

COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
JULY 7, 2014
TOWN MEETING

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date in the Ridgely House for the July town meeting. The following were in attendance: President John Hurley, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Public Works David Crist, Chief of Police Gary Manos, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard, Cathy and Rick Schwab, Dustin Holt, Archie Carroll, Martin Sokolich, Joseph Graham, Barbie and Bobby Utz, Paul and Irene Aspell.

President Hurley called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2014 meeting, 2nd President Hurley, approved.

STAFF REPORTS

CLERK-TREASURER

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve paying the bills, 2nd President Hurley, approved.

Total General Funds Reconciled \$532,567.50

Total Sewer Funds Reconciled \$207,901.22

Total Water Funds Reconciled \$90,795.79

The September meeting is set to fall on the Labor Day Holiday. Commissioner Casey made a motion to move the meeting from September 1, 2014 to September 8, 2014, 2nd President Hurley, approved.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Director of Public Works David Crist presented his report to the Commissioners.

James Moore was hired as our new public works employee. He is doing a great job so far and fits in with what we are doing.

The new tractor for public works has been ordered and so has the ditch mower. They should arrive in a few weeks.

We have had several complaints with some of the trees that are in the town's right of way.

David has submitted an application to DNR for a blanket tree permit. The town is required to have this permit for any tree maintenance. A separate permit is required for taking down a tree.

David has contacted DNR several times to get a forester to come into town and take a look at the trees.

The town has been awarded a Maryland Smart Energy Grant in the amount of \$37,500. The money is to be used for energy efficiency, mainly for the town hall.

There was a discussion regarding the problem trees in the town.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Gary Manos presented his report to the Commissioners. The homeland security grant paid for a mobile data terminal. Other grants are being applied for to obtain additional equipment. There were no incidents at the Dream City Music Festival. The police department has been looking into obtaining 2 drug/tracking dogs. The dogs would cost \$1 each. They are rescue dogs and show a lot of potential. There will be 2 days a month of training for each dog. The dogs will also help the task force. If this happens we would request some funding from the task force to help with our expenses. Vet bills will be about \$800 each. Kennels may be provided by the task force. Commissioner Casey made a motion to begin the research process, 2nd President Hurley. A discussion followed.

RVFD

Bob Utz thanked the town and the police with the help with the music festival. They have had 100 calls already this year, including several field fires. They received a \$500 grant for the fire prevention budget. The EMT's have responded to many overdoses this year.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Gerald Sutton was not present for the meeting.

HISTORIC SOCIETY

Cathy Schwab asked if the town would allow the historical society to use the town hall on September 13 for historical chat sessions with older residents of the town. The Schwabs met with DNR about the wrap around porch that is planned to be put on the train station. They would like to plan a meeting soon to meet with the architect and the Commissioners. In September they would like a public meeting and newspaper article to discuss what is being planned for the train station.

OLD BUSINESS

The discussion for the Little League Field was tabled until the next meeting so that the parks committee has a chance to meet.

NEW BUSINESS

Martin Sokolich discussed the Cowbarn property. There is an interested party in purchasing the property. They had several questions regarding connecting into the sewer and waiving of the impact fees that they may be bringing to the Commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Amanda Courie spoke in support of the police department.

Archie Carroll spoke regarding the Cowbarn. Archie asked that the Commissioners give consideration to the developer's requests when they are approached.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.