

COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
APRIL 6, 2015
TOWN MEETING

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date in the Ridgely House at 7:00 pm for the April town meeting. The following were in attendance: President John Hurley, Commissioner John Buckle, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Public Works David Crist, Chief of Police Gary Manos, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Joe Anderson, Ginger Lockheart, Danny Locheart, Mark Kottwitz, Dustin Holt, Mike Redgraves, Cathy Schwab, Rick Schwab, Richard Smith, Sue Cherry, Margret McKay, Pamela McKay, Ross Harper, Joshua Rittenhouse and William Clemens.

President Hurley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2015 town meeting and the March 23, 2015 meeting with URS, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, approved.

STAFF REPORTS
CLERK-TREASURER

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

Total General Funds Reconciled \$667,426.44
Total Sewer Funds Reconciled \$282,041.28
Total Water Funds Reconciled \$63,698.93

There was a discussion regarding the business personal property tax rates for FY16. The current rate is \$1.275 per \$1,000/assessed value. Commissioner Casey made a motion to keep the rate the same for FY16, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved.

The Commissioners will need to meet in April for a budget workshop. The meeting will be April 8, 2015 at 9:00 am.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Director of Public Works David Crist presented his report to the Commissioners. There was a discussion regarding the grinder pumps at Lister Estates. Ken Burns Sanitation can pump all of the pits on an annual basis for roughly \$1,000 a year. Commissioner Casey made a motion to pay for an annual pumping of the grinder pumps that are under the warranty, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved.

There was a discussion regarding the mailbox at 303 Maple Avenue. The owner believed that public works broke the mailbox post while plowing snow and has threatened legal action. Photos were presented to show that the post was rotten and laying in the wrong direction for a snow plow to have damaged the mailbox post.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Manos presented his report to the Commissioners. There was a discussion about the intersection at 480 and Central Avenue and the amount of traffic that goes through there. Chief Manos requested to spend \$2,500 for the actuary costs to see about getting the police officers enrolled in the State Retirement LEOPS program. It is a good recruitment and retention benefit. Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Gerald Sutton spoke to the Commissioners regarding a loan. Rick Harris of Provident State Bank has let Commissioners know that the board has approved a loan to the town in the amount of \$440,000 to pay off the USDA loan. The interest rate will be 3.15% fixed for 7 years with an 11 year amortization. Commissioner Casey made a motion to proceed with the loan, 2nd Commissioner Buckle all in favor, approved.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Rick Schwab presented a list of the current grant obligations. He made a request for the FY16 budget for the train station grant in the amount of \$32,018. A discussion followed. We have to go to bid before November 17, 2015. Permits have been holding up progress at the train station.

The Recreation Trails Program grant was discussed. Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve paying the contractor for the walkway and bridge, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, approved.

Cathy thanked the emergency personnel for helping her when she was injured last month.

They requested that on the signs that are on 480 we showcase some of the historical people that have been in town.

April 24th Ridgely Elementary School 5th graders will be planting a tree in the Railroad Memorial Park at 10:00 am.

Cathy regretted telling the Commissioners that the Old Time Ridgely Days are cancelled. They had a very hard time getting vendors and volunteers.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

President Hurley introduced Resolution No. 2015-01 adopting a fee schedule for building construction and inspection in the Town of Ridgely. A discussion followed. Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-01, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved.

Josh Rittenhouse/Bill Clemens Habitat for Humanity spoke to the Commissioners regarding an empty lot in the town. The sewer and water connect and impact fees would make it too expensive for them to proceed. They are asking the Commissioners to relieve some of the fees to make it feasible. A discussion followed. The issue will be discussed at the next monthly meeting after checking with the town attorney.

Melissa Leonard presented a request from Planning and Zoning for the FY16 budget for a planning and zoning codes update. The original person that was to do the update is no longer available. A discussion followed. The Commissioners agreed that it could be bidded out.

Melissa Leonard presented the ad for the 2015 Strawberry Festival program. Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the ad, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, approved.

Richard Smith 501 Maryland Avenue spoke regarding concerns in the neighborhood and the degradation of the quality of life in the area. Vagrancy, hypodermic needles found in the park and on the curb. The police have been on working on it. The neighbors are disconcerted and would like to know what can be done. A discussion followed. If something suspicious is found the Commissioners urged the residents to call either the police or fire department. Any suspicious activity should be reported to the police. Perhaps a neighborhood watch could be formed.

Election Day is April 27, 2015 from 1-7 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was a discussion regarding the rubble pile on Maryland Avenue. It will be cleaned up tomorrow.

Danny Lockhart gave an update on the Walk for Wishes event.

Commissioner Casey discussed the property rates spreadsheet that was handed out.

Ross Harper discussed having a car wash on Saturday April 25th for the Boy Scouts from 10-4.

Commissioner Buckle talked about the dunking booth at Danny's Walk for Wishes. Please come out for Danny's Walk.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Berkey
Clerk-Treasurer

A large, faint, stylized signature or watermark is centered on the page. It consists of several thick, grey, curved lines that form a complex, abstract shape, possibly representing a name or a logo. The lines are smooth and have a slight shadow effect, giving it a three-dimensional appearance.