

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY  
DECEMBER 19, 2017  
WORKSHOP MEETING**

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 5:30 pm in the town hall for a workshop meeting. The following were in attendance: President John Hurley, Commissioner Leonard John Buckle, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton and Debbie Pfeil KCI Technologies, Inc.

President Hurley called the meeting to order.

Debbie Pfeil, KCI Technologies, Inc. provided an update of the town hall renovations to the commissioners. She received the punch list at 1:15 on December 19<sup>th</sup>. It was presented to the Commissioners for review and discussion. The hardware for the town hall is to arrive by December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Harper and Sons has requested December 27, 2017 as the completion date. The fire marshal's concerns were reviewed. He is requesting documentation on the spray foam insulation and the new heating system.

USDA – No new items. Expect to close on loan mid to late January 2018.

MOU Historic Mitigation – anticipated completion in February 2018.

The Commissioners discussed at length the requested change order. Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve the following:

- KCI will research electrical invoices for recessed wording
- Paint the front bottom of the building to match the siding
- Schedule the fire marshal inspection
- Commissioners request a final walk-through with Joe
- Approve change order #6 contingent upon all items supplied and dated by the contractor be met as provided on 12/19/17 with the exception of #35 transom window.

2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Casey, all in favor.

The USDA monthly report was submitted.

Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey discussed with the commissioners the current version of section 6 of the Town Charter regarding town elections and candidacy requirements. After speaking with Patrick Thomas, Town Attorney, he informed her that the current wording in the charter is rather ambiguous in regards to write-in candidates. There appears to be no provision for write-in candidates, but the wording is vague and could be argued either way. He suggested that the Commissioners decide either for or against write-in candidates and then proceed with a Charter Amendment to definitively reflect that decision. If we want it to be for the next election, time is of the essence and we must have the Charter Amendment process started for the January 2018 town meeting. The Commissioners discussed changing the wording to not allow write-in candidates. There was also a discussion to further amend the charter to have the last day to file for candidacy to be the first Monday in April. Currently it is 10 days before the election, and many times this falls on the Good Friday holiday, which the town observes. It is often difficult to get the announcement published in the local newspaper because of the

deadlines. Changing the date would allow for ample notice to be given. Also discussed was changing the charter to eliminate the need for an election if, after the deadline to file for candidacy, there is only one eligible candidate registered to run. This would save money on election judges and other election related costs. Commissioner Casey made a motion to proceed with the charter amendment process to change the following: Write-in candidates will not be allowed, the last day to file for candidacy will be the first Monday in April, if only one qualified candidate is registered to run for the election then it will not be necessary to hold the election. 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Buckle. President Hurley abstained from the vote as it is his year to run for re-election and felt that it would be a conflict of interest.

The Commissioners reviewed an offer on the Maryland Avenue properties. The offer was \$45,000 for all 3 lots. Commissioner Casey made a motion to counter the offer with \$65,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Buckle, all in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephanie Berkey, CMC  
Clerk-Treasurer

