

**Commissioners of Ridgely  
Minutes  
November 1, 2010**

The November Town Meeting was held in the Ridgely House on the above date at 7:00 pm. Dale Mumford, President; Linda Jo Epperly-Glover, Commissioner (arrived late); Anthony Casey, Commissioner; Diane Wojcik, Town Administrator; Gary Foster, Police Chief and Stephanie Berkey, Asst. Clerk-Treasurer; were present.

The following folks were also present: Dan Divilio-Times Record, Gary Vogt, Rick Schwab, Cathy Schwab, Kathy Smith, Tom Morris, Kim Morris, Donna Lindgren, Lisa Takala, Leo Stepp, Joanne Stepp and Gerald Sutton.

**Opening** – President Mumford opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for those serving in our country.

**Treasurer's Report** – The Assistant Clerk reported a General Fund balance of \$332,603.63, Sewer Fund - \$25,354.26, and Water Fund - \$7,620.00. Bills presented for payment approval. Commissioner Casey made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by President Mumford. Passed.

**Police Report** – Chief Foster said that we are trying to obtain a grant for the signs in the park. Speed limit signs for Lister Estates would require a municipal traffic study, with costs from \$600-\$1000, to determine what speed is set. It was discussed that possibly adding some stop signs and other “traffic calming devices” would be the most efficient way to deter speeders.

Chief has done some research into a “lawful speed zone” and President Mumford agreed that it is worth investigating. Chief Foster will check with MVA to find out what steps and costs and other factors would be involved.

The new part-time officer, Gary Manos has started. Halloween went without incident. Day and late shift is being maintained and there are some double shifts on weekends. Staffing can adequately cover the Christmas Parade.

President Mumford made the Chief aware that the on November 13<sup>th</sup> the Lions Club would be putting up the Christmas lights. He also thanked the Police and town employees for their help with the elementary school Halloween parade, as it was a very nice event.

New Vehicle – They are searching for the best prices under state contracts and bids. Hertrich does do this and we could get a vehicle for \$22,000 - \$24,000 on the rim and out the door. An SUV would be closer to \$25,000. Chief will get the prices when they come out.

We are in the process of creating forms and procedures for bike registration with the Town.

The application for the Christmas Parade has been submitted.

It was discussed that the Chief would like to potentially use the almost \$6,300 forfeited to the RPD from gaming machines for cameras around town.

Also discussed: more police presence on Sunrise and Central Avenue.

**Public Works** – Kathy Smith presented the list for Christmas tree lights and the signatures.

President Mumford said that there will be a wastewater meeting with MDE on November 9<sup>th</sup>. It appears that with all of the rain and our 19 acres of lagoons we are in jeopardy of going over capacity. We need to get ideas on how to work with this.

**Municipal Administrator** – Diane would like to get a standing sign for notices. It may cost up to \$180.00. We need to be able to put up notices about trash pickup variations, holidays, closings, etc. She took the Ridgely Commissioners' Plaque to Impressive Printing and they are getting us a new one with up to date names. They are going to provide a quote for the A-frame sign. We will check with Planning & Zoning for specifications for the sign.

Caboose – An interested group from Sudlersville visited the caboose and the train station on the the 29<sup>th</sup>. Diane spoke with Hanes Holt in Federalsburg and he is ready and willing to move it. Nancy asked that since we were giving them the caboose, maybe they would pay us for some of the original transportation costs. We are keeping the pot-bellied stove.

Impact Fee Study – Per Mr. Vic Tervalo, we need to contact Jeanne Bilanin with University Institute for Governmental Service. Diane has called and left a message and will find out how much it is going to cost.

Loan Refinance - Diane met with PNC Bank and gave them previous audits. All the information was also given to Queenstown Bank and we are meeting with CNB on 12/2/10.

Diane reported that the Edward Hopkins trial did not go forth because he wrote a letter to the judge explaining that he was in the hospital. He is home now.

Betty Ballas and her crew will be here on the 13<sup>th</sup> along with volunteers, Lions Club and our Public Works to do the tree lights. They will be assisting with leaves on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of November.

Diane has arranged to have a presentation for Russ Griffith thanking him for all of his help with the Christmas lights over the years. President Mumford discussed that the light bulbs are no longer available. The Lions club is meeting in January to discuss other options for next year.

PODS – The PODS Ordinance was reviewed by the Planning Commission in October and is being presented tonight for review. Jack Hall indicated that this would need a public hearing. President Mumford said that the hearing will be on December 6, 2010 and we can act on it that evening. A discussion ensued regarding why there is a need for this ordinance, which led to a discussion on the burned houses on Park Avenue and on Maryland and the safety issues with these houses. Linda will talk to Cary Malkus to see what can legally be done.

Painting – The painting is finished, but during the painting some problems were found including leaks and rotting. The repairs could be completed for about \$350.00. The Commissioners gave approval to proceed with the \$350.00 repairs.

Diane reported on the Asset Building and Community Development meeting.

The audit is complete.

We need to consider a minimum charge for commercial properties. The ordinance that we just passed was only for residential. The bill with no usage is still \$318.83 with the water turned off. Diane would like to work on an Ordinance to address Commercial property not in use to discuss at a future meeting.

JOK Walsh would like to meet with the Commissioners on 11/15/10 at 6:30 in a closed executive session regarding the tech park. Diane would like to speak with the Commissioners following the meeting in regards to this matter.

Diane requested that we grant approval to give Lisa Takala the Property Tax Credit for Rehabilitation. Jack Hall explained the credit and said we need to get with the assessment office to determine the amount. Diane will proceed with this.

Old Business – Cow Barn Façade Easement. Jack Hall has been communicating with Anne Ogletree about the ordinance and the changes are small. He explained the difficulties of insuring a concrete block building for a mortgage holder. The draft has gone back to Anne. Mr. Carroll would like the ordinance in place for the rehabilitation district.

Charter- Jack explained that our charter is very old and needed updating and gave a history of the current charter. Linda said that a committee was appointed to make the changes and then the suggestions were sent to Jack. She thanked those who helped on the committee. Per Jack, the changes need to be put on the website and displayed in the Town Hall.

New Business – Morris/Lone Lot in Lister Estates is the empty lot between the 2 properties that the homeowner's would like to buy. They have spent money on taking care of the property. The lot would need a 6ft opening for easement and they would like to put a 3 ½ foot walkway to get to the school. It was originally supposed to be a road. According to Jack Hall this is no different from any other unopened alley. The Town does not own it and are not in a position to transfer the property, Crocker or his company, own the lot.

Leaves- will be picked up on 11/6/10 & 11/27/10 with volunteer crews. If they are bagged, they must be in biodegradable bags.

Rick Schwab reported that the Town Clock is in progress. The cement has been poured and it is scheduled for next Monday to be installed. He is working with David to get a bucket truck. The dedication will be in the Spring on Founder's Day.

Gary Vogt discussed his concerns with his water bills and with the rental housing inspections at 8 Railroad Avenue.

Gerald Sutton said the Christmas parade is set for December 4<sup>th</sup>. The Lions Club is looking for new members.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a legal issue and a personnel issue at 9:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Berkey  
Asst. Clerk