

## Approved

### Commissioners of Ridgely Minutes April 4, 2011

The April 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 (in late), Police Chief; Robin Eaton, Director of Public Works; David Crist, Supt. of Water/Wastewater; and Carol Balderson, Town Clerk; were present.

The following residents were also present: Mike Redgraves, Cathy Schwab, Rick Schwab, Martin Sokolich, Lisa Takala, Margaret Haven, and Jerry Sutton (in late).

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

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

**Treasurer's Report** – The Clerk reported a General Fund balance as of March 31 of \$265,657.67, Sewer Fund - \$147,756.44, and Water Fund - \$35,883.06. Clerk pointed out that there is approximately \$60,000 sitting in the General Fund that needs to be moved to the Utility Funds this month. Bill list was presented for payment approval. Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Commissioner Casey. Passed

President Mumford reminded folks that the annual payment for the WWTP Upgrade will be approximately \$83,000.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover said Chief Foster had an emergency and will probably not be here.

Cathy Schwab said there appears to be a gathering around the fountain in the park.

Several beer bottle caps have been found in the area.

**Public Works** – Rick Schwab said all of the benches, etc. are put together and they need some input as to where they should be placed along the trail.

Mike Redgraves said the Lions and the Town need to get together to decide on what gets done with Christmas lights. Cost is \$1,000 to \$2,000 per string. If the Lions Club does it alone, one or two strings a year will be all they can do. Need to get Delmarva Power to come in and do the hookups at the top of the poles.

It was decided that Warren Thomas, the Schwabs, and Diane Wojcik will meet on this.

Robin said his department needs to get Railroad Mem. Park ready for Old Time Ridgely Days – put in benches, trash cans, etc.

Need to work on Martin Sutton Park for Strawberry Festival; mulch, etc.

Some discussion on the possibility of paving Md. Ave. with tar and chip.

Diane said if Robin could get a cost, she would apply for funds from CDBG.

Rick Schwab asked if the Town was going to hire a part time person for the season this year.

Commissioners and Robin said they are going to use Danny's crew to help with brush and our guys can mow, etc.

Railroad ties around parking lots at M. S. Park – Robin said they are getting in really bad shape. Replace or take out?

Commissioners agreed they are needed. Robin will pick through and replace those that are really bad.

Water/Wastewater – David reported tower cleaning is still scheduled for June. The alarm valve will cost about \$4500.

President Mumford asked what could be done to get increase for sewer hookups. Some discussion on replacing the old sewer lines (terra cotta pipe) with pvc. Then the main pump station will need some work.

Police Report – Chief Foster referred to Monthly Report for Crime Stats and Calls for Service. Training – All mandated training has been completed or is scheduled to be completed prior to June 30 for MPCTC Certification. The Chief will be attending the Chief's Conference April 19 to April 22.

Grants – Meeting on Traffic Funds on May 13 to determine funds (should be \$1,000 to \$1,200). Homeland Security funds requested for reimbursement of air cards (about \$1,600), 800 system radio batteries, and upgrade of video equipment on Ridgely House. 2012 funding will be \$7,500.

Seized Funds – Chief wants to use about \$900 of this to cover shortfall expected on Homeland Sec. Funds. That will leave over \$5,000. There are no restrictions on use of these funds.

New Vehicle Purchase – Chief wants to discuss vehicle issues with other Chiefs at Chief's Convention. Current quote for 2011 Ford Escape 4x4 without police equipment is \$21,438.

Schedule Modification – The Chief reported that beginning in June the rotation will change.

Bike thefts are beginning. The Police Dept. registers bikes as people bring them to the office.

Municipal Administrator Report – (copy attached) Diane reported on the Energy Grant. Bids came in for the interior storm windows at \$3,135 and \$3,216.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to accept the bid of Michael Miles (\$3,216), seconded by Commissioner Casey. Passed

Diane reported on the Fire Station Grant. Would like a letter of support from the Town to go with grant.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion that the Commissioners sign the letter, seconded by Commissioner Casey. Passed

Bamboo Ordinance – Diane presented Ordinance #2011-340 for bamboo to be limited or banned in the Town. The P & Z Commission has reviewed the verbage and inserted bamboo.

Margaret Haven and Lisa Takala asked about types of bamboo that are not intrusive. Commissioner Casey said this is all bamboo, treated as a grass.

Diane said there is a law in session now determining that it is an obnoxious plant.

Margaret Haven said now there are 8 inch stakes left on the Hopkins property and he can't walk on his property now. There are kids running through there. If they get

injured he will be liable? The Town should provide signs for posting – No Trespassing, etc.

President Mumford suggested waiting until the State passes the law for Town to pass.

President Mumford said the Town could provide signs for Mr. Hopkins to post.

There was some discussion on the Jenkins suit.

Robin said the Town was ready to dispose of the carriage house and JOK Walsh came in at the last minute to try and save it.

Cathy Schwab asked that the Commissioners hang on until the last to try to keep the building, until the Caroline Co. P & Z deadline is up. JOK is looking for funds.

President Mumford reported that work has started on the 2012 Budget. Needs more work. Asked for suggestions/items requested.

Cathy Schwab said need a part-time employee.

Martin Sokolich said the Zoning Ordinance needs revision. Some funding is needed to update.

President Mumford said we should check with Shane Johnston for a price.

**Public Comments** – Lisa Takala asked the Commissioners about a problem with two water bills for the same amount of usage with different amounts. Why are they different? She said she has tried to get it straightened out with no success. She presented a copy for the Commissioners to review.

President Mumford said she was sent a letter in July explaining what was needed.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover said the Commissioners need to look at it, and not during a meeting.

The Commissioners said they would check into it and get back to her before the deadline on her letter.

Election Judges will be Linda Ross, Arlene Hege, and Gayle Scherer with Mitzi Wallace as an alternate.

Cathy Schwab said the fifth grade class would like to plant a red maple in the Railroad Park. Hoping they will do this every year. Asked for permission from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to approve the tree planting, seconded by Commissioner Casey. Passed

Commissioner Epperly-Glover said Joanne Shipley told her they will be planting a tree at the post office for Arbor Day.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Balderson  
Clerk

