

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
TOWN MEETING
MARCH 4, 2013**

The March 2013 meeting of the Commissioners of Ridgely was held on the above date in the Ridgely House at 7:00pm. The following were in attendance: President Linda Jo Epperly-Glover, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Commissioner John Hurley, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Public Works David Crist, Sgt. Stephen Creason, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Rick & Cathy Schwab, John Buckle, Dale Mumford

President Epperly-Glover opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence in honor of those serving our country.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2013 meeting, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, approved

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2013 tax differential meeting hosted by the Commissioners of Caroline County, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, approved.

STAFF REPORTS

CLERK-TREASURER

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

Total General Funds Reconciled - \$494,599

Total Sewer Funds Reconciled - \$80,540

Total Water Funds Reconciled - \$76,038

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

DPW David Crist presented his report to the Commissioners. He reviewed the plat that the town has for 23599 Chicken Bridge Road. The plat shows both of the lines as they are installed. The Commissioners agreed that unless the homeowner can produce a more recent plat with a different set of plans the current plat stands.

The final price for the Neptune meters is \$243,500. Provident State Bank can do the loan for 10 years at a fixed rate of 3.25% or 3% fixed for 5 years with a ten year amortization. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to accept the fixed rate of 3.25% for 10 years fixed, 2nd Commissioner Casey, all in favor, approved.

We had over 70 applicants for the Maintenance Worker position and interviewed 25 applicants. Justin Conway was selected and will be starting in 2 weeks.

David discussed the need to make improvements at Martin Sutton Park including split rail fencing around all the parking lots, new material in the playground area, new playground equipment and removing the bathrooms and the old cook shack and possibly building a new one. We need to try to get funds for the parks department.

David would like the Commissioners' input on how the highway user fees should be used. He would like to see an engineering study of Maryland Avenue be completed.

We are looking into adding a stormwater impact fee for developers. This is something that we would like to discuss further and see if it would be worth proceeding.

March 4, 2013 cont.

There was a discussion about the solar panels at the wastewater treatment plant and how the town is being charged. The Commissioners agreed that we need to meet with Choptank Electric and VW Energy to figure out if we are being billed correctly.

POLICE

Sgt. Stephen Creason presented his report to the Commissioners. Officer Trinks has completed all of his training and the police department is running with 4 officers 20 hours a day 7 days a week. The Ridgely and Greensboro Police Departments have completed the modifications to their servers and laptops and are now capable of sharing police information.

Sgt. Creason completed an 80 hour Maryland Police Training Commission.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

We are 8 months into the fiscal year and everything seems to be on track. We are getting close to working on the budget again and we are planning on focusing on a capital budget.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cathy Schwab said that there has been a lot of work done to the inside of the train station and showed pictures of the progress to the Commissioners. Originally there were two separate rooms.

Cathy thanked the staff at the town hall for getting the display cabinets in the meeting room.

They are working on getting Old Time Ridgely Days together for May 4th.

Linchester Mill has new hand-painted signs and this weekend is a big event there for Harriet Tubman.

OLD BUSINESS

There was a discussion about the Commerce Lane right of way dispute. Mrs. Valaderez is claiming to have the right of way, the town asked her to produce her plat with the deeded right of way before we can proceed any further. The Commissioners agreed that if this turns out to be a civil dispute, the town cannot get involved. We are also looking into the Sunrise Avenue right of way, to see if it is a public right of way or a utility easement.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 2013-359 establishing a financial hardship exemption program for the bay restoration fund fee in chapter 185 of the town code was introduced.

There was a discussion about the meeting with the County Commissioners and the towns regarding the tax differential. Commissioner Casey explained that the town did get a 1 cent break from the county due to the reduced assessments in the north end of the county. There was a lengthy discussion at the County meeting as to how to come up with a better formula for the tax differential.

Anna Henry is having a 100th birthday and the Trinity AME Church is putting together a memory book. Commissioner Casey made a motion to make a proclamation for making April 8, 2013 Hannah R. Henry day, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, all in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dale Mumford spoke regarding the tax differential and the highway user fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm. The next meeting will be April 1, 2013.

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
2 CENTRAL AVE, P.O BOX 710
RIDGELY MARYLAND 21660
410-634-2177**

March 4, 2013 Commission Meeting

SEWER

- 49 days holding capacity
- All monthly forms have been completed and sent to MDE
- Main pump station has been cleaned

WATER

- All monthly forms have been completed and sent to MDE
- Been meeting with HD supply on getting a final price of changing over to radio read water meters

PUBLIC WORKS

- 3 loads of rubble
- 4 loads of brush
- 1 load of bags
- 4 Miss Utility Locates
- Cleaning up the shop yard
- Replaced street signs
- Got everything ready for the possible snow storm this week

OTHER

- We did around 30 interview for the vacant Public works position. We chose a candidate and he will begin work on March the 19th
- Got all three price bids for the FEMA generator grant. The bids need to be reviewed and select a winner
- Going through the VW energy bills and the choptank bills. The bottom line is we pay for the amount of energy produced not consumed
- Started the Chesapeake Bay Trust Green Street grant application
- Been looking into the charter. There are a lot of things that should be looked into and addressed

RIDGELY POLICE DEPARTMENT

2 East Railroad Street, Ridgely, MD 21660

Phone: 410.634.2151

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www.ridgelymd.org/html_docs/police.html



Police Report - February 2013

Total Calls For Service February 2013 - 66

Total Calls For Service February 2012 - 76

Total Calls Requiring Investigation - 23

Arrest - 2

The Police Department is now covering 20 hours of the 24 hours in a day, 7 days a week. Officer Phil Trinks has finished the field training portion of his required training and is now patrolling on his own. This now puts the Department at 4 sworn full time police officers.

The Ridgely and Greensboro Police Departments have completed the modifications to their servers and laptops and are now capable of sharing police information. This puts our police departments at a distinct advantage when investigating criminal activities. In the process of upgrading the police departments server we also upgraded the towns server and lap tops to make our systems more secure when the systems receive and transmit personal and confidential information.

Sergeant Steve Creason completed an 80 hour Maryland Police Training Commission mandated First Line Supervisor School during the month. The school was held at WorWic College in Salisbury.

Please record serial numbers and photograph all valuables when possible. Place the information in a secure location for future reference. This will assist the police department during any theft or burglary investigation and in the return of stolen property.

Please clear all ice and snow from your car windows before journeying out onto the road.

Please feel free to stop by the police department if you have any concerns or suggestions.

