

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY  
TOWN MEETING  
FEBRUARY 6, 2012**

The February Town Meeting of the Commissioners of Ridgely 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, Director of Public Works David Crist, Chief of Police Gary Foster, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Codes Administrator Cary Malkus, Martin Sokolich, Mike Redgraves, John Hurley, Joanne Shipley, Cathy & Rick Schwab, Gayle Scherer, Jerry Sutton and Chris Knauss.

President Mumford opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2012 meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Casey, approved.

President Mumford discussed the new format for the Town Meetings. There is now a podium at the front of the meeting room and anyone wishing to address the Commissioners is required to do so at the podium.

**STAFF REPORTS  
CLERK-TREASURER**

Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to pay the bills, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Casey, passed.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

The vortex pump problem in Lister Estates is not getting any better. We are already over-budget for the year as it is costing \$1,400 a pump just for parts. This is something that the town will need to address soon.

The flow test for the Tech Park is scheduled for Feb. 10, 2012.

**POLICE**

Chief received the award letter from DES in the amount of \$7,754.68, which has been obligated to the computer upgrade of the server, back up and scanner equipment. The Bullet Proof Vest Grant is an annual grant and can be re-applied as the need arises. The current vests are 3 years old with a life of 5. This will need to be considered for all personnel in 2014. Chief is attempting to identify other grants through the Traffic Safety Coordinator, Jessica Lambertson and the GOCCP.

The computer upgrade is almost complete.

There was a discussion about the new RPD vehicles and if the “cages” should be installed. It was not determined yet if they should be.

Chief has requested quotes from several vendors to install the current camera system that was purchased last year. The cameras will be able to interface with the new computer system.

The Police Manual update is expected to be completed by March 1, 2012.

Sergeant Berry’s surgery went well. He will be out for at least six weeks before being able to return to restricted duty.

Chief has discussed the school zone camera with the SHA and has received several suggestions regarding the implementation of this program.

The Little League parade is April 14, 2012 in Ridgely this year.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

Diane has requested a study by University of Maryland for our impact fees, which would cost around \$10,000.

The Town of Ridgely is now on Facebook. This will be useful to update residents and stay in contact with a larger group of people during emergency situations. Friend requests can be sent to Ridgely Maryland.

We have finalized the loan with Provident to pay off the State Retirement loan for \$232,500.00. We are going to receive \$557.00 credit for the installations of the new HVAC units. We have submitted the application for reimbursement from FEMA for the damages sustained during the hurricane and earthquake. We are expecting a reimbursement of around \$7,500. The proposal to install another cell tower on top of our water tower has been withdrawn. The switch to Comcast for our phone and internet service has been completed and should result in savings.

Diane met with Parks & Rec in an effort to get the tennis courts repaired. They are looking into grant funding with a match from the town. They are hoping we can include some funding in our budget to support them.

The deadline for the sustainability application is April.

Allied Waste counted the houses where they pick up trash. There are 9 less than before which will save us about \$702.00 a year.

The Koch file has been sent to our attorney, Jack Hall.

Archie Carroll would like to change his plans from a 365 unit townhouse to a 5 lot subdivision. It was the opinion of the Planning Commission that an alternative subdivision plan cannot be approved at this time. He already went through the process of establishing an Overlay Zone for the express purpose of improving this property. It also promoted the preservation of the Cow Barn itself. He has asked that the Planning Commission consider an alternative sewer route in a December sketch plan. They are willing to work with him for any new development scenarios.

The County Commissioners want to visit Ridgely Elementary on March 6, 2012 at 1:45pm.

Commissioner Casey agreed to go as well. They are also coming to our March meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup>. They will be here at 6pm to have a question and answer session with the Ridgely residents. The regular Town Meeting will follow at 7pm.

The Commissioners agreed to give a \$50 donation to the Caroline County Chamber of Commerce for the support of Caroline Day in Annapolis.

Rick & Cathy Schwab have once again been nominated for Caroline's most beautiful person. Their ceremony will be February 18<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at the Denton Library.

The Lions Club is interested in erecting banners for spring and the Strawberry Festival. The Commissioners agreed to put \$1,000 in the FY13 budget for the banners.

We need at least 3 members on the Board of Appeals and Ethics. Please let Diane know if there is anyone willing to serve on this committee.

Camp Pecometh Bike Run is planned for September 15<sup>th</sup>. It is a 100 mile run. They will contact Chief Foster for any regulations regarding the bike route. The Schwabs are looking into setting up the Railroad Park with portable bathrooms and refreshments for the bikers. The Commissioners agreed that this would be an approved use for the park.

The original grant for the railroad station was for \$100,000 with \$25,000 match and \$75,000 from DNR. Diane spoke with a representative from DNR who said that there was \$50,000 left with a \$10,000 match needed. The Commissioners agreed to proceed with exterior repairs and possible upgrade inside, depending on the bids.

Ken Lazorchek is still shopping the photovoltaic structure project. Because it is a small project, they want to coordinate it with a larger one.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to appoint Robin McQuade to the Planning Commission, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Casey, passed.

#### FINACIAL ASSISTANT

Jerry Sutton gave a report on the FY12 Budget. There was a lot of support and input and the major revisions were done with care. The original 63,000 contingency was cut down to 23,000. We have been sticking to the budget with the exception of the Vortex pumps and switching to Comcast for phone service. In general, things look very good. We need to start to look at the FY13 budget and a capital budget planning session is needed. \$16,000 additional funds were found in the grant for Rails to Trails that we need to spend soon, but there is no cost to the town.

#### PLANNING & ZONING

Martin Sokolich met with Medifast regarding the new fence. The design guidelines are somewhat ambiguous and the planning commission wants the Commissioners to make their recommendation for the fence. The Commissioners agreed that as there was nothing clear in the design guidelines, the fence could stay.

Martin explained that Archie Carroll is requesting to put 2 plans in place so that if he gets a buyer for one he can use it and make it more marketable. A discussion followed and it was determined that he needs to choose only one project.

#### HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Ridgely Phone book has been completed. The Horse Fountain is going to be fixed with grant money and it is hopefully going to be finished in time for Old Time Ridgely Days which will be May 5<sup>th</sup>. There is a home and garden show at Linchester Mill in Preston on April 14<sup>th</sup>. The Schwabs thanked the Commissioners for the nomination for Caroline's Most Beautiful Person.

#### TREE COMMISSION

Joanne Shipley reported that they cut down a tree on Maryland Avenue and had the stump ground up. They are planting trees with the Lions Club on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### OLD BUSINESS

There was a discussion about the tax differential. It would be good to discuss this with the County Commissioners when they come on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Tech Park – in light of the recent articles in the Star Democrat, the Commissioners wanted to make it clear that they have not accepted ownership of the County Tech Park. There was a discussion on the impact taking ownership would have on the Town.

Diane is checking with other municipalities regarding recycling in town. It would be the same trash company doing the recycling single stream pick up. A discussion followed.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2012-01, which changes the wording of the water and sewer rates resolution to make it easier to understand. It does not change the rates. 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Casey, passed.

#### PARK & REC

Jerry Sutton reported that they are going to put a concession stand at the Cowbarn Park. Jerry and Lou Hayes will be meeting with David about Martin Sutton Park about some changes they are hoping to make with the fields. They are also considering removing the bathrooms near the skate park and converting it into a storage facility. Commissioner Casey asked if there will be advertising going on the cowbarn fence and Jerry said there would not be any advertising there.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Casey. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

The next meeting will be March 5, 2012.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephanie Berkey  
Clerk-Treasurer