

## Unapproved

### Commissioners of Ridgely Minutes March 14, 2011

The March 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; Robin Eaton, Director of Public Works; David Crist, Supt. of Water/Wastewater; and Carol Balderson, Town Clerk; were present.

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

**Public Hearing** – Ordinance #337 – Hours of Election, Ordinance #338 – Statement of Candidacy, Ordinance #334 Revised – Amend FY2011 Budget

No public present to comment.

Discussion on the hours of election – 8 am to 7 pm. Commissioners agreed to change the hours back from 1 pm to 7 pm.

Hearing closed.

**Minutes** – Feb. 28, 2011 – Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Commissioner Casey. Passed

**Treasurer's Report** – Budget Modification – President Mumford said it cuts \$38,000 out of the property tax revenue. Sewer revenue is adjusted down \$25,000. Other changes are smaller adjustments.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to approve the Amended FY2011 Budget Ordinance #334 Revised, seconded by Commissioner Casey. Unanimously passed

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

**Police Report** – Chief Foster reported on upcoming events – Career Day at the Elementary School will be May 13 and two officers are assigned.

Strawberry Festival/5K Run – May 25 - Permits were sent off today. All personnel will be available.

Little League Parade – Greensboro – April 9 – One officer assigned to assist.

Old Tyme Days – May 7 – Assignments pending

Traffic issues at Ridgely Elementary School – Talked with Charles Coppage – Chestertown SHA has been contacted and will review and assess the problem and re-contact him regarding their recommendations.

**Grant Funding** – Homeland Security Funds – Current balance is \$3,173.96. Funding is to be used for air cards \$1,548.36. The balance will be used for 800 system battery replacement and upgrading cameras.

Additional funding is expected sometime after May 2011.

Training – Chief needs In-Service Training – Conference April 19-22 – Cost will be \$365. He will take personal vehicle and buy own meals.

The Police Dept. needs a new fax machine.

Some discussion on the proposed purchase of a new police car. Will need to get 3 bids.

Working on budget.

**Public Works** – Robin reported on rubble, brush, and Vortex pumps. Changing out pumps quicker now. Changing out when they get calls.

Kept a dumpster at the shop for odds and ends, but hauling rubble and brush to the landfill. Saving \$160/mo. for pulling the dumpster.

Getting equipment ready for spring. Wants to edge the trail, paint the pavilion roof, etc.

**Islands** – Commissioner Casey suggested only decorating 4 of the islands and doing away with the rest of them.

President Mumford suggested starting up this end and working down the street, a few a year, to see how it goes.

Some discussion on part-time spring/summer employee in Public Works.

Commissioner Casey said if they have Danny's crew pick up the brush, our guys could do the mowing.

Commissioners said they would try that and see how the money works out.

Diane said she got a letter today from USDA – got snow plow funding.

**Streets** – Discussion on the condition – Maryland Ave. really bad. Robin is trying to get cold patch to repair.

Robin said we have the Cow Barn intersection, the stretch by the liquor store up to Mr. Brodie's building, and Md. Ave. are the worst.

Some discussion on using tar and chip to save the road bed.

Diane said she can apply to CDBG for street and sidewalk funding.

Commissioner Casey said we should do whatever we need to do to save the road for now. If we get money in we can figure it out.

Will patch and get price for tar and chip on Md. Ave.

**Water/Wastewater** – David reported holding capacity at 48 days. Stream discharge has been started since substantial rain was expected.

Discussion on ph and ammonia issues. David thinks the gas chlorine will help with that.

**Town Administrator** – Diane (report attached) reported that the MDE loan has not been completely closed out and there is a chance we could get more reimbursed.

Commissioner Casey asked if we could check into doing something with the reimbursement to either make more money or pay down some debt. Need to review options.

President Mumford said the payments are over \$80,000. This loan was with no interest. Diane will check with MML for suggestions.

**Maintenance of Records** – Received a proposal for a dedicated computer and scanner to provide automated records of all our records in one place for easy reference. We have already lined up someone from school to work upstairs on organizing the boxes. If the Commissioners approve the purchase (\$1489), they would do the scanning. This saves several hundred dollars over the system that was proposed to us and no monthly fees.

Commissioners approved.

**MML Convention** – Who is going, and approved by the Commission?

Commissioner Casey wants to go. There is a miscellaneous account with \$3,000 sitting in it.

Public Address System – During a heavy wind the public address horn blew off the building. Replace?

Get prices for speaker replacement.

501 Central Avenue – Sidewalk – Commissioner Casey asked if the block could be lifted, built up with stone (or something) and replace slab. Robin is to have a professional look at the tree to see if the roots can be cut out without killing the tree.

Cow Barn – Deal with façade easement and zoning at the next meeting.

Commissioners approved payment of dues for the Md. Association of Historic District Commissions in the amount of \$60.

**New Business** – Ordinance #338 – Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to approve Statement of Candidacy, seconded by Commissioner Casey. Unanimously passed

Ordinance #337 – Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to approve voting hours of 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm, seconded by Commissioner Casey. Unanimously passed

Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to approve signing of the Lion's Club permit application to sell alcohol at the Strawberry Festival, seconded by Commissioner Casey. Unanimously passed

**2012 Budget Suggestions** – President Mumford suggested keeping the tax rate of .481 until it doesn't work. Constant Yield is .4991.

Going to work on loans to try to get interest rates down.

Electric savings of possibly 20% with panels...

Pay raises – haven't had any in a long time. President Mumford suggested trying to find the money for this.

Diane asked if Melissa's hours could be extended while Stephanie is out on sick leave.

Commissioners agreed.

Second police car – President Mumford suggested trying to get a second one, if possible.

Diane said we need a new interrogator for meter reading.

Commissioner Casey asked for consideration of replacing comp time with salary.

David said he thinks a salary increase would work better.

President Mumford said there are exempt and non-exempt employees. Need to review.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 pm, seconded by Commissioner Casey.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Balderson, Clerk

