

Unapproved

Commissioners of Ridgely Minutes February 28, 2011

The February Town Meeting was held in the Ridgely House on the above date at 7:00 pm. Dale Mumford, President; Linda Epperly-Glover, Commissioner; Anthony Casey, Commissioner; Diane Wojcik, Town Administrator; Gary Foster, Police Chief; David Crist, Water/Wastewater Supt.; and Carol Balderson, Town Clerk; were present. Cathy Schwab, Rick Schwab, and Gerald Sutton (in at 7:45pm) were also present.

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

Minutes – Dec. 6, Dec. 6 Exec. Session, Dec. 20, Dec. 23 Exec. Session, and Jan. 10 – Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to approve all of these minutes as written, seconded by Commissioner Casey. Passed

Treasurer's Report – Clerk reported balances as follows: General Fund - \$278,059.17, Sewer Fund - \$129,562.12, and Water Fund - \$20,894.95

Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion approving and authorizing President Mumford to sign a letter accompanying a list of unpaid bills to be included in the Tax Sale, seconded by Commissioner Casey. Passed

President Mumford reported that the County tax levy for Ridgely residents for 2011, based on the differential (duplicate services) will be .76 per \$100 of assessed value.

Constant Yield Tax Rate – President Mumford said we are exempt this year. The CYTR for FY 2012 is .4991. Our tax rate is set at .4810 so in order to maintain the same amount of income we would have to increase our rate to .4991.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills, seconded by Commissioner Casey. Passed

Police Report – Chief Foster reviewed the Crime Stats comparison 2009, 2010, and 2011.

Upcoming Events – Career Day at Ridgely Elem. School – May 13, Strawberry Festival – May 29

Traffic Issues at Ridgely Elementary – Afternoon dismissal – Traffic direction is being completed to aid buses onto Rt. 312. Concerns are being addressed with SHA.

Grant Funding – Homeland Security Funds – There is some money left from last year. Considering upgrading existing cameras and adding cameras at key locations in the Town. Can use some of the money from Connolly's for this.

CTSP – Comprehensive Traffic Safety Program – Funds are divided between all Police Departments in Caroline Co., \$12,000 for 2011.

Truck Enforcement – MSP have been in the area on at least four occasions assisting with enforcement and driver issues. Truck traffic has increased slightly.

Landlord Contacts – Several landlords have become proactive in monitoring their properties and have requested Ridgely Police to assist with trespassing, etc. Tuckahoe Gardens has been proactive, reducing the number of calls to that location.

Some discussion on the purchase of a police vehicle. There was one budgeted for this current year. The Chief is in the process of checking on pricing, etc.

Cathy Schwab reported that the Old Time Ridgely Days will be held on May 7 – 10 am to 3 pm.

Water/Wastewater Report – David reported 65 days holding capacity in the lagoons. Should be fine.

Water – An alarm system for the tower will cost between \$2500 and \$3000. Needs to know what the Commissioners want him to do.

Commissioners said pursue.

Need to get our hands on a few more pressure reducing valves for tank cleaning project. There was a telephone communication problem with Well #3. Had Verizon in all weekend to fix the issue. Finally got it fixed Sunday afternoon. Had to get Shorerite Controls in today to reprogram Well #3 SCADA unit. Everything is now back to normal operation.

Some discussion on how to correct issues raised by MDE concerning ph and ammonia. David reported that the Vortex pumps have been redesigned and are better. It will cost a little more now to change them out, but labor time will be less. He thinks the pumps will last longer.

New Business – President Mumford introduced Ord. No. 338 which establishes the form for Statement of Candidacy for Commissioner.

President Mumford introduced Ord. No. 337 which establishes hours during which elections shall occur. Suggested hours are 8:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Commissioners talked about how to cover these hours with judges.

President Mumford introduced Ord. No. 334 REVISED.

Jerry Sutton said we have been keeping up better with expenses, debt, etc. Some adjustments have been suggested. The General Fund expense side increased by \$5,479, property tax revenue is being decreased by \$38,684.

Sewer revenues are being reduced by \$22,000 and Water/Sewer expenses are being decreased by \$1,974.

Jerry said the Town has done a very good job of looking at the costs. Health insurance costs were reduced by \$20,000 by going to a different plan where the Town funds the deductible.

Retirement costs keep going up. The Town is looking into refinancing the loan for that to reduce the costs.

President Mumford said on March 14 requests, suggestions for the 2012 Budget are due.

Town Administrator's Report – Diane reported that there was an issue with the PODS Ordinance regarding 180 days within a calendar year, which opens the door to 360 days total. Jack Hall has not responded.

President Mumford said we should just make the correction ourselves.

MML – Diane asked if anyone was staying over for the convention. Commissioner Casey said he would like to, if still in here.

President Mumford said it's not in the budget.

Commercial Water and Sewer Rates – Diane presented suggested rates at the last meeting. They are currently being charged \$318.83. She proposed \$75/sewer, \$50/water, \$7.50/BRF for \$112.50/qtr. This has created a hardship for business property owners.

More discussion on MML Convention. Could modify the budget. Commissioner Casey said there is \$7500 in legal fees that won't be used.

Diane said she would not be going at all.

Diane said water and sewer training could be used for part of Commissioner Casey's trip. Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 339 – Establishing Water/Sewer Rate for Vacant Commercial Property - \$112.50/qtr., seconded by Commissioner Casey. Passed

MOU – Agreement with Stephanie Berkey regarding online accounting course. If she leaves before two years she will reimburse the Town for the class.

Commissioners approved.

Sign Construction – Commissioner Casey suggested waiting until the FY 2012 budget was set up to see if they can come up with the funds for the lighted sign.

Bamboo – The Commissioners approved the billing/payment arrangements with the contractor.

Energy Grant – Diane reported 3 bids were received, Commissioners have copies. Commissioner Casey questioned insulation value, etc.

Some discussion on interior storm windows – available through Nuttle Lumber Co.

Lowest bid for insulation is J. Blevins.

Commissioners approved low bid.

501 Central Ave. – Sidewalk Issue – President Mumford suggested hoisting the sidewalk and putting sand in and put back.

President Mumford also said something needs to be done with the islands on Central Ave.

Allied Waste – Some discussion on proposal. 1) Variable Rate or 2) Fixed Rate
Commissioners agreed to go with Fixed Rate, effective until 6/30/13.

Pierson's – Submitted a proposal for the Martin Sutton Park unit at \$85/mo. We currently pay \$100/mo.

Commissioners approved change.

Computers – Some discussion on a scanning system.

Diane asked if anyone would be going to the Caroline Municipal meeting on March 16.

Commissioner Casey said he would go.

Diane reported that the wind blew the speaker off the balcony. Replace?

Commissioners said need to replace. Only used by Lions Club, maybe they should replace.

Public Comments – Cathy Schwab officially asked the Commissioners for approval for the Historical Society to hold Old Time Ridgely Days on May 7 from 10 am to 3 pm in the Railroad Mem. Park.

Commissioners approved.

Requested that Robin get the porta pottie again.

The Schwabs thanked the Commissioners for their nomination for Caroline's Most Beautiful People.

There is to be a photo shoot in Railroad Park on Friday from 10 am to 4 pm at the caboose. They want to take a couple of boards off and replace when done.

The Town will get a copy of the picture if they win the contest.
Need a better count for Christmas ornaments next year for Town use.
They would like to dedicate the Town Clock on May 7 at 1:00 pm.
They have ordered the ornaments for this year. It will be the clock.
President Mumford asked about the deadline on the Carriage House.
Cathy said JOK Walsh has submitted a proposal.
Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 pm, seconded by
Commissioner Casey.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Balderson, Clerk