

Commissioners of Ridgely
Minutes
April 18, 2011
APPROVED

The April Workshop meeting was held in the Ridgely House on the above date at 7:00pm. Dale Mumford, President; Linda Jo Epperly-Glover, Commissioner; Anthony Casey, Commissioner, Diane Wojcik, Town Administrator; Carol Balderson, Clerk-Treasurer; Gary Foster, Police Chief; Robin Eaton, Director of Public Works; David Crist, Water & Sewer Superintendent; Martin Sokolich, Planning & Zoning; Gerald Sutton, Rick Schwab, Cathy Schwab and Stephanie Berkey, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report – There was no report as this was a work session, but bills were presented for payment approval. Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Commissioner Casey. Passed.

Police Report – Chief Foster discussed concerns for the upcoming budget, including the purchase of a new vehicle. He will be getting more information at the Chief's convention in Ocean City that will address the best options we have. Security cameras have been installed at Tuckahoe Gardens and our access to them is coming soon. Chief has received a quote and approval for cameras at the Ridgely House and in the Railroad Park. Homeland Security Funds will be used for this. President Mumford said that we will look at his recommendations.

W/WW- David reported that he has received a quote from Weltech for the alarm dialer at the water tower for \$4,500 and requested approval. Commissioner Epperly-Glover motioned for approval, seconded by Commissioner Casey and President Mumford. Passed. David also reported that we have begun spraying and even with the recent rains, things are looking good.

Public Works – Robin's main budget concern is the cost of fuel. Robin expressed concerns regarding the Tech Park. They currently are sitting on 9000 allocations and are not being charged any minimum for that privilege. Diane is going to look into seeing if there is a Memo of Understanding that discusses what fees, if any were agreed upon. President Mumford said that it might be a good idea to have a meeting with the people from the Tech Park as well as the County Attorney and Commissioners. President Mumford asked JOK Walsh if he had any information regarding the Tech Park. Mr. Walsh indicated that presently they are discussing marketing for the park, but they need money from the county. They would definitely need to maintain sufficient water allocations. A summit on the success of the Tech Park would be a good idea. Robin informed Mr. Walsh that presently the Town receives no income on the 9000 gallons. President Mumford said that perhaps the County Commissioners need a refresher on this subject. Mr. Walsh agreed and stated that all 3 County Commissioners should be present. Diane has said that she will try to schedule this meeting.

Robin indicated that he will be meeting with Bramble regarding spring tar and sidewalks. Diane gave Robin a list, with focus at the moment being on the Railroad park in preparation for the Old Time Ridgely Days. New benches and a bike rack have been placed in the park. Once that is finished, they will be focus on Martin Sutton Park- getting the playground carpet and the trail in order and the park ready for the Strawberry Festival. Public works is still trying to get to the islands in Town, but the weather has been a problem. The park rules signs will be going up soon. President Mumford stated that the Bulk Trash pick up was being monitored now that Danny Hutchinson's crew was picking up the brush. We need to keep a close watch on this for the next few months so that we can have a firm figure for what the costs will be. Robin indicated that there was a lot of brush this month – 7 dumpster loads. President Mumford said that if we get several months worth of information we can begin working on a fee to charge.

Municipal Administrator – A copy of the Town Administrator's Report is attached.

The Commissioners gave approval to Diane to apply to CDBG for the Fire Station and another grant for street repairs.

MDE determined that the feasibility study for the waste water project was not in the original scope of work. They only accepted chart recorder cost at \$3,903.00. Diane requested that the close out sheet be signed. All Commissioners approved, President Mumford signed the close out sheet.

There was a discussion regarding the PODS ordinance and does it apply to existing PODS or just new? President Mumford said that we need a list of where they are in the Town presently. Diane indicated that she will have Cary Malkus make this list on Thursday April 21 when he is in our town. Ordinance No. 340, an ordinance of The Commissioners of Ridgely amending Chapter 75, building construction by adding a new subsection 75-10, to regulate mobile storage units (PODS), was introduced. President Mumford requested a legal notice to be placed in the Star Democrat in regards to this ordinance.

We had one person interested in the volunteer position for handling records in the office, but wanted it to be a part-time, paying position. Diane asked if the Commissioners would approve a part-time minimum wage position for a few hours a week in the office. The Commissioners declined this at this time.

The Cowbarn Project will be dealt with at the next Planning and Zoning meeting. Martin passed out a memorandum regarding the status of the Carroll/Cowbarn Project, which is attached to these minutes. He indicated that it will be necessary to have a roundtable meeting to get everyone together to discuss the plans. The Commissioners agreed and President Mumford said that we need to get our attorney, Jack Hall, in here to prepare for this.

Old Business

JOK Walsh from the Caroline County Historical Society spoke on behalf of the Railroad Interpretive Center and provided the Commissioners a handout (attached) of the activities conducted by the Society for the benefit of the Town of Ridgely. They are working on having the Train Depot qualify for the National Historical Registry, which in turn would help it to qualify for grant funding leading to an interpretive center. Regarding the Carriage House, the historical society met with the Planning and Zoning staff and county attorney. The Historical Society has created a plan for moving the Carriage House into the Railroad Park. The County is willing to grant an extension for the Carriage House, but one of the criteria is a letter from the Town indicating that we would like to have the Carriage House made a part of the Railroad Interpretive Center. Mr. Walsh indicated that he realizes if we were to send a letter that we would include appropriate contingencies. If a letter is not sent the waiver that allows the Carriage House at its current location will immediately expire, which will raise the question of who owns the building. Sending the letter will give an extension until August to find funding. Mr. Walsh estimates that the project will be at least \$60,000 - \$70,000 and discussed possible funding options. Mr. Walsh indicated that the Historical Society is not opposed to owning the building, but has never been asked. President Mumford asked if they would be interested in taking ownership of the Carriage House and Mr. Walsh said that it would very much depend on the outcome of this meeting, but Mr. Walsh will talk to the Historical Society's Board of Directors regarding taking the title and will report back to the Town. Commissioner Casey asked about the contingencies going into the letter. Mr. Walsh indicated that it could be stated that the Town would like to see the building in the park contingent upon the Historical Society acquiring sufficient funds to restore the building and that no Town funds shall be used. Commissioner Casey asked what would happen September 1st if the funding was acquired? Mr. Walsh responded that the building would be moved to the Railroad Park. A discussion ensued about bringing in an "unsafe" structure, but Mr. Walsh assured the Commissioners that if the building were to be moved, it would be secured and placed on a proper foundation and would meet the Town of Ridgely's requirements regarding safe structures. Mr. Walsh indicated that he has asked the County for an amendment to the Code that would allow for longer term storage of historic buildings that are relocated temporarily, but the Caroline County Commissioners would have to approve. President Mumford made a motion to agree to write the letter on behalf of the Carriage House, Commissioner Epperly-Glover 2nd, unanimous approval.

New Business

President Mumford has reviewed the recently passed Property Tax Differential Amendment which strikes out the differential that had been given to all property owners and because they are doing away with garbage, they will significantly cut the tax differential to all towns. He believes that amount is in the range of \$20,000.

The Strawberry Festival will be on May 29, 2011. The parade time is 12:00pm, with Charlie Poukish in charge. Jerry Sutton is in charge of the crafts and Brett Myers is in charge of food. Information on the www.ridgelylions.org website is current.

The Old Time Ridgely Days will be on May 7, 2011 with the clock dedication at 1:00pm.

Cathy Schwab stated that on April 19, 2011 the 5th graders from Ridgely Elementary School are planting a maple tree at 10:30am for those that can attend. She also wanted to thank the Public Works Department for their help placing the new furniture at the Railroad Park.

President Mumford indicated that the Commissioners have the tentative budget numbers and are working on a new version to discuss at a later date.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover stated that she had two issues that she needed to point out. The first being that the trash can in front of the Tri-Me store is still a problem. Several residents have complained that it overflows on a regular basis. Secondly, she has had 4 complaints recently about big trucks parking in residential areas. Is this allowed? Chief Foster responded that he will check into this and get an answer.

Motion to adjourn 8:00pm.