

May 6, 2013

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
MAY 6, 2013
TOWN MEETING**

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 7:00pm in the Ridgely House. The following were in attendance: Outgoing President Linda Jo Epperly-Glover, President Commissioner Anthony Casey, Commissioner John Hurley, Commissioner John Buckle, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard, Chief of Police Gary Manos, Sgt. Stephen Creason, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Historical Society Rick & Cathy Schwab, Tree Commission Joanne Shipley, Gayle Scherer, Charles & Brenda Walls, Rev Denzil Cheek, Kelly Buckle & Family and Mr. & Mrs. Faulkner.

Outgoing President Epperly-Glover opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for our troops.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to reappoint Stephanie Berkey to the position of Clerk, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, approved

There was a presentation to Outgoing President Epperly-Glover for her dedication to the Town with her years of service and Leonard John Buckle was sworn in by Terrie Hinch (Notary) as Commissioner. At that point Commissioner Casey became President as the meeting continued.

Commissioner Casey asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the 4/1/13 meeting, Commissioner Hurley motioned, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, approved.

“STAFF REPORTS”

CLERK TREASURER

President Casey made a motion to pay bills, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, approved.
Bank Account details were tabled until next meeting

PUBLIC WORKS

Director of Public Works, David Crist left his report for the Commissioners and Town residents for review. The results from the DNR community parks and playground grant are in and we were not chosen this year. We expect to reapply and ask for less assistance in hopes of getting approved. President Casey spoke about repaving Maryland Ave being scheduled for this upcoming Fiscal Year and mentioned that David is also in the process of getting quotes for street sweepers. Mr. Walls asked about Bell St and Park Ave being repaved too and President Casey informed his that we are going in order of priority (because of need) and Maryland is top priority at this time.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Manos presented his report to the Commissioners and Town residents. He asked if anyone had questions, with no response. He went on to mention that the department is going to be required to update their radios by 2015-2016 and we need to start preparing for that cost of about \$5K-\$6K each. He informed everyone to expect lots of crowds this weekend due to the RVFD

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Music Festival as well as Adkins Arboretum and their guided tours through town. He asked that everyone please be patient.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Jerry Sutton informed the Commissioners that we have made adjustments to the way the payroll is distributed. It's now more fairly accounted as to what each individual does on a daily basis. He also said that the Staff has been doing a great job looking for and going after grant opportunities. The budget is to be introduced later on this evening and he is looking forward to a very successful year with the Staff we have in place.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ole Time Ridgely Days had a very successful turnout. The Schwab's wanted to thank the guys in Public Works for all of their continued effort and support as usual. She also wanted to thank two Commissioners (Casey & Hurley) who donated their time to grill hot dogs, very successfully and finally the Staff, Volunteers, Residents, Donations from town and abroad – all of whom made this all come together.

Cathy received a phone call from Maryland Environmental who donated 4 seedlings from the Wye Oak – which was considered to be the largest tree in Maryland and the Country before burning down. Thanks to MES and the Tree Commission those seedlings have been planted in Railroad Park. There is a name plate in the works as well.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

President Casey introduced Ordinance No. 2013-360 an ordinance to appropriate funds and estimate income in accordance with the budget adopted for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2014. This can be viewed at the Town Hall beginning tomorrow (Tuesday, May 7, 2013)

Cathy Schwab (along with Chuck & Brenda Walls) spoke about the need for electricity in Railroad Park. They said it is very necessary. Currently, we are running extension cords all over and it's dangerous. The inside of the Railroad Station is gutted now and it's the perfect time to get it done. The Walls said they could get an electrician to volunteer his labor as long as we pay for the materials. Ridgely Historical Society has grant money left that can be used to purchase the materials. The Walls will get the ball rolling and should have a material list to us within the month. President Casey stated as long as we can have it inspected by MDIA, we're fine with the volunteer licensed electrician. Commissioner Hurley motioned to upgrade electric with the Town paying for materials (through RHS grant money), Commissioner Buckle 2nd.

Archie Carroll sent a letter asking us to decrease impact fees. Commissioner Casey said it costs a lot to run the town. Anytime, you add more people, we have to add more staff. We just don't think Archie understands that. Casey stated that we should send letter to Archie to inform him that the current impact fees do not cover Town expenses.

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Rodney Dobson asked (via letter) for the Town to display Mrs. Hannah R. Henry's (Longtime Ridgely teacher/resident)name on the Welcome to Ridgely sign to acknowledge her 100th birthday. President Casey motioned to do the sign and Commissioner Hurley 2nd.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cathy Schwab wanted to say that the Public Works Department is doing a great job beautifying the Town.

Commissioner Hurley announced that a Ridgely Elementary School student (Ella Keaton) was the overall winner of the essays.....out of 2400 entries. She is meeting with the Lt. Governor next week. Great Job RES!

Commissioner Buckle stated that Madge Thomas is going to get the Circular Driveway at the school named after her. Congratulations!

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm. The next meeting will be June 3, 2013 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa Leonard
Assistant Clerk-Treasurer