

COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
JUNE 1, 2015
TOWN MEETING

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date in the Ridgely House for the June 2015 Town Meeting. The following were in attendance: President Leonard John Buckle, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Commissioner John Hurley, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Public Works David Crist, Chief of Police Gary Manos, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Tim Ailsworth LGIT, Terri Hinch, Chris Rogers, Lauren Good, Joe Anderson, Cpl. Stewart Ewing, Dale Mumford, Betty Jean Mumford, Officer Gordon Geesey and Fran Eby.

President Buckle opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Buckle opened the Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program Public Hearing.

Chris Rogers and Lauren Good from AECOM have been assisting the town with the grant to upgrade the School Street Pump Station. They discussed the types of funding through CDBG and acceptable projects. CDBG has over 7 million dollars for FY16 approved projects. Other items discussed: infeasibility of relocating the pump station, a future inflow and infiltration study which would build upon the sewer feasibility study that the town has already had completed. They discussed the resolutions that will be introduced and voted on under new business this evening. Joe Anderson asked if the town would have any match. The application also includes "in kind" funding from the town. The grant is anticipated to be awarded in July 2015. This is a public safety issue and work will have to be done, and if the grant is awarded it will be a reimbursable grant. The grant request is for \$88,750. There were no more questions.

President Buckle closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 4, 2015 town meeting, 2nd Commissioner Casey, approved.

STAFF REPORTS
CLERK-TREASURER

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

Total General Funds Reconciled - \$592,164.77

Total Sewer Funds Reconciled - \$241,208.72

Total Water Funds Reconciled - \$87,195.88

The engagement letter from TGM Group, LLC was presented to the Commissioners for their approval of audit services for the financial audit of FY15. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to sign the letter, 2nd Commissioner Casey, President Buckle signed the engagement letter.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Director of Public Works David Crist presented his report to the Commissioners. There was a discussion about the current water tower contract with Utility Service Group. Town Attorney, Patrick Thomas drafted a letter to send to Utility Service Group requesting that they let the Town of Ridgely out of the contract for FY16. We would pay them for the first quarter of FY16 and then go with another provider. A discussion followed. Southern Corrosion is willing to paint the tank as it is. They are a local company. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to send the letter to Utility Service, 2nd Commissioner Casey, unanimous approval.

Dale Mumford of 7 Caroline Avenue has a walnut tree on his property that he would like removed. It is half in and half out of the town's right of way. DPW Crist suggested we have DNR come in and determine if there is an issue with the tree. The commissioners agreed. DNR will be contacted.

The cleanup at 202 Park Avenue has been completed. The repairs still need to be completed. DPW Crist asked how the Commissioner wanted to proceed with the repairs. A discussion followed. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to pay for the abandonment of the drain. More discussion followed. Commissioner Hurley altered the motion to spend up to \$1,000 for the abandonment of the drain, 2nd Commissioner Casey, unanimous approval.

10 W First Street DPW Crist requested consent to repair a low spot in the curb. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve, 2nd Commissioner Casey, approved.

DPW Crist requested consent to remove the little league fence at Martin Sutton Park. The baseball diamond will still be there and backstop. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve, 2nd Commissioner Casey, approved.

Lister Estates Home Owners Association has requested additional street lighting and in a letter to the Commissioners dated May 13, 2015, expressed their concerns over the condition of Walnut Street. A discussion followed. The Commissioners recommended meeting with Ken Groves of the HOA to discuss the light situation further. There was a discussion about sweeping not only Walnut but all of the streets in town. There was a discussion of the streets in town that need to be paved including Walnut Street. In 2017 we are hoping to repave Walnut Street. DPW Crist expressed his concern that if we get a loan to pay for repaving we are banking on Highway User Revenue to pay it back, and history indicated that we cannot rely on that funding to be available.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Tim Ailsworth from LGIT addressed the Commissioners. Ridgely Police Department has been awarded a \$750 grant for FBI – LEEDA Executive Leadership Institute Training.

Chief Gary Manos presented his report to the Commissioners. Strawberry Festival was a success.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Gerald Sutton addressed the Commissioners. We are getting ready for the preliminary audit which will commence on June 22nd. He held a community meeting regarding a community center. There was a lot of good input that included partnering with other organizations. Everything is in the preliminary stages and they hope to meet again in September.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Chat Session will be on 6/13/15 at 10:00 am at the Town Hall. The Swing family that had the canneries back in the 20's and 30's visited over Memorial Day weekend and shared a lot of interesting stories.

OLD BUSINESS

The Commissioners voted on Ordinance No. 2015-366 an ordinance to appropriate funds and estimate income in accordance with the budget adopted for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2015-366, 2nd Commissioner Casey, unanimous approval, approved.

NEW BUSINESS

President Buckle introduced Resolution No. 2015-02 Application for CDBG Funds, authorizing the submittal of an application for a sewer pump station upgrade. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2015-02, 2nd Commissioner Casey, unanimous approval.

President Buckle introduced Resolution No. 2015-03 CDBG Citizen Participation Plan and Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2015-03, 2nd Commissioner Casey, unanimous approval.

President Buckle introduced Ordinance No. 2015-367 Deferred Payment for Public Safety Impact Fees and Water and Sewer Connection Charges.

Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area requested a \$500 donation for FY16. Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, approved.

The Commissioners discussed Senate Bill 868 re: transportation network services assessment for web-based taxi services such as Uber. They agreed to proceed with the preparation of an ordinance that will assess a .25 fee on web based taxi service trips.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Berkey
Clerk-Treasurer