

**Commissioners of Ridgely
Town Meeting
February 1, 2010**

The February Town Meeting was held in the Ridgely House at 7:00 pm on the above date. Linda Jo Epperly-Glover, President; Dale Mumford, Commissioner; Lou Hayes, Commissioner; Diane Wojcik, Town Administrator; Robin Eaton, Director of Public Works; and Carol Balderson, Town Clerk; were present.

The following folks were also present: Dan Divilio-Times Record, Cathy Schwab, Rick Schwab, Cynthia Ebling Lawson, Rick Ross, Martha Glover, Dennis Glover, Mallory Winstead, and Mary L. Winstead.

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

Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Mumford made a motion to accept with one correction, the \$600 concerning the Lister HOA should be changed to \$670; seconded by Commissioner Hayes. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – Clerk reported January balances as follows: General Fund - \$207,054.20, Sewer Fund - \$16,940.43, and Water Fund - \$1,595.16. A bill list was given to the Commissioners with more bills expected for January.

Reports – President Epperly-Glover asked if there were any questions concerning the departmental written reports.

Town Administrator Report – Diane reported that she contacted MML regarding the loss of HUR. MML and MACo raised the issue with the state, but found that current state law allows a maximum 25% reduction in appropriations by the Board. The interpretation of the state is that provision of law applies to the macro appropriation of a single department rather than the micro appropriation of a segment of a department's budget such as highway user revenue. Reduction that may be made for fiscal year 2011 will be legalized through the passage of the budget bill.

Diane reported that she contacted MML regarding the new Storm Water Regulations. Jim Peck said, "There has been lots of discussion. We met with MDE Secretary Wilson and her staff to discuss our concerns. Last week we briefed the House Environmental Matters Committee (ENV) on the same issue. ENV Chair Maggie McIntosh has indicated she will likely put in a bill this session to mitigate the impacts of the storm water regulations. This has been a large and ongoing issue with MML."

Diane said Commissioner Mumford said it's a very contentious and expensive issue. It's only supposed to deal with new development.

Diane also reported that she received a call from Archie Carroll. He said that Sherry and Gordon Hollingsworth will be buying the Cow Barn. He still will own the existing portion and wants to eventually develop it. Where does it stand at this time?

Commissioner Mumford said the biggest problem is water and sewer issues. He was originally planning to tap into Ridgely Park.

Diane said she included with her report to the Commissioners a copy of the MML Joint Legislative Work Group Study - State, County, and Municipal Fiscal Relationships. There was apparently a work shop in November or December.

Old Business – **Kiddie Kastle Debt** – President Epperly-Glover said at the Work Shop Meeting the Commissioners decided to pursue for nonpayment. Jack Hall has been told to process.

Business License Ordinance – Commissioner Mumford said the current draft requires a fee of \$50/yr.

President Epperly-Glover said business was to be defined in the ordinance.

Commissioner Mumford said home-based businesses and organizations under IRS 501C3 have been excluded. Effective July 1, 2010.

It was agreed to table the draft ordinance until the Town Attorney has provided a definition of a business.

Parking Ordinance – Commissioner Hayes said Dave Walls is concerned about his trucks having to run. His business is in the industrial zone. This ordinance should only pertain to residential. President Epperly-Glover said that is what the ordinance is for.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross complained about the noise from the trucks running all night. He also said they had been working on cars over there during the night.

Mrs. Ross asked about the noise ordinance.

Dave Walls said his business has been there for 50 years. He does what he can to alleviate the noise.

Commissioner Mumford said one of the problems with the noise ordinance is that a police officer cannot have his peace disturbed. If there is a disturbing of the peace charge, someone has to go on the docket.

Mr. Ross said they have called the police several times and they have called and spoken with Dave about it.

Commissioner Mumford said we're going to have to learn to live together because it's not going to get any better. In a year the landfill will open and 200 trucks will be rolling through town.

Commissioner Mumford read part of the noise ordinance Chapter 119 – Section 1 – Prohibited acts – “No person shall play, use, operate or permit to be played, used or operated any radio, tape recorder, cassette player or other machine or device for producing sound if it is located in or on any of the following and if the sound generated is audible at a distance of 30 feet (15 feet between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.) from the device producing the sound: (1) Any public property, including any public street, highway, building, sidewalk, park or thoroughfare or public space.”

This pertains to public areas, not private property.

Commissioner Mumford said you can still go ask for a citation from District Court.

Martha Glover said the ordinance needs to be changed.

The Glovers and the Winsteds complained about a neighbor playing the drums.

Commissioner Hayes said Ricky and Dave need to sit down and talk and work their situation out. Maybe something can be worked out; parking trucks sometimes some other place. The drum situation is different.

Commissioner Mumford said they will try to have the Police Chief and the town attorney here at the Work Shop on February 16 and hash this out.

Parking ordinance, business license enforcement, and license fines were all tabled until later.

URS Meeting – 1/22 – Commissioner Mumford reported they met and they have agreed to build a building outside and replumb it and connect them. This is to be done in March. Nick asked how this affects the wastewater allocations already approved.

Commissioner Mumford said he doesn't think they go forward until this is done.

Commissioner Mumford said he attended a work shop meeting on the storm water management issue. You have to stop the storm water from leaving your property. They want to turn it over to local governments. Should go back and talk to the county to go in with them.

New Business – Revise 2010 Budget – Commissioner Mumford said the 2010 Budget showed expenses of \$1,647,000. This shows a reduction of about \$154,000.

No one knows what the effects of reduced property assessments will be.

Requests for discontinuance of water/wastewater/garbage – Commissioner Mumford said connections do not disappear. We can't suspend garbage because we have a contract for number of houses. There are about 61 properties that could demand water but properties are sitting now.

Diane said some other towns charge the sewer rate and \$7.50 for BRF.

Diane to write letters concerning requests for discontinuance.

Letters re: FASTC Co. & Town – Kent Co., Caroline Co., & Ridgely sent letters of support.

Landfill – Commissioner Mumford and Diane took a tour of the Easton facility with MES. They suggested trying to get a traffic light at Central and Rt. 480 in Ridgely to help deal with truck traffic.

A committee of concerned citizens needs to revisit land fill issues and enforcement.

The February Work Shop will be held on Tuesday, February 16 due to the holiday on Monday.

Commissioner Hayes made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Balderson
Clerk