

COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
APRIL 7, 2014
TOWN MEETING MINUTES

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 7:00pm in the Ridgely House. The following were in attendance: President Anthony Casey, Commissioner John Hurley, Commissioner 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, Joe Anderson, Barbie and Bob Utz, Mike Redgraves and Dustin Holt.

Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2014 meeting, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, approved.

STAFF REPORTS

CLERK-TREASURER

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

Total General Funds Reconciled - \$608,982.76

Total Sewer Funds Reconciled - \$174,393.75

Total Water Funds Reconciled - \$66,855.99

There was a discussion regarding establishing the Business Personal Property for FY15.

Commissioner Buckle made a motion to continue at the rate of \$1.275, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, approved.

Election Day is April 28, 2014 from 1:00 – 7:00pm.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Director of Public Works David Crist gave his report to the Commissioners. There was a discussion about setting the fines for the new bulk trash policy that was approved last month. David recommended having it mirror the fines and violation procedures of the grass cutting policy. Enforcement will begin in August to give residents some time to adjust. Commissioner Buckle made a motion to implement the fines as per the grass cutting policy, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, approved.

We have been approved for a grant from MEA for smart energy solutions. The amount has not been formally announced. It is projected that we will receive between \$30,000-\$40,000, without a match. The resolutions that are being voted on in the new business section of the agenda are mandatory policies that need to be implemented in order to receive the funding.

We met with FEMA to close out the WWTP Generator Project. We were informed that we still have money available for us to use on a generator for the Town Hall. The project will cost a total of \$34,213. We are responsible for 25% of that cost (\$8,554), which will be split between 4 departments (admin, police, water and sewer \$2,139 each.) David asked the Commissioners if

they wished to pursue this project. A discussion followed. We will vote on it next month when we have a better idea of the 3rd quarter numbers.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Gary Manos presented his report to the Commissioners, attached. The little league parade and Easter egg hunt are this weekend. There is some grant money that is available for underage drinking and Gary is going to look into it for the music festival.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Gerald Sutton talked to the Commissioners about the budget planning. We are making good progress on the new budget. We are getting better at pinpointing items and distributing them correctly. He discussed what we can do with the contingency and preparing for the future. We are in a good state and have good cash flow. He would like to see the contingency be put into an investment accounts for the different departments. A discussion followed as to how to show that money as a revenue in the following year's budget. Jerry will check with our auditors about this possibility.

RVFD

Chief Utz thanked the Commissioners for having him speak. They will try to have a representative at the town meetings from now on. He spoke of how the calls since 2012 have been cut in half. They did have the first arson fire in 2014, which was determined quickly and they worked together with the RPD to solve this case quickly. He gave updates on the grants that they are applying for. Spaghetti dinners are back on the first Thursday of every month from 4-7pm. Grocery bingo is on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm. June 21st is the Dream City Music Festival 12-8pm. He gave an update on the new fire station.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cathy Schwab spoke to the Commissioners. The Easter egg hunt is this Saturday in the Railroad Park. Old Time Ridgely days is May 3rd 10-3. April 16th Ridgely Elementary School 5th graders will be planting another tree. The Historical Society is looking to events at the town hall that welcome in senior citizens and discuss how things were in the past. They would like to start this in September. Stories of the Chesapeake had a meeting that the Schwab's attended to learn about extending the Rails to Trails to Crouse Mill. They are researching this grant to see if we are able to get it. The deadline is June 1st. Volunteers are needed to cook hotdogs at Old Time Ridgely Days and to run the cake wheel.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

President Casey introduced Resolution No. 2014-04 declaring the Town of Ridgely's intent to take a leadership role in reducing electricity consumption within the Town of Ridgely, partnering with Maryland Energy Administration, and enrolling as a Maryland Smart Energy Community. Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-04, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, approved.

President Casey introduced Resolution No. 2014-05 declaring the Town of Ridgely's intent to take a leadership role in reducing transportation petroleum consumption in and by the Town of Ridgely, by partnering with the Maryland Energy Administration, and enrolling as a Maryland Smart Energy Community. Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-05, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, approved.

The ad for the Lions Club Strawberry Festival program was discussed. Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve the full page color ad at \$125, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cathy Schwab suggested that the fire department utilize the town website and Facebook for their events.

Bob Utz discussed in front of Connolley's market and not being able to park trucks in front of the market. It is a dangerous situation. The town will contact State Highway.

The next meeting will be Monday May 5, 2014 at 7:00pm in the Town Hall. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie L. Berkey
Clerk-Treasurer