

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
MARCH 2, 2015
TOWN MEETING**

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 7:00 pm in the Ridgely House for the March town meeting. The following were in attendance: President John Hurley, Commissioner John Buckle, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard, Director of Public Works David Crist, Chief of Police Gary Manos, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Cathy & Rick Schwab, Lou Hayes RVFD, Ginger & Danny Lockhart, Ross Harper, Mark Kottwitz, and Joe Anderson

President Hurley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2015 Town meeting, 2nd Commissioner Casey, approved.

STAFF REPORTS

CLERK-TREASURER

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

Total General Funds Reconciled - \$498,692.19

Total Sewer Funds Reconciled - \$282,029.80

Total Water Funds Reconciled - \$63,694.18

The 2015 Constant Yield Tax Rate Certification from the State of Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation was presented to the Commissioners. The constant yield tax rate for FY16 is .5920, but the county can only accept a rate that is two digits. Cathy Moore has said that next year they will have new software that should allow for the extended digits, but she said that our rate should remain the same at .59.

Commissioner Buckle made a motion to set the tax rate for FY16 at .59, 2nd Commissioner Casey, approved.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Director of Public Works David Crist presented his report to the Commissioners. He received a quote to fix the gate at the shop for over \$6700.00 but wants to wait to hear from URS about their findings. David stated that they are replacing boards on the picnic tables at MS Park and that they are waiting for the weather to dry up a little before they begin demolishing the buildings. He would like to have everything taken care of before the upcoming events down there.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Gary Manos presented his report to the Commissioners. The Police Dogs were also discussed and celebrated about being vigorously re-trained and making strides forward. He also spoke about a robbery in which the dogs were able to track the suspect. RPD looks to move ahead utilizing the dogs with training to find lost children/people.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Jerry presented his report to the Commissioners. He is very pleased with the current budget and thinks the process will be easier for the upcoming fiscal year. There is a meeting scheduled for next week with Provident State Bank to discuss some of the outstanding debts.

RVFD

Lou Hayes was here and presented his report to the Commissioners. The Town was thanked for the donation. The new building is scheduled to break ground on October 1, 2015. The RVFD is thinking about offering a new free CPR class to the public. More information on this will be shared when available.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY (via Gerald Sutton)

Ms. Madge Thomas passed away at 105 year old.

The Historical Society now has a Facebook page, complete with photos of Madge Thomas and other historic photos that pertain to Ridgely.

OLD BUSINESS

There was a discussion regarding entering into the LEOPS program for the police department. I informed the Commissioners that I had reached out to the other towns asking for the reasons they aren't in the LEOPS retirement system. The consensus is that the cost was just too much and after a loan was taken out originally to join the State Retirement Agency as a Town. Commissioner Hurley wants to re-discuss this near the end of the year to possibly renegotiate the loan and include for the three officers into LEOPS. It's good for recruiting and retention. Commissioner Buckle wants to see something specifically that benefits everybody in the Town, not just the police department.

NEW BUSINESS

Josh Rittenhouse – Habitat for Humanity – NO SHOW

Brenda Walls – Ridgely Pharmacy Car Show, scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2015 (Rain or Shine) – which is also Dover Race weekend. She was asked by Anthony and

Joe (Anderson) to do it again. Last year there were 615 cars, this year she is shooting for 1000. Car show email is: pettynorth43@hotmail.com

PUBLIC COMMENT

Danny Lockhart – Danny’s walk still on as scheduled. A dunk booth and tent has been donated. 10 vendors have been confirmed so far. Look online to their Facebook page for links to online donations.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58p, motioned by Commissioner Buckle and 2nd by Commissioner Casey.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa Leonard - Assistant Clerk-Treasurer