

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
TOWN MEETING
JUNE 4, 2012**

The June 2012 meeting of the Commissioners of Ridgely was held on the above date in the Ridgely House. The following were in attendance: President Linda Epperly-Glover, Commissioner John Hurley, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Public Works David Crist, Sgt. Stephen Creason, Jerry Sutton, Cary Malkus, Rick & Cathy Schwab, Joanne Shipley, Charles Bradley, Archie Carroll, Robin McQuade, Robin Martin, Lilian Lone, Sharon Adams, Richard Kellogg, James Frankowski, Thomas Russell, Joseph & Michelle Bellard, Kathleen Mann, Jessica Moran, Heather Amador, Jim Flechette, Jeffrey Ostrander, Beth Stadnicki-Veryhyen, Jonathan Stadnicki-Veryhyen, Kajal Patel, Priyanki Patel, Michael Stumpf, Gary Nesselroad, Naomi Poukesh and Charlie Poukish.

President Epperly-Glover opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in memory of former Commissioner Nancy Gearhart.

President Epperly-Glover stated that Commissioner Casey would be absent from the evening's meeting.

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2012 meeting, 2nd President Glover, passed.

CLERK-TREASURER

President Epperly-Glover made a motion to pay the bills, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, approved.

Total General Funds - \$284,657.91

Total Sewer Funds - \$222,470.83

Total Water Funds - \$96,151.77

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

David Crist presented his report (attached). David addressed Richard Kellogg's concerns regarding Miss Utility and the water main break in May. He explained that Miss Utility on the Eastern Shore is more like a contact center and the locate process. They do not come out and mark the lines. The line that was hit was not on the Town's plans of the system.

The Strawberry Festival went well with no major problems.

David is meeting with Fluid Solutions in Baltimore to get information and pricing on Vortex pumps. There was a lengthy discussion with many of the residents of Lister Estates about the Vortex pumps, what the problems we have with them are, the proper way to take care of them and what options the town is looking at right now. Several residents voiced their concerns about how the town is going to proceed. There is a meeting set with the Lister Estates Homeowner's Association for June 14, 2012 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall. It was decided that the Town Attorney should not be present for the meeting. Commissioner Epperly-Glover stated that the Town is not deaf to Lister Estates needs and that we will do what we can to take care of the situation. The Lister Estates homeowners are concerned that the town will make an uninformed decision regarding the pumps. The Commissioners and David Crist are going to get as much information together as possible for the meeting on the 14th.

POLICE

Sgt. Stephen Creason presented his report (attached). Residents asked if there are bike registrations. They are voluntary and Sgt. Creason suggested submitting a picture with the registration.

It was discussed that in the past the "nuisance" law was not heavily pursued. Houses can be posted as nuisance houses and the homeowners can be fined.

President Epperly-Glover asked why the decals were removed from the new police vehicles. Sgt. Creason explained that they are not what we had ordered.

TREE COMMISSION

Joanne Shipley requested that the tree commission be allotted \$2,000 in the FY13 budget. It was determined that there was an allotment of \$2,000 in the proposed FY13 budget.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cathy Schwab discussed the benefits of joining the Historical Society for only \$35/year. It is a great way to get involved in the town. There will be a fall event on September 16, 2012 from 12-4pm. They are working with the Town on a memorial for Nancy Gearhart. They would like to do a tree in the Railroad Park with a plaque. Cathy wanted everyone to know that on May 13, 2012 Ridgely turned 145 years old.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Diane Wojcik presented her report (attached). Commissioner Hurley made a motion to award the bid for the Railroad Station roof to JSM Painting Contractors, LLC, 2nd President Epperly-Glover, approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Asst. Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard presented the Commissioners with the new sign permit application that was created after meeting with Martin Sokolich from the Planning Commission and Cary Malkus, Codes and Zoning Administrator. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to proceed with using the new sign application, 2nd President Epperly-Glover, approved.

Commissioner Hurley addressed Richard Kellogg about the issue of commercial vehicles, which had been brought up at the previous meeting. The Commissioners agreed that changing the current ordinance is worth looking into, but would need to be discussed with 3 commissioners present.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 359, an ordinance to appropriate funds and estimate income in accordance with the budget adopted for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2013.

Ordinance No. 2012-360, an ordinance of the Commissioners of Ridgely determining that an emergency exists requiring that Ordinance No. 359 become effective immediately.

Richard Kellogg expressed his concerns that he would like to see more preparation and effective cost analysis be taken for items that are given to the Commissioners. The commissioners need time to think about the votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Archie Carroll – The Cowbarn plan assumed that the townhouses would be developed first. Due to the economy this did not happen. The sewer line is not feasible for just the Cowbarn property. He wants the ok from the town to move the property line 60 feet to clear a sewer reserve area. It would remain a septic system with SERA, but the property line cannot run through it. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to go with the recommendation of the planning commission to move the property line, President Epperly-Glover 2nd, approved.

Jerry Sutton – explained to the residents the budget process. Three years ago there was a deficit of \$280,000, Commissioner Mumford worked hard to reduce the deficit and in 2 years brought it down to \$90,000 without taxes being raised and still having a balanced budget. We need to be careful in the next few years in case taxes come down. We also need to look at capital funding.

Kajal Patel – spoke regarding the letter he received about the sign for his liquor store. He was advised to attend the planning commission meeting on June 25, 2012 at 7:00pm.

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to adjourn, 2nd President Epperly-Glover, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Comm. Mtg. 6/4/12

There will be a Special Budget Meeting on June 12, 2012 at 4:00pm to discuss and vote on the FY13 budget. The public is welcome to attend.

The meeting with Lister Estates will be June 14, 2012 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall.

The next Town Meeting will be July 2, 2012 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Berkey
Clerk-Treasurer