

COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
MARCH 7, 2016
TOWN MEETING

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 7:00 pm in the Ridgely House for the March 2016 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, Chief of Police Gary Manos, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Cathy & Rick Schwab, Ginger Lockhart, Danny Lockhart and Ross Harper.

President Buckle opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the minutes of the following meetings: February 1, 2016 meeting with AECOM, February 1, 2016 town meeting, February 25, 2016 meeting with Brandywine Design LLC, 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 - \$509,314.08

Total Sewer Funds Reconciled - \$363,879.83

Total Water Funds Reconciled - \$139,099.39

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Director of Public Works David Crist presented his report to the Commissioners. We need to come up with an impact fee to repair streets affected by new construction. Walnut Street is set to be repaved, but the new subdivision is starting to take off and repairs will be needed. This could also be for the sprinkler regulations, as the streets are sometimes damaged with that. The Commissioners We will proceed with an ordinance adding \$500 impact street fee. There was a discussion regarding scraping the alleys and putting down millings. It has been very wet, which makes the process difficult.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Gary Manos presented his report to the Commissioners. Sgt. Walsh has tendered his resignation effective May 31, 2016. Our current officers are interviewing for the position and our part-time officer, Ross Harper, will be filling the vacant full-time position.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Gerald Sutton addressed the Commissioners. We will be working on the budget this month. The town is really healthy right now, but there are some large expenses looming.

RVFD

Not present.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cathy Schwab talked to the Commissioners regarding the 150th celebration. They would like to submit a request for the budget \$2500 this year and the next. The Commissioners will consider it during the budget process. There was a discussion regarding the ADA compliant strips for the sidewalks at the train station. It will cost about \$375 to complete. They need a letter of commitment to send to SHA. A discussion followed. Rick will provide documentation from State Highway that states that the sidewalks are ADA compliant.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

MRDC has requested a letter of support from the Commissioners for the Housing Preservation Program. Commissioner Casey made a motion to send the letter, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, all in favor, approved.

The FY17 tax rate needs to be set. The current rate is .59 and the constant yield rate would be .60. A discussion followed. The Commissioners wanted to wait until we see how the expenses for the next fiscal year add up before setting the rate.

The County Commissioners have requested our Commissioners to decide how to pay the balancing payment from the tax differential. Last year it was paid directly to the fire companies. A discussion followed. Commissioner Casey made a motion to have it paid to the town, 2nd Commissioner Hurley all in favor.

Chris Rogers from AECOM was unable to attend due to an urgent situation in Preston. He will attend the April 2016 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Danny Lockhart spoke to the Commissioners that Danny's Walk for Wishes is May 7, 2016 from 10-2. The Facebook page is up and they are taking donations. The fire company will provide food again this year. They requested the town to provide portable sanitation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Berkey, CMC
Clerk-Treasurer