

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
TOWN MEETING & WORKSHOP
JANUARY 9, 2012**

The January 2012 Commissioners Meeting and Workshop was held on the above date in the Ridgely House at 7:00pm. The following were in attendance: President Dale Mumford, Commissioner Linda Epperly-Glover, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Town Administrator Diane Wojcik, Chief of Police Gary Foster, Director of Public Works David Crist, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard, Codes Administrator Cary Malkus, Rick & Cathy Schwab, Kip & Cindy Koch, Chris Knauss, Richard Smith and Tim Stearns.

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

Commissioner Epperly-Glover motioned to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2011 meeting, 2nd Commissioner Casey, passed.

STAFF REPORTS

CLERK-TREASURER: The MDE loan payment of \$58,044.01 is due 2/1/12. \$1,094.80 is to be moved from the Queenstown Bank seized funds to the General Fund checking account to cover the cost of the laptop mounts for the police vehicles. Commissioner Epperly-Glover motioned to pay the bills, 2nd Commissioner Casey, passed.

DPW/WW: The Commissioners agreed to pay half of the estimate for damages to a home from a town tree to Mr. Kenneth Shank at 303 Maple Avenue. It was discussed that URS has been looking into grant funding for the drainage problems on Liberty and North Maryland Street.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: FEMA/Painting of RPD – Gallagher’s Painting was the lowest price at \$574.00 with work beginning today.

Program Open Space – After some research it was determined that the grant was awarded in 2009 for renovations to the Railroad Station for \$50,000 and has a match of \$10,000. It was applied on the basis of establishing a meeting room and 2 public restrooms. We still have 3 years to spend the money, but need to let them know what we want to do. Diane has sent an email to JOK Walsh with the County Historical Society to see if there are any existing plans drawn up.

Ditches – Diane would like to set up a meeting with Blair Carmean to discuss continuing the ditch on the south side of town.

Eastern Shore Association of Municipalities – Dues are \$50.00 a year. The Commissioners agreed that it would be a good idea to join.

Recycling Issues – There was a discussion about single stream recycling and the Commissioners agreed it would be worth looking into and possibly putting in the budget for the next fiscal year.

Easement Issue – Vontiva Acree-Carter has said that she is no longer interested in being annexed into town. She claims that there is no right-of-way agreement for the town’s sewer system that is on her property, however we do have a signed Easement Agreement from 1996 signed by Carlos and Geraldine Concepcion filed under liber 299, page 683.

POLICE: Computer upgrade will be happening as soon as the repairs inside of the police department are completed, which should be very soon. All vehicles in current use except for the Durango have computer mounts and charging installed for use of the laptops in each vehicle. The schedule has been modified to the four officer rotation due to Sgt. Berry’s light duty status. The new vehicles are averaging 18 miles per gallon fuel usage which is improved over the previous average of approximately 10 mpg. The police department currently has six vehicles insured with one vehicle untagged and uninsured. The extra vehicle is the maroon ford. “Dumpster diving” has been a problem lately, with most incidents occurring on Sunday nights. The speed camera that was on

Central Avenue only caught the last 77 vehicles due to the battery failure. Of those, none were over 31mph. The sign belongs to the Preston PD and they are willing to lend it to us again.

NEW BUSINESS

President Mumford said that the light needs to be fixed on the flag pole next to the Town Hall. David will see that it is fixed.

The Lions Club took down all the Christmas lights and the extra copper wire that was on the poles. With the money that they can get for the copper they are hoping to buy new banners. The Commissioners agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cathy Schwab said that the results for the holiday decoration contest are on the website. We had many displays to choose from and several of our local business donated prizes.

Kip & Cindy Koch discussed the problems that they are having with their neighbors over a property line dispute. The Koch's claim that the neighbor's shed is too close to the property line and there was no building permit issued. They believe that the property markers that were placed on the line were placed erroneously by the Town's Codes Administrator, Cary Malkus. There have been ongoing issues with the neighbors for several years that have resulted in frequent visits from the Ridgely Police Department. The Koch's have received a letter from the Town indicating that the Town does not get involved in property line disputes. Mr. Koch was able to locate hub #pl5565 to indicate the property lines. They have requested a stop work order for the shed and want answers as to what is going on. The Koch's invite everyone to come out and inspect the property. They would like the shed dismantled or a variance issued – which would require their approval. Mr. Malkus responded that he has not placed any markers on the property and does not know who did. There was a building permit issued on 12/29/11. Chief Foster said that he has met with the State's Attorney on this issue and that the State's Attorney indicates that this is a matter for the Circuit Court and the court will decide what action needs to be taken. The Koch's have said that they will proceed with legal action.

The next meeting will be February 6, 2012.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Commissioner Casey. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Berkey
Clerk-Treasurer