

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
MAY 4, 2015
TOWN MEETING**

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 7:00 pm in the Ridgely House for the May meeting. The following were in attendance: President John Hurley, Commissioner John Buckle, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Chief of Police Gary Manos, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard, Officer Tom Walsh, Officer Gordon Geesey, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Cathy & Rick Schwab, Ginger and Danny Lockhart, Russ Brown, Brenda Walls, Lorraine Stoutsenberger, Martha Benes, Joseph and Jennifer Riley.

President Hurley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to appoint Stephanie Berkey for another year as the Clerk-Treasurer, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved.

Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey swore in John Hurley for an additional 3 years as a Town of Ridgely Commissioner. Leonard John Buckle is now the President of the Ridgely Town Commissioners.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2015 Town Meeting and the April 8, 2015 Budget Workshop minutes, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, approved.

STAFF REPORTS

CLERK-TREASURER

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

Total General Funds Reconciled - \$580,867.10

Total Sewer Funds Reconciled - \$282,053.94

Total Water Funds Reconciled - 63,701.78

President Buckle presented Stephanie Berkey with a certificate commemorating her five years of service to the Town of Ridgely.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Director of Public Works David Crist was unable to attend the meeting. His report was submitted for the Commissioners.

A discussion was held regarding the fees and procedures for water reconnect and disconnect for after normal business hours in a non-emergency situation. Several of the other towns in the county charge \$100 for the service.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve making an ordinance to charge the \$100 fee, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, approved.

The proposals for the trash carrier for FY16 were presented to the Commissioners. A discussion followed. Commissioner Casey made a motion to stay with Republic Services, 2nd Commissioner Hurlley, approved.

Russ Brown from Utility Service Company spoke to the Commissioners regarding the current status of the water tower and why it has not been painted and how they can isolate the tank to fix the valve problem. He will have a proposal to the Commissioners later this week to address repairing and painting the tank. The Commissioners discussed that it might be time to terminate the contract with Utility Service and switch to another company.

The town received \$2,450 from JJID for renting the parking lot to store their equipment. The drain box by Connolly's Market is in need of repair. The estimate from Underground Construction is \$2,200. David would like to use the rental income that was not budgeted for to pay for the repairs. Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, approved.

There was a discussion regarding the trash cans on Central Avenue.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Gary Manos presented his report to the Commissioners. Stephanie Berkey swore in Officer Gordon Geesey. Cathy Schwab thanked Officer Walsh for helping with the 5th Grade Tree Planting.

RVFD

Not present.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Gerald Sutton spoke to the Commissioners. The budget is completed and ready to be presented. We worked very hard to streamline the budget process and keep expenses down. He also discussed that Ridgely is a "sustainable community" and that we could see if there is funding available to build a community center. He would like the town's permission to begin exploring that process. Jerry would like to chair the committee and would like one Commissioner to sit on the committee as well. The idea was well received by the Commissioners and the residents.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cathy Schwab told the Commissioners that the next Ridgely Chat session will be rescheduled for later in June. On April 24, 2015 the 5th grade students planted a tree in the Railroad Memorial Park. May 15, 2015 the water fountain will be 100 years old. It is being painted. She is planning the Commissioner brick-dedication for the memorial sidewalk around the clock. Ridgely Elementary will be at Linchester Mill tomorrow for a field trip.

OLD BUSINESS

There was a discussion regarding the legal opinion the town received regarding

the impact fees for a bona fide non-profit, such as Habitat for Humanity. Patrick Thomas, Funk & Bolton, P.A., said that the research he did on the Town's Charter and Code and State Law indicated that the Commissioners do not have the authority to waive the impact and connection fees. They can, however, defer collection of the fees, but this will require an amendment to Chapters 105 and 185 of the Code via ordinance. The Commissioner Casey made a motion to begin the process of amending the code, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, approved.

NEW BUSINESS

President Buckle introduced Ordinance No. 2015-366 an ordinance to appropriate funds and estimate income in accordance with the budget adopted for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016.

There was a discussion regarding the sewer drain issue at 202 Park Avenue. There is an existing drain in a barn that is not in compliance with the town code or the State of Maryland that had a backup of sewage into the barn when Public Works had to jet the line. Commissioner Hurley would like to have the town pay for the clean-up can capping off of the valve. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve paying for the clean-up, 2nd Commissioner Casey, approved. We will wait to hear from our insurance company regarding the capping off.

There was a request from the Upper Shore Genealogical Society for permission to scan all 12 volumes of Mr. Rampmeyer's Ridgely History books and put them on CD's to sell, with the sales going to USGS. They are a non-profit trying to raise money to keep the research center open. A discussion followed. Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, approved.

There was a discussion regarding the Walnut Subdivision. Tom Rhodes made a request for accommodations be made regarding the water and sewer water allocation reservation fees. They are in the process of trying to get the 20 lot subdivision approved as 4 lots. Commissioner Casey commented that technically they can pay to reserve whatever they want to reserve, so special accommodations are not necessary.

Shore Explosion requested the Commissioners sponsor their team again for the new season. Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve, 2nd Commissioner Casey, approved.

Brenda Walls spoke to the Commissioners. She would like to do a Cruise-In during the last Friday in June, July and August at the Ridgely Pharmacy. She would like to be able to block off part of the road on Bell Street. It would be from 6pm to dark, weather permitting. She has already raised \$18,000 for the car show.

Cooter from the Dukes of Hazzard will be there. She is trying to get the Navy Band to play in the parade.

Ginger and Danny Lockhart spoke regarding Danny's Walk for Wishes, thanking the Commissioners for the support they gave the walk. They raised \$5,991.60, with an additional \$495 online. WMDT will be interviewing Danny and John Buckle next week. The next walk is tentatively scheduled. 3 make-a-wish children were present for the event.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cathy Schwab thanked the town for their support regarding recent claims on social media that were misconceptions regarding the Railroad Memorial Park and the sidewalks that are being redone on Central Avenue.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Berkey
Clerk-Treasurer