

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
MARCH 6, 2017
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 Anthony Casey, Commissioner John Hurley, Commissioner Leonard John Buckle, 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 and Rick Schwab, Berl Lovelace, Brandon Stiles, Ceres Bainbridge, Kevin Hurd, Brenda Walls, Officer Ross Harper, Lucy Ball, Scott Judy, Ginger Lockhart, Danny Lockhart, John Smith, Joe Anderson and Sue Simmons.

President Casey opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2017 meeting minutes, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, approved.

**STAFF REPORTS
CLERK-TREASURER**

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

Total General Funds Reconciled - \$287,444.55

Total Sewer Funds Reconciled - \$530,534.95

Total Water Funds Reconciled - \$249,766.37

There was a discussion regarding the tax rates for FY18. The constant yield tax rate is .5793. A discussion followed. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to set the property tax rate at the constant yield rate of \$.5793 and the personal property tax rate will remain \$1.275, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, unanimous approval.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Director of Public Works David Crist presented his report to the Commissioners. The new playground looks great. Grass seeding for the playground will happen when it gets warmer. We are going to try to get 4 benches for the playground area. We have a request from Mr. Ringold to paint lines on the basketball court at no charge to the town. The Commissioners approved. The flagpole garden project is being finalized for the May 13th event.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Gary Manos presented his report to the Commissioners. Stephanie Berkey swore in new part-time officer Sef Martinez. National night out will be Tuesday August 1, 2017. The police are planning an event that will include a free puppet show and hot dogs for the residents.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Jerry Sutton presented his report to the Commissioners. He thanked the town for the help with the 150th planning. He thinks it will help economic development. We are beginning work on the FY18 budget.

RVFD

Brandon Stiles presented his report to the Commissioners. There were 16 calls for service this month. The flooring is going down on the new station and progress is good.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cathy Schwab said that renovations have begun on the train station. They are still in the demolition stage. The 150th Committee has made progress on the event. The event will be billed as "Rides and Slides" there are 3 bands that will be playing that day. The rides will be free.

OLD BUSINESS

President Casey read over Ordinance No. 2017-372 FY17 Budget Revision. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2017-372, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, unanimous approval.

Stanley Hutchison 501 Maple Avenue was not present. The discussion of the water bill issue continued from the previous month. The water meter in question had been sent out for testing and was proven to be accurate. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to charge the full amount of the disputed charges of the bill 2nd Commissioner Buckle, unanimous approval.

NEW BUSINESS

President Casey introduced Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2017-01. The town's current borrowing power is limited to 20 years. This amendment will increase that power to 30 years. There will be a public hearing at the April 2017 town meeting.

President Casey introduced the following: Ordinance No. 2017-373 Re: Chapter 75 Building Construction; Ordinance No. 2017-374 Re: Chapter 124 Occupancy Permits; Ordinance No. 2017-375 Re: Chapter 136 Property Maintenance; Ordinance No. 2017-376 Re: Misdemeanors and Municipal Infractions. Resolution No. 2017-02 Building Construction/Inspection Fee Schedule was introduced. These fees will cover the cost of what we are charged from Middle Department Inspection Agency. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-002, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, all in favor. Approved.

Ceres Bainbridge, the new Director of Tourism for Caroline County spoke to the Commissioners. She discussed what tourism does for the county and is asking the town for a contribution. The Commissioners will look into it for the upcoming FY18 budget.

Sue Simmons talked to the Commissioners regarding Program Open Space funds and land acquisition goals and public relations concerns that the Commissioners had. The open space funding that had been dedicated for the cow barn park have been reverted back to the county reserve account. She can work with the town and the league to resubmit the application for improvements at a new match rate.

Jeff Hassannia 106 W Railroad was not present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brenda Walls discussed the Ridgely Car Show that will be October 15, 2017. Richard Petty will be here again and he is celebrating his 80th birthday. Linda Vaughn and Roy Hill will also be at the show. June 24th will be the airing of "My Classic Car" that showcases last year's show.

Berl Lovelace from New Beginnings United Methodist Church discussed that they are having a revival April 9-14. They are planning on having a cookout and Easter Egg Hunt and other activities for the children. He would like for the town to partner with them for the event on the 15th of April.

Ginger and Danny Lockhart discussed Danny's Walk that raises money for Camp Horizon, a camp for children with cancer that will be held on May 21 from 10-2.

Scott Judy came to discuss the zoning on the house next to Dave's Place. They want to rezone it from commercial to residential. The taxes are currently \$4,907 a year and the property and bar are in danger of foreclosure. A discussion followed. Planning and zoning wants to see a plan for the property before they make a recommendation. The Commissioners recommended that they have the property reassessed and dispute the taxes with the assessment office.

John Smith re: 109 W First Street. Water service was cut off for non-payment. He requested to not be charged the \$50 cut off fee. A discussion followed. The Commissioners denied the request.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie L. Berkey, CMC
Clerk-Treasurer