

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
JANUARY 4, 2016
TOWN MEETING**

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date in the Ridgely House for the January 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, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard, Lou Hayes, Charles Dean, Ann Jacobs, Martin Sokolich, Joe Anderson, Rick & Cathy Schwab, James McKenna.

President Buckle opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2015 town meeting, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, approved.

STAFF REPORTS

CLERK-TREASURER

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

Total General Funds Reconciled - \$625,496.90

Total Sewer Funds Reconciled - \$322,631.59

Total Water Funds Reconciled - \$112,524.43

We received a letter from the county today regarding the tax differential. The annual tax differential meeting with the county will be on February 26, 2016 at 8:30 pm in the Preston Fire Hall. They have requested a list of designated representatives by February 12, 2016. The following have been named designated representatives: President Buckle, Commissioner Casey, Commissioner Hurley and Stephanie Berkey.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

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

There was a discussion regarding the bid process of the public works vehicles. There must be a specific bid in the process, bids that indicate they will pay a certain amount over the highest bid will not be considered.

David would like to have a discussion with State Highway regarding the sidewalk issue. There are several issues in town with the recent paving job. A discussion followed. We would like to have a walk through and meeting with them. David will proceed with setting up the meeting. There was a discussion regarding the proposal to repair the gate at the wastewater treatment plant. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to accept the gate proposal from Advanced Digital Systems, 2nd Commissioner Casey, all in favor. Approved.

The new trucks and the snow blower have arrived.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Not present.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Gerald Sutton discussed the budget revision and presented the changes to the commissioners. He explained the fund balance.

RVFD

Lou Hayes discussed with the Commissioners the year-end figures for the fire house. The contract for the new building has been awarded to Bob Breeding. Ground breaking will be within 60 days and they hope to be in it by this time next year. The old fire house will be for sale. EMS will be using one of the bays of the new building.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cathy Schwab spoke to the commissioners. The annual decorating contest was held again this year. The list of winners is posted on the town website. There was a discussion about the upcoming 150th anniversary of the town in 2017. A date needs to be set for the event.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

President Buckle introduced Ordinance No. 2016-368, an ordinance to re-appropriate funds and adjust revenue estimates in accordance with events that necessitate changes in the budget adopted for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016.

Ann Jacobs of the Caroline County Chamber of Commerce spoke to the commissioners regarding sponsoring the chamber. Commissioner Casey made a motion to do a silver sponsorship, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, all in favor, approved.

There was further discussion regarding the issues with the sidewalk repair job that was completed by State Highway.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Martin Sokolich from the planning commission discussed the ending terms of some commission members. He is concerned that we need a new zoning ordinance and would like the commissioners to consider paying for an update.

Melissa Leonard spoke for the owner at Caroline Avenue where there was a major leak. They are requesting abatement of the sewer charges less their quarterly average. The commissioners agreed to abate the sewer charges and offer a payment arrangement for the water charges.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Berkey, CMC
Clerk-Treasurer