

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY  
TOWN MEETING  
MARCH 5, 2012**

The March 2012 meeting of the Commissioners of Ridgely was held on the above date in the Ridgely House. The following were in attendance: President Dale Mumford, Commissioner Linda Epperly-Glover, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Town Administrator Diane Wojcik, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Public Works David Crist, Chief of Police Gary Foster, Jerry Sutton, John Hurley, Richard Kellogg, Gayle Scherer, Betty Jean Mumford, Denzel Cheek.

There was an open meeting of the Commissioners of Caroline County prior to the Ridgely Town Meeting, from 6-7pm. Commissioner Larry Porter and Commissioner Wilber Levingood spoke to the town residents about various issues the County is facing, including teacher pensions and the tax differential. Sheriff Randy Bounds also spoke about the new training facility/shooting range that is going to be at the former landfill.

President Mumford opened the meeting at 7:00pm with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence in honor of former Ridgely Chief of Police, Merle Evans, who had passed away.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2012 meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Casey, approved.

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

**CLERK-TREASURER**

The Commissioners unanimously agreed to donate \$100 to the Caroline County Humane Society in memory of Chief Merle Evans. Stephanie Berkey went to the EOC/Interface class held in February that was to help develop interface between the Incident Command and the Emergency Operations Center by applying Incident Command System principles.

**DPW/WW**

There was a discussion about the possibility of getting a new water tower and what the cost of the tower would be and the best location for the new tower. The current tower still needs to have the gate valve repaired. The estimate to fix the valve is \$20,000. The Commissioners directed David to get the final numbers for the valve repair and to do more research into the price of a new tank.

There was a discussion on the Vortex pumps in Lister Estates and if the town is legally responsible for the pumps. So far, there has been no documentation found to support that the town is to maintain the pumps. They are costing the town about \$50,000 a year to maintain. David has been looking into other

options for the pumps, including switching to all E1 pumps with a 2 year warranty. There was a discussion about creating a special tax district for the pumps. It was decided that Diane will check with the Town's attorney, Jack Hall for clarification on what the liability of the town actually is.

Weese project - all of the information has been sent to URS for review. David indicated that a professional engineer should do the inspections, not public works and that there should be walk-through's at 1 year and 2 years. Diane said that the public works agreement is the only thing left to complete and we need to wait to proceed on this until we receive an ok from URS.

## POLICE

Chief Foster informed the Commissioners that 2 new Ford Escapes do not have police cages. The old cages may be modified to fit the Escapes. There would need to be a purchase of a rear cage insert at approximately \$50 each to separate the rear seat from the rear of the vehicle. The Commissioners agreed to the expense and if possible the Queenstown Bank seized funds can be used. The Police Department computer upgrade is almost complete. We are waiting on one laptop and an instructional overview of systems to include the online back-up that has been installed. All computers have Crimestar and Capwin installed. CJIS access is being scheduled.

Patrol rifles - Cpl. Creason has been directed to provide the security and implementation procedure for review.

We have received the award letter from DES in the amount of \$7,754.68. This has been obligated to the computer upgrade of the server, back-up and scanner equipment. Once the final invoice is received we can process the grant. PFC Ewing has identified a partial funding grant for an AED. Chief will do a cost analysis. All personnel are currently scheduled for recertification on March 23, 2012.

A quote from ADT to install the security cameras was presented. This expense would come under homeland funds.

The draft of the police manual update was provided for review. The Commissioners agreed that it should be reviewed by our attorney, Jack Hall, before implementation.

Sergeant Berry's surgery went well and we are expecting our next update March 13, 2012.

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

## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Cathy & Rick Schwab were chosen as this year's Caroline's Most Beautiful Person! They received awards from the County and Senator Colburn.

CC Parks & Rec is requesting 10% of the total project for the tennis courts in support from the Town, or approximately \$3,000 according to the estimate. This would impact the FY13 budget. Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to pay the 10%/\$3,000 for the tennis courts, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Casey, all in favor - passed.

County Administrator, Ken Decker, provided Diane with the information that all the cuts that were made by the state will continue without any action by the General Assembly. Police Aid was cut \$20 million in FY2012 and the reduction carried to FY2012, to remain another 5 years. Local roads funding has been cut to about 3% of prior levels. This would suspend even the additional revenues from the motor fuel tax and titling tax that local governments would share as part of Highway User Revenues in 2012.

Diane applied for full exemption from the requirements of Subtitle 8 of the MD Public Ethics Law. The issue is scheduled for consideration on March 15, 2012. Jack Hall had some reservations about the proposal provided by Unison, a company that buys cell tower leases.

URS has been researching different grants to assist businesses and municipalities to achieve their goals. Chris Rogers has been keeping up with the Watershed Improvement Program and would like to delve into consideration of a combination of water quality BMPs and traditional conveyance (or grant) to address the problem. Any monies received would be used to evaluate alternatives to address the Maryland Avenue/Rt. 480 drainage problem.

An ad has been put in the paper requesting bids to paint the Railroad Station, repoint the bricks and repair the porch. There will be a separate bid request for the roof to get an idea of what the replacement cost will be.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Elections - an ad will be running in this week's Star Democrat and the following week's Times Record. Election Day will be Monday April 23, 2012 from 1 - 7pm.

The Commissioners are planning to review the current budget and make suggestions for the FY13 on March 19, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.  
The next Town meeting will be April 2, 2012

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephanie Berkey, Clerk-Treasurer