

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

The February 2013 meeting of the Commissioners of Ridgely was held on the above date in the Ridgely House. The following were in attendance: President Linda Jo Epperly-Glover, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Commissioner John Hurley, Director of Public Works David Crist, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Chief of Police Gary Manos, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Tree Commission Joanne Shipley, Mike Redgraves, Brett Meyers, Christina Valladares, Ellie Altman, Mark Callahan, Kathy Mackel, John Buckle, Sam Wu, Vontiva Acree-Carter.

President Epperly-Glover opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for those protecting our country.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 7, 2012 meeting, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, approved.

STAFF REPORTS

CLERK-TREASURER

Commissioner Casey made a motion to pay the bills, 2nd Commissioner Hurley 2nd, approved. Total general funds reconciled \$271,911, total sewer funds reconciled \$80,534, total water funds reconciled \$166,581.

There was a discussion about the article in the newspaper regarding Mr. Rampmeyer and the history books and his thank you letter and having them professionally framed to display with the books. The Commissioners unanimously approved to have the article framed.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Director of Public Works David Crist presented his report to the Commissioners. He reported that the watershed assistance class went well as did the site visit. There is possible funding for the flooding issue on Maryland Avenue. There will be a team of specialists coming to the town to discuss the situation in detail and they will help us work resubmitting our original grant as well as look for other funding opportunities.

FEMA has allocated \$24,000 to the town for reimbursement for damages and costs associated with Hurricane Sandy.

We have been getting information and prices for new radio read water meters in the town. HD Supply has given us a quote of \$225,000 to replace the meters. The new system will save the town time and money. A discussion followed about the new meters and the potential savings and financing. Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the purchase of the new radio read water meters with HD Supply, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, unanimous approval.

There was a discussion about the commercial trash rates being charged by the town. Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard discovered that the town was actually losing money on commercial trash billing. It was discussed that the town needs to raise the rate to cover the cost of the trash pick up. The Commissioners agreed that a letter will be sent to the affected businesses and that the new rate would not start until the beginning of the next quarter. The

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letter would give the business the option of paying what the town actually pays or providing their own trash pick up. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to send the letters to the affected businesses, 2nd Commissioner Casey, unanimous approval.

There is an ad in the paper for the open public works position. David hopes to have someone hired and starting by March 1st.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Manos presented his report to the Commissioners. Ridgely Police Department will be working together with Greensboro Police Department by linking our Crimestar networks together. This will allow the towns to share important information much quicker and they can work together better.

The police department is working closely with Ridgely Elementary School formulating plans in the event of an active shooter. School bus operator, John Buckle, is assisting with transportation planning in the event emergency transportation is needed.

TREE COMMISSION

Joanne Shipley reported that 3 people have complained to her about the branches on the town trees. She would like to be more aggressive with trimming the trees and more money for the tree commission in the upcoming year's budget. The Commissioners asked Joanne to provide some figures for the next meeting. She will be applying for another grant for funding fall tree planting.

OLD BUSINESS

President Epperly-Glover re-read Ordinance No. 2013-358 revising the FY13 Budget. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2013-358, 2nd Commissioner Casey, unanimous approval.

NEW BUSINESS

Vontiva Acree-Carter resides at 23599 Chicken Bridge Road. This was her parents' property. Her parents had given the town right of way to put the sewer line through to Day Springs Apartments. She indicated that the original plan was to have the line go around the perimeter of the property, but instead it was put through the property. She would like for the line to go around the perimeter as originally planned. Commissioner Casey said that research would need to be done first, and the Commissioners agreed to collect information on the situation to see what could be done.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Sam Wu from Connolley's Market requested an abatement for the water leak at his property. There was a discussion about the broken pipe and who was responsible for fixing the pipe. The town was advised by our lawyer that because the broken pipe was on private property we were not allowed to go onto the property. The Commissioners agreed that they could abate the appropriate charges for the sewer fee.

Christina Valadarez spoke regarding the minutes of the 12/2/12 Commissioners meeting, specifically the proposed joint use agreement made between the town and the owner of the boat company, Mr. Kevin Barnes. She was concerned that as a landowner affected by this agreement she was not consulted. She needs to be able to move her farm equipment through the land where

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Mr. Barnes is parking the boats. She indicated that this is a deeded right of way. The town owns Commerce, but the extension is her property with the deeded right of way. There Commissioners did not realize where Mr. Barnes was speaking of at the last meeting. It was discussed that Mr. Barnes does have the right to park the boats on the street, but if it is in fact a deeded right of way, he would not be allowed to park in the right of way. If this is the case a letter will be sent to Mr. Barnes regarding the situation. Ms. Valadarez also wants to post a do not block right of way sign on a post by the right of way. She was advised to obtain the appropriate sign permit for the town hall.

Ellie Altman from Adkins Arboretum spoke to the Commissioners about teaming together with the town so that they would be able to apply for a grant for their walking trail through State Highway. This would utilize the town's employees to handle the grant for the Arboretum. The Commissioners asked Ms. Altman to discuss this further in a separate meeting with Stephanie Berkey, Clerk-Treasurer and the Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton.

Cathie Mackel from the Caroline County Office of Tourism also spoke in support of the application.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Berkey
Clerk-Treasurer