

## Commissioners of Ridgely

### Town Meeting January 4, 2010

The January Town Meeting was held in the Ridgely House on the above date at 7:00 pm. Linda Jo Epperly-Glover, President; Dale Mumford, Commissioner; Lou Hayes, Commissioner; Diane Wojcik, Town Administrator; Gary Foster, Police Chief; Robin Eaton, Director of Public Works; Jerry Sutton, Financial Asst.; Nick Cappella, Zoning Administrator; and Carol Balderson, Town Clerk; were present.

The following citizens were present: Joanne Stepp, Leo Stepp, Elsie Ebling, Margaret Haven, and Nancy Gearhart.

**Opening** – President Epperly-Glover called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the officers and military men and women who protect us.

Chief Foster introduced new police officer Keith Berry. Officer has 26 years of experience with Howard County. He was then sworn in by the Clerk.

**Minutes** – 12/7/09 – Commissioner Hayes made a motion to approve as submitted, seconded by President Epperly-Glover. Unanimously approved.

11/16/09 – Closed Session – Commissioner Hayes made a motion to approve as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Mumford. Unanimously approved.

12/7/09 – Closed Session – President Epperly-Glover made a motion to approve as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Mumford. Unanimously approved.

**Audit Report** – Jerry Sutton reported the deficit in FY 2008 in the general fund was about \$240,000. In FY 2009 the deficit increased another \$42,000 at a slower rate due to budget reductions. The goal for FY 2010 is to try to balance.

The Highway User Fund was cut by \$100,000 in September. There will have to be revisions to the budget. Some cuts have been earmarked.

Debts went up due to the WWTP, so net assets went down some. The water/sewer fund should be better off this year with the increase to pay the loan.

We're holding expenses down and staying in line with the budget.

There have been a lot of changes in government accounting and the auditors had said they were doing a lot of bookkeeping, so we are trying to do a better job with that.

Commissioner Mumford said things are tenuous. He was glad to see his property assessment go down; that's good for the property owner but this money disappears from the town's budget. The tax differential is another thing to watch. It was to provide some relief from duplicate services by the county and the towns. Need to watch this.

Jerry said we have no control over some of these things. It will be a challenge over the next couple of years.

**Treasurer's Report** – Clerk reported December's balances as follows: General Fund - \$122,042.31, Sewer Fund - \$16,890.92, and Water Fund - \$1,594.92.

A bill list was presented to the Commissioners for approval.

Commissioner Mumford made a motion to pay the bills as submitted, seconded by President Epperly-Glover. Motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business** – Kiddie Kastle debt – Commissioners agreed it needed to be paid by Jan. 19 or it will be turned over to the attorney for collection.

President Epperly-Glover said because of the holiday on January 18, the Work Session will be held on Tuesday, January 19.

Lister Estates HOA – formal agreement to eliminate past obligations – Commissioner Mumford said the commissioners met with Lister representatives recently. There was a document from March, 2009 which stated the town would withdraw the \$600 fee to the state for the culvert. He still felt it was a cost for development borne by the taxpayers, but it was approved. This needs to be dealt with for future developments. He said the agreement needs to be cleaned up to read correctly for future reference so this does not happen again.

**Reports** – President Epperly-Glover asked for any questions for Public Works.

Commissioner Mumford asked Robin about the disposal of Christmas trees.

Robin said the town picks them up and someone takes them for use on their farm – rabbits.

Diane said we need to turn in a report for the snow storm (most expensive 48 hour period).

Jerry said the Lions Club has discussed doing away with the Santa house. It's in bad shape.

Planning & Zoning – President Epperly-Glover said there was a meeting held and Martin Sokolich was elected as chairman. The commissioners appointed Nancy to fulfill Toby's term, and Margaret Haven was appointed to another term. Passed unanimously.

Diane reported on her activities since coming in. She has been reading and working on file cabinets to try to understand what has transpired before. She is interested in attending the meeting tomorrow night concerning the government training center. She wants to get information about the proposed landfill, especially traffic. Interested in trying to obtain a traffic light. She is also trying to schedule a tour for herself and Commissioner Mumford of the Easton facility.

Diane went on to say she just got her computer fixed last Thursday and is looking at the accounting system. She has been meeting with Nick and Jerry to see what she can do to help.

Missy has been working on an analysis of the trash fees.

Diane provided the commissioners with a copy of a report she found of a 5 year capital improvement report; quite a few things have been done.

Martin Sokolich said the State Planning Dept. is working on a computer based course so that members could go on line and take a test. He thinks it would be helpful to have a copy of the book here.

Commissioner Mumford said commissioners from Hillsboro were quite upset about the demand on volunteers and were interested in getting a group together for training here on the shore.

Nick said the deadline for the class is July 1 and applies to Boards of Appeals members as well.

**New Business** – Introduction of ordinances/resolutions – Commissioner Mumford said the first is an ordinance requiring a town business license. This would allow some control if things don't happen the way they are supposed to.

The second is a resolution specifying who enforces it (Cary Malkus – Code Enforcement Officer).

The third is an ordinance for modification of parking for commercial vehicles.

The fourth is an ordinance concerning screening of trailers, utility vehicles, and commercial equipment.

All of these will be on the town web site for review.

Census has requested use of some office space on different days and times beginning in March.

Commissioner Mumford said he was asked to find someone to serve on the Library Board from north county. Asked for volunteer. If interested see Commissioner Mumford.

Commissioner Mumford said there is a meeting tomorrow night at Queen Annes Co. High School regarding a federal training site. Feels it could be a good thing here.

Commissioner Mumford said he has learned that the local post office is not allowed to take bulk mailing now. There has to be a designated site and there is none in Caroline Co. Easton post office is the closest site for here. One of our businesses is heavily involved with bulk mailings.

President Epperly-Glover is delivering copies of the model charter to committee members. Everyone should review at least two weeks before meeting. The current town charter is on the town web site. The first meeting will be to familiarize everyone with the document and plan future meetings. Need to know if day or night meetings are better for those involved.

Nancy said when she gets the revised bill from Bramble for Rails to Trails she will need approval from the commissioners to submit for grant funds. The other thing she will need is a letter from the commissioners stating the work Bramble has done with the rails has been done correctly. Nancy will write the letter and President Epperly-Glover will sign it.

Jerry said the winners in the decorating contest held by the Historical Society are on the town's web site.

Nancy read the list of businesses that donated prizes.

Robin asked when to turn Christmas lights off. Commissioners said any time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Balderson, Clerk