

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY  
TOWN MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2013**

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date in the Ridgely House at 7:00pm. The following were in attendance: President Anthony Casey, Commissioner John Hurley, Commissioner John Buckle, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Public Works David Crist, Chief of Police Gary Manos, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard, Corporal Stewart Ewing, Archie Carroll, Mike Shipley, Rick & Cathy Schwab, Bob Stanley, Martin Sokolich.

President Casey opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2013 meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Hurley, approved.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**CLERK-TREASURER**

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve payment of the bills, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Buckle, approved.

TOTAL GENERAL FUNDS: \$669,654.67 (includes loan funding for Maryland Avenue)

TOTAL WATER FUNDS: \$151,041.57

TOTAL SEWER FUNDS: \$169,507.54

The audit is ongoing. They will be onsite this week.

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Director of Public Works David Crist presented his report to the Commissioners. There was a discussion about the conditions of the sidewalks in the town. We need to come up with a plan on how we will handle this. Current code has the homeowner responsible for maintenance. President Casey discussed that he believes that if it is the fault of a town utility or tree we should repair. Commissioner Hurley discussed how they were fixed in the past, with the town doing the work and the homeowner paying for the concrete. Using a grinder was discussed. David will get bids for concrete work and we will make a plan as to where to start. For the other sidewalks in need of repair we need to begin enforcing the code. There have been many complaints about the town trees that are either on houses or are damaging the sidewalks. The town code does not currently address what happens when a town tree damages property and this needs to be addressed.

Bramble is almost finished in town. There is only patch work left to be done.

We have submitted a DNR grant for Martin Sutton Park to fix the playground and repairs to the walking trail. Sue Simmons with parks and rec helped us with the grant.

David met with Mr. Christopher at 202 Walnut. They are annexed into town and want to hook into the town water and sewer. We do have the allocations to give him.

**CHIEF OF POLICE**

Chief of Police Gary Manos presented his report to the Commissioners. Calls for service have increased as have assisting other agencies. We have a new police officer Kenny Carroll that

began in August. Cpl. Ewing is now certified to check child safety seats. The Commissioners would like to see this on the website to let the residents know. We did not receive the tag reader grant due to lack of funding.

### **TREE COMMISSION**

Martin Sokolich spoke for the tree commission. President Casey requested a list of current commission members. We need to start getting the minutes or bullet points of what is discussed in the meetings. Bob Stanley of Treekeepers spoke to the Commissioners. He had been appointed the town arborist by the tree commission. He wants to express his concern about the situation that happened with Lee Hutchison recently. The Commissioners listened to Mr. Stanley and also discussed what they had been told. They also discussed 501 Central Avenue and the arborists finding and trying to determine if there was a root under the sidewalk. There was also a discussion about the Treekeepers invoice. Mr. Stanley is concerned that we are curtailing the efforts of the tree committee. President Casey indicated that the \$2000 budget has been spent for the tree commission and that we appreciated his service.

### **HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Cathy Schwab thanked the town for the sign for Mrs. Hannah Henry. It looks very nice. We would like to have a meeting regarding the train station, but we want to wait to hear if we receive another grant that would change the plans considerably. The paint analysis has been completed. They were maroons, beiges and browns. The fountain is going to be worked on and there has been a paint analysis. It was a forest green back in 1915. The Commissioners agreed to go with the Historical Society recommendation. The caboos will be worked on in the next month. There will be some more painting done. The inside is still in need of repair. The historical society "wish list" they would like to see a flood light on the caboos and train station as it is very dark over there at night. David recommended a motion detector light. The Christmas balls are going to be the Rob Roy building this year. They will be green. Cathy would like a bulletin board for the front of the town hall. Rick has designed two more interpretive signs that are being delivered hopefully this week.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Archie Carroll thanked the Schwabs for all they have done for the town. He discussed the Cowbarn zoning and the confusion on his part. He suggested that we leave everything alone until the property changes hand. The commissioners agreed.

Lisa Takala's tax credit was approved at the last meeting. She is unhappy about the way the tax credit is given. She believes that she should get a credit whether or not the assessment goes up or down. Martin Sokolich discussed the original concept of the tax credit. A discussion followed. We will do research on it and discuss it again at the October meeting. There was a discussion about the historic district and the potential need of a historic commission versus using the planning commission.

Lou Hayes has had a very bad leak at the house and they are requesting an abatement of sewer charges. Commissioner Hurley suggested we average out the charges and abate the difference. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to abate some of the charges, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Buckle, approved.

The Stand for the Silent has requested a donation. Commission Hurley made a motion to donate \$100, Commissioner Buckle 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Martin discussed the possibility of bringing a micro-brewery into the I2 district and the applicable zoning of the business. There is also the possibility of adding a brew pub in time. Since we are rewriting the zoning ordinance can we make changes to make this work? He is willing to look into this. There was a discussion about commercial versus industrial and residential. There could be a need for mixed use zoning. The commissioners think the current use guidelines will work, but that planning and zoning could work on a variance for the restaurant.

Don Purdy thanked Stephanie Berkey on her prompt attention to his calls for the fall that his wife took on the sidewalk in Lister Estate. He discussed the need for improving the sidewalks and that he understands the gray area of the code. He is pleased we are going to be addressing this issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephanie Berkey  
Clerk-Treasurer