

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY**  
**December 7, 2015**  
**TOWN MEETING**

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date in the Ridgely House for the December town meeting. The following were in attendance: President Leonard John Buckle, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Public Works David Crist, Chief of Police Gary Manos, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Lou Hayes, Ross Harper and Joe Anderson.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2015 town meeting and the November 10, 2015 meeting with AECOM, 2<sup>nd</sup> President Buckle, approved.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**CLERK-TREASURER**

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve paying the bills, 2<sup>nd</sup> President Buckle, approved.

Current General Funds Reconciled \$531,375.29

Current Sewer Funds Reconciled \$322,603.01

Current Water Funds Reconciled \$112,515.80

Cathy Moore of the Caroline County Tax Office contacted the town regarding the property located at 208 B Caroline Avenue. It has been on the tax sale for several years. Habitat for Humanity is expressing interest in the property. Cathy would like to ask the County Commissioners to reduce the amount owed on the property, including what is owed to the Town of Ridgely. The tax sale amount is 1825 for unpaid mowing invoices over several years and about 800 in uncollected town taxes. She is asking if our commissioners would agree to accept the reduced amount of the tax sale debt. This would have no bearing on current monies owed. A discussion followed. The Commissioners would like a more specific plan from Cathy before a decision is made.

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Director of Public Works David Crist presented his report to Commissioners. He indicated that the smell in town is because of Hanover Foods spreading by Peaviner Road. The new public works trucks will be here Thursday morning. We will put the other trucks out for sealed bid with a minimum bid of 5,000 for each.

The communication system at the water tower is not working. It is from 1999. It needs to be updated. A discussion followed. David would like to go with a wireless system. Commissioner Casey made a motion to fix the tower with the wireless system, 2<sup>nd</sup> President Buckle, approved.

He presented the bids for the tree removal that needs to be done in town. If we are to get all of the trees removed there will need to be an adjustment in the budget. A

discussion followed. The Commissioners agreed to increase the line item in the budget to 8,000 for this fiscal year. Trees will be taken down on a worst-case scenario basis. There was a discussion about fixing the gate at the WWTP.

### **CHIEF OF POLICE**

Chief Manos presented his report to the Commissioners. There was a discussion regarding the new radios that will need to be purchased in FY17. Ross Harper thanked the police for helping the Lions Club hang the Christmas lights in town.

### **RVFD**

Lou Hayes spoke to the commissioners. They have 9 people going to the National Fire Academy this year. The new building has a general contractor and the civil engineering and financing is underway. They are hoping to break ground on the 20,000 square foot building in the spring. They would like the input from the town as to what to do with the current fire station.

### **FINANCIAL ASSISTANT**

Gerald Sutton discussed with the Commissioners the upcoming budget adjustment. We will try to have the revision ready for the January meeting. He has prepared a new loan schedule. The due to due from account has come down again this year, which is good.

### **HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Not present.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was a request for sponsorship of the Ridgely Raptor Baseball Team. A discussion followed. The issue was tabled. The Commissioners requested they come to a meeting to make the request.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joe Anderson discussed the gate at the WWTP.

Jerry Sutton said that the Lions would like to upgrade the Christmas lights next year. There was a discussion about planning for the Christmas parade next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephanie Berkey, CMC  
Clerk-Treasurer