

COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
MAY 2, 2016
TOWN MEETING

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 7:00 pm in the Ridgely House for the monthly town meeting. The following were in attendance: Commissioner Leonard John Buckle, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Ken Groves, Archie Carroll, Chad Dean, Tim Gunderson, Ross Harper, Don Purdy, Kelson Wright, Rob McQuade, Joe Bellard and Martin Sokolich.

Outgoing President Buckle opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to re-appoint Stephanie Berkey as Clerk-Treasurer 2nd Commissioner Buckle, approved.

Stephanie Berkey swore in Leonard John Buckle for his 2nd term as a Town of Ridgely Commissioner. Commissioner Casey is now the acting President.

Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 4 and April 18, 2016 meetings, 2nd President Casey, approved.

The meetings for July and September will fall on holidays and new dates need to be selected. The July meeting will be rescheduled for July 11, 2016 at 7:00 pm and the September meeting will be September 12, 2016. NCHS graduation is scheduled for May 26th. Both office personnel have children that will be graduating. They have asked to close the office at noon on the 26th of May. The Commissioners agreed.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Not present.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Not present.

RVFD

Tim Gunderson spoke to the Commissioners regarding the new building. Groundbreaking should happen this week. There was a discussion regarding the building permit and the costs and waiver of the impact fees. A 501 C 3 will be needed to enact 2015-02. It was discussed that Commissioners Casey and Hurley are members of the fire company and will make no financial gain from enacting ordinance 2015-02 on behalf of the fire company. This ordinance defers the impact and connection fees for bona-fide non-profits. President Casey made a motion to enact Ordinance No. 2015-02 to defer the fees for the fire company, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, approved.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Gerald Sutton told the Commissioners discussed the budget preparation which was done. The town is doing great financially.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Jerry Sutton thanked the staff for their help with the tree planting in the Railroad Park. Jerry asked the fire company if they were willing to let the historical society use the old building for the 150th celebration to showcase memorabilia.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was a discussion regarding FY16 tax rates. Commissioner Buckle made a motion to set the Real Property tax rate at .59 and the Personal Property tax rate at 1.275, 2nd President Casey, approved.

President Casey introduced Ordinance No. 2016-369 FY17 Budget.

Chad Dean spoke to the Commissioners regarding some idea he has for the Ridgely signs on Route 480. He would like for Thomas A. Smith to be recognized on the sign. He is the only Ridgely congressman. He also would like to see the 150th celebration on the sign. The Commissioners agreed. Ken Groves asked about the sign on route 404 that is no longer there. President Casey said that new signs are in the works.

Don Purdy spoke to the Commissioners regarding the tree removal in Lister Estates. A discussion followed. Mr. Purdy indicated that the sycamore trees have caused the most damage and should be addressed first. He would like to see the town look at the worst case scenario trees first. Commissioner Casey said the town will still be getting numbers of costs and it will need to be decided if the town will do the work or if we will hire a contractor. Several options were discussed. They also discussed adding additional stop signs in Lister Estates to control speeding.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Archie Carroll spoke to the Commissioners regarding the Cowbarn property. He requested that the town do away with the overlay zone of the Cowbarn area and put it back to regular residential. There was a discussion as to where "square one" would be to start if the commissioners were to agree to this. Martin Sokolich discussed the history of the overlay zone. He indicated that another problem is the cost of putting public utilities to the property. A discussion followed.

Ross Harper introduced Kelson Write representing Boy Scout troop 464. He requested that they are allowed to use the town parking lot on June 18 for a car wash and Martin Sutton Park in September for an open house that would include camping overnight.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Berkey, CMC
Clerk-Treasurer