

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
TOWN MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2012**

The December 2012 meeting of the Commissioners of Ridgely was held in the Ridgely House at 7:00pm on the above date. The following were in attendance: President Linda Jo Epperly-Glover, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Commissioner John Hurley, Director of Public Works David Crist, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Chief of Police Gary Foster, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard, Sgt. Stephen Creason, Cpl. Stewart Ewing, Philip Trinks, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Bobby Utz, Anthony Livingston, Kevin & Kathie Barnes, Cathy & Rick Schwab, John Buckle, Francis & Pearl Plummer, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Williams, Dale Mumford, Terri Darling, Megan Darling, Michael Darling, Stephanie Darling, Michaela Darling, and Michael Charles Darling.

President Epperly-Glover called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2012 meeting. 2nd Commissioner Hurley, approved.

STAFF REPORTS

CLERK TREASURER

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

Total General Funds \$351,447.94

Total Water Funds \$166,544.06

Total Sewer Funds \$99,192.58

The Commissioners were invited to attend Comptroller Peter Franchot's visit to Combined Technology Solutions on Thursday December 6, 2012 at 11:00am.

Fish Locker Ministries is asking for toy donations for local children for Christmas. The Commissioners unanimously agreed to donate \$100 in toys to the Fish Locker.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Director of Public Works David Crist presented his report to the Commissioners. The new leaf vac works well and leaf pick-up will continue throughout the month as they have time. David asked that residents not put leaves in bags and to avoid parking in front of the leaf piles. Andrew Markey has left his position with the town, there was an ad placed in the paper to hire a replacement, but after a discussion it was decided that the town would not hire anyone until March. The town of Ridgely was selected to participate in the Maryland Department of Natural Resources/Watershed Assistance Collaborative Stormwater Management and Financing Training Series. We will need to close the town hall office on December 11th and January 16th to attend the classes. It is our hopes that this class will help the town secure funding for Maryland Avenue and Liberty Street. The heating unit at the WWTP has broken and needs to be replaced. David presented the quotes to the Commissioners. The Commissioners agreed to go with Connors bid.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Gary Manos presented his report to the Commissioners. There was a large burglary on N. Central Avenue where lots of jewelry was taken. There are no suspects yet. On Thanksgiving Day Ridgely Police delivered over 80 meals to the needy that were prepared by St. Luke's Church.

Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey swore in Officer Philip Trinks. He was pinned by Sue Nickerson, whose son was killed in the line of duty. She was very happy to see Philip as our new officer. She also asked residents to put one blue light in their windows during the holiday season to show respect for fallen and active police officers.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Gerald Sutton informed the Commissioner that we are working on a budget revision in December to have ready for a January ordinance. We are also starting to work on a 5 year capital budget. The audit went very well.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cathy Schwab thanked public work and the girls in the town hall for help with the Christmas parade and for the Christmas open house in the town hall. There are still Ridgely Christmas ornaments and history books for sale. The Historical Society would like to have a luncheon to honor Mr. Rampmeyer for his work on the history books. They are hoping to hold it January 16th at the diner. There will be a Christmas decorating contest for homes and businesses. Cathy reported that the rust holes on the cabooses have been filled and the first coat of paint is on the cabooses. They received a grant for \$10,000 from the state for benches and trash cans for the park. They are planning an even for June called Art in the Park that will feature local artists and kids. There was a tree planted in memory of Nancy Gearheart and the dedication will be during the live nativity on the 15th of December. The Commissioners agreed to pay for a marker for the tree.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioners Hurley made a motion to pass Ordinance No. 2012-356, amending chapter 85-4, unlawful disruptive conduct, of the Ridgely code. Commissioner Casey 2nd, unanimous approval.

NEW BUSINESS

The town's attorney has announced his retirement.

Ordinance No. 2012-357 an ordinance of the Commissioners of Ridgely amending Chapter 185 by increasing the interest rate on payments for water and sewer service received more than 30 days after the due date; to discontinue sending late notices; and to provide for discontinuation of service nor non-payment without notice, was introduced by President Glover.

The Town of Ridgely has been officially designated a "sustainable community". This should open the door for more grants.

Kevin Barnes owns Caroline Boating Center on Commerce Lane. He proposed a joint use agreement between himself, the owners of the farm that adjoins the right of way at the end of

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Commerce Lane and the town. He has used and maintained the right of way since 2002, and agrees to continue to maintain the right of way at no expense to the town and to move any boats that block the farmers access when it becomes necessary for him to do so. President Epperly-Glover said that the town does want to do what it can to keep business in the town. The Commissioners unanimously agreed to accept Mr. Barnes' proposal.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anthony Livingston with the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks thanked Ridgely for their input with the issue of bigger trucks. Congressmen Harris voted to oppose them. He asked residents and officials to please reach out to him to thank him and remind him about this public safety and infrastructure issue.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Hurley 2nd, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm. The next meeting will be January 7, 2013 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Berkey
Clerk-Treasurer