

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

The March 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; Jack Hall, Town Attorney; Dan Divilio-Times Record; JOK Walsh, Caroline Co. Historical Society President; and Carol Balderson, Town Clerk; were present.

The following residents were also present: Kevin Webster, Cathy Schwab, Rick Schwab, Kathy Smith, Elsie Ebling, Joyce Faulkner, Melvin Faulkner, Ginger Lockhart, Jerry Sutton, and Shirley Moore.

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

Approval of Minutes – February 1 – President Epperly-Glover made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Mumford. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – The Clerk reported a General Fund balance of \$339,069.46 (\$127,324 is money received for Rails to Trails), Sewer Fund - \$16,941.41, and Water Fund - \$1,595.38. The K-9 fund is \$3,683.50 from donations. After expenses are taken out, funds will need to be returned to donors since the dog has been returned.

Reports – Public questions/comments concerning written reports – Cathy Schwab asked if it would be a problem to post the reports along with the agenda.

Town Administrator's Report – Diane presented the Commissioners with a proposal for a \$9,000 energy grant which has to be signed and received by them by March 5. It is reimbursable within approximately 30 days of receipt of the invoice. Once we decide on the project, it has to be approved by an Energy Consultant that it truly will save energy. However, if we change our minds about what we want to do after the application is completed, that is okay. Furnace replacement and new double doors (upstairs and downstairs) are acceptable. It is believed the furnace alone could cost \$9,000. If it is more, is the Town willing to pay the difference? If too much we may only replace one of them.

Diane reported that we are signed up with U.S. Communities for purchases. It's a program that was put through MML. Has not heard anything from the county.

Commissioner Mumford made a motion to authorize President Epperly-Glover to sign the energy grant documents, seconded by Commissioner Hayes. Unanimously approved.

Diane reported that she has tried to sell or give away the bamboo (Hopkins property). She said USDA said to destroy it without digging it up you would have to put rebar into the stems and pour Roundup into it.

Diane reported that she has been working with town ordinances and found that Ord. 321 was never adopted (accepting streets in Lister Estates).

Diane said she found a lot of information about the previous Fire Station application. She contacted both USDA and CDBG to see if she could use one as a match against the other to apply for some grant funding. She met with Tim Gunderson to go over the project. She sent a letter to Kratovil to see where they stand on the application because they have heard nothing and it is shovel ready.

Diane reported that the CDBG opening and training is March 31 and she would be attending. Diane checked with the Cemetery Assoc. regarding the purchase of town land behind the cemetery. They would like to have it but can't afford it; they may be approaching the Commissioners about donating some.

Diane also reported that she has been trying to get written evidence or confirmation that the SHA does not have to scrape or maintain from the line to the curb on Central Ave. Jay Schmick called her today and said this was done before he got in this position. They could not scrape it when we put in the cut outs.

Ginger Lockhart said she had called because she was concerned about the children waiting in the road for the school bus on Central Ave.

Diane also said she talked to Shane Johnston today and he said the steps were all done with the Comprehensive Plan. She also spoke to Shawn Kiernan at the State Planning Dept. He had sent a letter to Joe last June. We can copy the approved CD and send him that and he will take care of it.

Old Business – MOU with URS – Regards fixing the issues with the upgrade – Commissioner Mumford made a motion that President Epperly-Glover sign the MOU (3 copies), seconded by President Epperly-Glover. Passed.

New Business – JOK Walsh – Grant Proposal (paperwork presented) – JOK requested the approval of the Commissioners to seek grant funds to restore the Train Station (built in 1892). Can use the \$75,000 grant received by the Town for matching funds for renovation. They want to restore it as an Interpretive Center - \$356,850.

Kathy Smith spoke in favor of this project.

President Epperly-Glover made a motion to allow the Caroline County Historical Society to apply for grants, seconded by Commissioner Hayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Kevin Webster – Lacrosse – Kevin requested the use of Martin Sutton Park for 2 small lacrosse fields (soccer fields). They would be practicing twice a week. The season starts the Saturday of Easter weekend and ends the Saturday before Memorial Weekend.

Commissioners approved this use.

Old Business – Discuss/vote business license ordinance – Needed a definition of a business, where to display license, and fee (\$50) – President Epperly-Glover read a portion of the ordinance.

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

License enforcement resolution – This resolution makes the Municipal Administrator the appointing officer.

There is a committee to sit in judgement.

President Epperly-Glover made a motion to adopt this resolution, seconded by Commissioner Hayes. Passed unanimously.

Resolution establishing a schedule of fines – 1st offense - \$50, 2nd offense - \$100, 3rd or more up to \$1,000 – operating a business after license has been revoked - \$1,000

Commissioner Mumford asked that Diane notify the businesses of the passage.

President Epperly-Glover made a motion to adopt the fine schedule, seconded by Commissioner Mumford. Passed.

Parking Ordinance – Commissioner Mumford said trucks will not be allowed to park on public property, there are restrictions on leaving engines running (unlawful in R-1, R-2 or R-3 or on any street adjoining those zoning districts).

President Epperly-Glover made a motion to adopt the parking ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Mumford. Passed unanimously.

Revise 2010 Budget – Copies available – Commissioner Mumford explained state cuts and some of the cuts/reductions made to make the budget work. Comes out about \$87,000 to the good.

Cathy Schwab asked about snow storm reimbursement.

Commissioner Hayes said nothing happens until the President declares it a disaster. December was declared.

Ed Hopkins – Jack Hall said the attorney is to work out a plan, but he doesn't think it will work. Need to proceed. Discussion.

MOU with RVFD – Commissioner Mumford said this is the arrangement to reimburse the Fire Dept. for cell tower property issues. Town to pay \$4703/yr. for 33 years.

Commissioner Mumford made a motion to sign the MOU, seconded by President Epperly-Glover. Commissioner Hayes recused himself from the discussion. Passed.

Landfill – Committee to revisit issues and enforcement – Cathy Schwab concerned about trash trucks through town. Trucks are supposed to be numbered so that they could be tracked.

Cathy said she talked with Sarah Visintainer and requested a meeting in Ridgely with Steve Tomchevsky/Md. Env. Service.

New Business – C-2 Zoning District Snow/Ice Removal & Seward Rd. – Diane said SHA is only responsible for Central Ave. travel portion. The snow emergency route became the town's responsibility before there were any bump outs. Nothing in writing. Commissioner Hayes said the town and the state (Central Ave.), and the town and the county (Seward Rd.) need to sit down and have a discussion on who is responsible for what.

Shirley Moore said Harry Cole said there was a written agreement with the town for Seward Rd. It was impassable, 2 snowstorms and nothing came down there until Melvin Faulkner came with his tractor and Young Woo came in with his backhoe. She said if this happens again she will call every town commissioner.

President Epperly-Glover signed letter to the county pertaining to the tax sale in June. The town has nothing to add.

Town Election will be held April 26 for two commissioners.

Summary of Cow Barn development – Commissioner Mumford said there are some issues – some elements were based on Elm St. development. Storm water management is now another issue.

Cathy Schwab talked about damage to the train station (screen cut), and graffiti on trash cans. They will cut the screen out.

The Historical Society met with about 10 vendors yesterday to get the Farmer's Market started again.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm to executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Balderson, Clerk

