

## Commissioners of Ridgely

July 19, 2010

The July Town Meeting was held at the Ridgely House on the above date at 7:00 pm. Dale Mumford, President; Linda Jo Epperly-Glover, Commissioner; Anthony Casey, Commissioner; Diane Wojcik, Town Administrator; Gary Foster, Police Chief; Robin Eaton, Director of Public Works; David Crist, Supt. of Water/Wastewater; Jack Hall, Town Attorney; and Carol Balderson were present.

The following persons were also present: Jonathan Newell-State's Attorney, Dan Divilio-Times Record, Lee Stepp, Joanne Stepp, Dennis Glover, Martha Glover, Archie Carroll, Kip Koch, Martin Sokolich, and Jerry Sutton.

**Opening** – President Mumford opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

**Approval of Minutes** – May 17 – Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to approve the minutes of May 17, seconded by Commissioner Casey. Passed.

**Noise Ordinances** – Mr. Newell (State's Attorney) was here to discuss noise ordinances in relation to complaints by neighbors of drummer. Ordinances don't cover day time hours. Could change the ordinance, or folks could go to District Court before a judge. Mr. Newell suggested mediation and the Glovers declined.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover asked Dennis what he felt could be done and he said complete padding of the building.

Kip said they would do that.

After some discussion it was agreed that the Kochs would buffer the building fully and the Chief would check in a week.

Mr. Newell left at this time.

**Treasurer's Report** – Clerk reported a General Fund balance of \$77,554.60, Sewer Fund - \$25,248.57, and Water Fund - \$7,616.45. Moved about \$12,000 from the G. Fund to the Water/Sewer Funds. Mailed the check for the first payment to MDE today.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Commissioner Casey.

**Public Works** – Robin reported that Denton/Caroline Co. is not accepting brush now.

Brush is appearing in Ridgely where there weren't any trees. He saw someone unloading brush off a trailer. Has a large pile of brush sitting and said he could get a permit to burn one time. He would like to have limbs separated from the leaves and grass clippings.

Discussion on limiting rubble pickup to a certain amount or pay for pickup...Commissioners need to decide.

It was agreed to ask Allied Waste to reduce the number of garbage pickups to 550.

**Central Ave. Islands** – Robin suggested putting in 6x6 planter boxes and some posts for hanging banners, flags, decorative stone, etc.

Commissioners said try one to see how it works.

Robin said the punchlist for Lister Estates is done.

Lee Stepp said Mr. Hall was going to let them know how to start withdrawing funds from the bond and start making repairs. There needs to be some things on paper regarding the

paving of Walnut Street.

Mr. Hall said the items needed to be on the punchlist to be addressed.

Tar Streets – Diane to schedule with Betty Ballast.

**Police Report** – Chief Foster reported the draft bicycle ordinance was sent to the Commissioners regarding bicycles not allowed on sidewalks in business district, but allowed in other areas of town. Pedestrians have the right of way.

About 75 houses do not have house numbers. The police are trying to make personal contact.

Robin is working on signs for the skatepark.

**Staffing** – Commissioners approved a part-time contractual position (not to exceed 24 hrs./wk.) for the Police Dept. The Chief has someone interested who is certified.

A supervisory position has been added. Officer Keith Berry has been promoted to the rank of Sgt. and will be supervisor in the absence of the Chief.

President Mumford suggested they have a public hearing on the bicycle ordinance on Aug. 2. Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion that a public hearing be held on Aug. 2, seconded by Commissioner Casey. Passed.

**Water/Wastewater** – David Crist said URS is done. A few odds and ends are needed. David reported the last he heard the water tank crew would be in here the middle of August. They are moving up north.

**Town Attorney** – Jack Hall advised that the charter could be a full review or patch – no problem.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover said the committee is taking a section of the charter at a time and changing/adding. Public Hearing at the end for public comments.

**Hopkins** – Mr. Hall reported that the judge gave Hopkins until August 1 to clean up the property himself. The Town would then have the right to go in and cut things down to 8 inches, but not pull up the bamboo.

**Kiddie Kastle** – No pay – Will have to start the process again. With new laws it will take longer.

Jack presented a recodification of an ordinance for lots not hooked up to reserve water/wastewater to commissioners. Took separate sections and combined into one. Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion for introduction tonight and hearing on Aug. 2 or Aug. 16, seconded by Commissioner Casey. Passed.

**Municipal Administrator** – Diane said in regard to the café ordinance she has not checked to see if payment has been received.

**Business Licenses** – Commissioner Casey said this ordinance needs to be changed or abolished. Commissioner Casey made a motion to repeal the business license ordinance. Commissioner Epperly-Glover said she originally voted for it but has heard many complaints about the interview process, occupancy permits required, staff time, etc. She then seconded Commissioner Casey's motion to repeal.

President Mumford opposed the motion and expressed severe concern about the liability the Town may be placed in. Motion carried.

Diane thanked the Commissioners for allowing her to attend the MML Conference.

Sessions were very informative.

A letter was received from a citizen on N. Central Ave. concerning yard sales that were

set up on the island across Central Ave. in the vicinity of the Veterinary Clinic. They feel that a regular yard sale on town property does not fit the character of the area. Secondly, there is a traffic issue created with people stopping there. Another concern is that it will grow.

Jack Hall was working on the draft to combine Ord. 296 and Ord. 102 for water fees. She has not been able to locate anything in the code that deals with trash fees for vacant houses or lots. We have had requests to take them off.

Considerable discussion on how to handle this.

Diane reported that she has been working on a FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant for improvements to the drainage on Liberty St. She had Soil Conservation examine the area and they had 3 areas that could be used for drainage. She sent a letter of interest to FEMA for consideration and then will apply for a grant after she compiles more info and finds the letter is accepted. Will need quotes for the 3 areas. One proposal is for the drain to run across the McNomee field to a ditch, or the drain could run down the street to the highway drain, or the other prospect is through the field to Cow Barn Road. She talked to Tom DeLorimier of URS. He said if the soils permit, an infiltration basin might solve the problem. Jay Schmick stopped in this morning to discuss the drain. If engineering studies show what quantity of water may run into the drain, and if the study can tell whether the drain goes to the McNomee ditch or the ditch draining Lister Est., that will decide whether we can hook up to their drain. She said she would avoid any costs if at all possible.

Contacted FEMA to see if pre-app engineering can be included in the grant.

Diane reported that she has been working with the Fire Station Hazard Mitigation funds which will pay for a generator and “hardening” of the building up to \$900,000. Sent them a letter of interest telling them the situation. Should receive specs from the builder of the steel building to be used in the actual application.

Diane said she applied to Md. Rural Council for \$22,000 to move the utility pole through the Rural Md. Council, or Md. Ag. Education and Rural Dev. Assistance Funds; MAERDAF.

Contacted Peninsula Oil regarding inclusion in the county pricing plan. They said we can be included. The price would be \$2.17 per gal. for the year. Prices with Southern States ranged from \$2.74 to \$2.89 in May. We use 2,000 gals., so we can save \$1,400. This would mainly be the fuel oil for the office.

Deed for the Telephone Exchange Building in packets. It is included on our insurance along with the Railway Station. JOK called about the letter regarding the Carriage House – extending the time limit. He asked if there was any funding available for work on the house and moving it. She faxed him the Md. Dept. of Natural Resources application. This was to “emphasize projects that offer public benefits enhancing quality of life in existing population centers”.

Still requesting Commissioners to consider donating a portion of the town property to the Cemetery Assoc. near the well.

Diane said she had another request from SHA regarding property for waste.

Robin said if it's blacktop there is a well head there and there is a distance to provide protection from some items.

Robin also said he thought it would be considered wetlands.

**Historic Commission** – Jerry Sutton reported that Mrs. Dorr got an extension until Jan. 2 for the Carriage House. There is still no news on the grant for the railroad station. President Mumford said Mrs. Dorr will have to get a permit or remove the structure. There is 6 months to get something done. A decision needs to be made quickly. Jerry suggested breaking the building down so that it could be stored somewhere until funds are available to deal with it.

**Planning/Zoning** – PODS – Permit? - Martin Sokolich reported there are temporary structures; dumpsters. Permits are necessary. PODS are relatively new. Martin said occupancy permits are more of a zoning administration issue than P & Z. Martin said they drafted a proposal for the Cow Barn property overlay. Copies sent to Jack Hall and Anne Ogletree. Hasn't heard from either of them. Archie Carroll stated that the two attorneys are not getting along. The Façade Easement would save the Cow Barn for perpetuity.

**Old Business** – Sebasco – Commissioners agreed there would be no discount. Takala – Diane to send letter.

**New Business** - Morris – To pay water, give sewer break  
President Mumford said there is a sign at 307 Maple – Reader & Advisor – not allowed. Suggestions for legislation for General Assembly to be received by Sept. 7.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Balderson  
Clerk