover made a motion to adopt this ordinance. Unanimously approved.

Nancy asked for a review of the changes.

Commissioner Mumford said the list is very long, and she may come in and view it.

Rails to Trails – (use of remaining funds) – Nancy reported they needed to keep some funds for things that came up and weren't planned for. One of the things they have thought about is the amenities like park benches, etc. A grant (\$11,000) was applied for but is pending legislative action. Need to sit down with Sylvia Ramsey and go over everything soon.

Charter Review Process – Committee Nominations – President Epperly-Glover said Chris Jennings will be the attorney working on this. The committee nominations include Chuck Hunter, Nancy Gearhart, Orrell Saulsbury, John Hurley, John Balderson, Joanne Stepp, Martin Sokolich, Carol Balderson, and the three sitting commissioners.

Commissioner Hayes made a motion to accept the nominees, seconded by Commissioner Mumford. Unanimously approved.

President Epperly-Glover will check with Chris Jennings to see when the process can get started.

Selection Process for Town Administrator – Commissioner Mumford suggested an executive session following this meeting to decide.

Nancy and the Schwabs asked about the administrator having grant experience.

Reports from department heads and boards – Martin Sokolich asked what he was expected to do for Planning and Zoning.

Commissioner Mumford said a simple bulleted list of highlights would be fine.

RPD – Commissioner Mumford said the sale of equipment needs to move forward.

Officer Kenny Rhodes will be leaving November 14.

Public Works – There is a vacancy until spring.

Commissioner Mumford said Robin questioned lighting of the trees this year. He always has to replace lights and he has minimal help this year. There was some discussion on when to turn lights on.

Nancy said there is a list for trees in front of homes. She won't be the contact this year.

Commissioner Hayes suggested the Tree Commission handle.

New Business – Resolution for Railroad Street Parking (Historic Commission) –

President Epperly-Glover read Resolution R-11-09 for the establishment of a restricted parking area on Railroad Street adjacent to the Historic Telephone Exchange.

President Epperly-Glover made a motion to accept, seconded by Commissioner Hayes.

Motion passed unanimously.

Employee evaluations are due November 17.

Board vacancies will be discussed at the executive session.

Nancy said the the police report no longer includes bike hours, etc. She said people are starting to complain they don't see the police again.

The commissioners said they see them. Joanne also said they see them in Lister Estates. People won't necessarily see them when they drive through.

Cathy Schwab – Historical Society – They celebrated Madge Thomas' 100th birthday on November 17 here.

The Telephone Exchange Building was dedicated on Nov. 20. She and Rick open and close it daily.

Cathy said they have Christmas ornaments and will deliver 102 to the Town Office (\$204) to be given out by the town to volunteers.

Cathy suggested something be done about dog walking in Memorial Park (to pick up droppings).

Jerry Sutton said there were only about 30 at the Lions Club Halloween Party this year. The Lions Club Christmas Parade will be December 5.

Nancy said the Live Nativity will be held on December 19 at 7:30 pm on the Carroll lot.

Nancy questioned both of the Baldersons serving on the Charter Review Committee. Not supposed to be married couples on the same committee.

Commissioner Mumford said he does not agree with that.

President Epperly-Glover adjourned the meeting to executive session at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Balderson
Clerk