

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
TOWN MEETING
MAY 7, 2012**

The May 2012 meeting of the Commissioners of Ridgely was held on the above date in the Ridgely House. The following were in attendance: Out-going President Dale Mumford, President Linda Epperly-Glover, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Commissioner John Hurley, Town Administrator Diane Wojcik, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard, Director of Public Works David Crist, Chief of Police Gary Foster, Sgt. Stephen Creason, PFC Stewart Ewing, PFC Gary Manos, Rick & Cathy Scwab, Chastity Crist, Carol Balderson, Dennis Glover, Kathryn Smith, Dustin Holt, Robin Martin, Joyce & Melvin Faulkner, Christine Eckrich, Richard Kellogg, Deborah Minnich, Mary Clark, M. Bellard, J. Bellard, Krystel Elbaugh, and Luis Machicote.

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

President Mumford explained that the appointment of the Clerk-Treasurer is done on an annual basis in May. Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to re-appoint Stephanie Berkey as the Clerk-Treasurer, 2nd by Commissioner Casey.

Commissioner Epperly-Glover made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2012 meeting, 2nd by Commissioner Casey, approved.

The Clerk-Treasurer swore in the new Commissioner, John Hurley. Linda Epperly-Glover became the Commission President.

STAFF REPORTS

CLERK-TREASURER – Commissioner Casey made a motion to pay the bills, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, approved

PUBLIC WORKS – Director of Public Works David Crist presented his report and discussed the events of the water line break. A contractor was installing fiber optic lines and hit an unmarked water line. The water line that was hit is not shown on any maps or plans that the Town currently has in possession. The Town needs to have an engineer do a new survey so that we can have new accurate maps of all the lines. Diane had contacted URS and a rough estimate to do this is \$25,000. David apologized to all the residents of the Town and thanked them for their patience during the emergency. The Commissioners thanked all of the employees who stayed through the night to get the situation resolved.

Water meters – many of the old ones have been replaced and we are still working on replacing a few more.

Vortex Pumps - Freemire & Associates would like to give the town 2 free installed pumps as a test and so that they can get an idea of a price to charge to town for switching all of the vortex pumps. A discussion followed about the situation with Lister Estates and the lack of a formal agreement with the town regarding the pumps. Several Lister Estates residents were on hand to voice their concerns. After the discussion it was determined that the town attorney will try to contact Ryan Homes about the issue and that when the Commissioners have more information, they will hold a meeting with the Lister Estates Home Owners' Association to discuss the options. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to proceed with the 2 free pumps from Freemire & Associates, 2nd Commissioner Casey, approved.

5/7/12 cont.

Rick & Cathy Schwab thanked the Public Works Department for their help in getting the Railroad Park ready for the Old Time Ridgely Days.

POLICE - Chief Foster presented his report. The estimate of Homeland Security Funding is \$8,000, but no date yet as to when they will be allocated. The AED has been ordered through the Department of Emergency Services. Permits were obtained for the Strawberry Festival and the 5K Run. County Roads personnel assisted with the road closures related to the water main break by providing signs and barriers. They also allowed us to use the barriers for Old Time Days. Consideration will be given to obtaining similar equipment if available through Homeland Funds. All personnel are scheduled for CJIS/METERS training this month and the officers will soon have access to METERS/CJIS at the office as well as on the laptops. Cpl. Creason will be representing RPD at career day on May 11, 2012. Sgt. Berry remains off duty. Audits are scheduled on May 9 and May 23 for METERS/NCIC related activities.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR – see attached report

The Historical Trust application for \$5,000 for the Railroad Building repairs was sent 5/3/12. If we get this it will give us \$65,000 total. The Commissioners agreed to move forward with bid solicitation and the Schwabs will look into the color for the roof of the building.

There is a lot of competition among the sellers of alcohol in the town. Signs are plastered over the buildings and many town residents were at the meeting to address the issue and express their concerns. No permits were obtained for the signs and the Commissioners agreed that letters needed to go out to the offenders to address the situation. Planning and Zoning is also going to meet with the liquor store owners to see if a solution can be arranged.

The sign at the Martin Sutton Park needs to be replaced. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to pay for the replacement of the sign, President Epperly-Glover 2nd, passed.

Diane requested permission to send a certified letter to Bay Broadband after May 18th to remove their equipment from the tower as they have yet to respond to the contract renewal and are currently in arrears for the monthly rent. The Commissioners agreed the letter could be sent.

Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area has sent us a request for support in the amount of \$2,000. Supporting them enables us to get grants otherwise unattainable and we are currently trying to get grants to replace the balcony on the Town Hall. Commissioner Casey motioned to pay the \$2,000 Commissioner Hurley 2nd, passed.

OLD BUSINESS

We are still working on the budget and rates and numbers for the next fiscal year are still coming in.

NEW BUSINESS

The Commissioners proposed a new procedure to be on the agenda for town meetings. Anyone requesting to be placed on the agenda should have their requests submitted 2 weeks prior to the meeting. The agenda will then be posted online. Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the new procedures, 2nd by Commissioner Hurley, passed.

Commissioner Casey made a motion that workshop sessions be scheduled on an as-needed basis, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, passed.

308 Central Avenue – request to convert apartment to storage unit and reduce EDU's from 4 to 3. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve the request, Commissioner Casey 2nd, approved.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Cathy Schwab thanked the public works, Ridgely Police, the town and the volunteers that helped with the Old Time Days. \$1,000 was made from the event. There will be a fall event on Sunday September 16th from 12-4. The fountain is working in the Railroad Park. It was originally installed in 1915. The third graders at Ridgely Elementary went to the Discover Days today at Linchester Mill. A good time was had by all.

5/7/12 cont.

Carol Balderson – Expressed concern about the website and the frequency of updates, particularly during the water line break.

Cathy Schwab – Regarding the sign issue for the businesses, perhaps it would be better to speak with the businesses before sending out letters regarding the signs.

Robin Barton – also spoke about the sign issue with the liquor stores. The sign ordinance is vague and needs to be clearly defined as to what is appropriate. Commissioner Casey invited them to come to the planning and zoning meeting as we are working on rewriting the sign ordinance. The meeting will be May 21, 2012 at 7:00pm.

Michelle Bellard – spoke about the property at the end of Walnut Street that is owned by Queenstown Bank. The grass is 3 feet high and they are only cutting the front part of the property. Melissa Leonard indicated that the bank has been contacted and they had indicated they would mow the entire property. If they do not we will reach out to them again.

Deborah Minnich- Believes that there is an issue with her water meter and would like a new meter. After a discussion, DPW David Crist will meet with her during the next water meter readings to show her the procedures the town follows.

Mary Clark – Would like to see the town address the drug problems and have some signs and help for the addicts in town.

Dennis Glover – had questions regarding the property maintenance ordinances and the junk in the yard of his neighbor. Melissa Leonard indicated that a letter had been sent regarding the boats in the yard of said neighbor. In regards to the fence issue Mr. Glover had mentioned, the neighbor had applied for the proper permits and was approved.

Richard Kellogg – expressed his concerns regarding fence permits. He also questioned why Miss Utility was not contacted prior in regards to the water line break. Commissioner Hurley explained that the contractor had contacted Miss Utility and the lines were marked, but this line was not on our town plans. He questioned if the 2013 budget will be made public. The Commissioners responded that yes, the ordinance will be introduced at the next meeting and will be put on the website. Mr. Kellogg indicated that the Town's website was terrible. He would like to see any code violations put on the website. Town Administrator Diane Wojcik will check with the town attorney to see if this is legal. Mr. Kellogg also questioned the regulations regarding commercial vehicles in the town.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Commissioner Hurley. They meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Berkey, Clerk/Treasurer