

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
JUNE 6, 2016
TOWN MEETING**

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 7:00 pm in the Ridgely House for the June meeting. 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, Sgt. Gordon Geesey, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Ginger Lockhart, Danny Lockhart, Denzil Cheek, Cathy and Rick Schwab, Mike Redgraves, Archie Carroll, Chris Rogers, Joe Anderson, Jessica Molina, Norma Pinky, Maxine Pritchett, and Rick Baker.

President Casey called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2016 town 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 \$336,390.97, total Sewer Funds reconciled \$403,764.78, Total Water Funds reconciled \$194,399.31. The preliminary audit will begin on June 13, 2016.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Director of Public Works David Crist presented his report to the Commissioners. The Strawberry Festival went well. There was a discussion regarding the updating of the playground at Martin Sutton Park to make the park better ADA accessible. The Commissioners asked for one more bid to compare before making a decision. There was a discussion about purchasing a sidewalk/concrete grinder. There was a discussion about the condition of the alleys and potholes.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Manos presented his report to the Commissioners. Calls for service numbers are increasing. Chief Manos has been in contact with Valerie Mann, a grant writer, to try to get funding for the police radios. Her price will be below \$500 to write the grant. Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, unanimous approval. There was a discussion about the computer needs of the both the police and the town hall. Chief Manos is in contact with the police officers that live in Lister Estates to keep them updated to help community watch. Several hundred dollars were raised at the Strawberry Festival for the K9 dogs. There was a discussion about an event application for Martin Sutton Park that would be for 200 people. Chief does not have the man power for the event. He will look into alternate police officers.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Gerald Sutton talked about the auditors coming next week. We are having a meeting next week to discuss where we are in the FY16 budget.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The State signed off on the Rails to Trails grant completion. They would like permission to apply for another grant that will provide more signage and more asphalt to get from the telephone exchange to

the train station. Matching funds would come from other projects with no additional cost to the town. The commissioners unanimously approved. The train station grant is still waiting to hear when we can go to bid for the work. Rick Baker was in attendance from the fire company and Cathy talked about the plans for the 150th celebration including a crab feast that they would like to have at the new fire department.

OLD BUSINESS

Danny Lockhart thanked everyone from the town with their help with Danny's Walk for Wishes. He presented the Town and Brenda Walls with a certificates of recognition.

Mike Redgraves of the Lions Club came to thank the town for the help with the Strawberry Festival. They raised almost \$20,000 this year. It is starting to outgrow Martin Sutton Park. They are going to be meeting in the fall to see how they can control the growth. He discussed not using the Christmas light money to help pay for the police for next year. There was a discussion about how the Strawberry Festival came to be. 150 gallons of ice cream, 1000 quarts of berries and 8 cases of sheet cake were used this year for the strawberry shortcake. The fire company sold almost 400 pounds of beef.

Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2016-369 for the FY17 Budget, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, all in favor. President Casey was proud to announce that the Town of Ridgely is the only town in Caroline County that did not raise property taxes this year.

NEW BUSINESS

Chris Rogers discussed the proposal for Martin Sutton Park Water Quality Retrofit Design. President Casey asked if the grant amount will be able to be used as matching funds for other projects. Chris was not sure, but said that it is always better to have a plan like this in place to apply for future funding and will still be a benefit. The commissioners asked if there would be any costs. Chris indicated that if there were it would be unforeseen and not the intention of AECOM. A discussion followed. Chris also discussed the recent assessment of the town hall. They used the opportunity of the insulation project to see what the condition of the structure was. He presented their findings, which show softness and deterioration in the structure. They will be providing a proposal for the specifications and bid documents. A discussion followed.

There was a discussion regarding our attorney's recommendation to amend ordinance no 2015-02. Commissioner Buckle made a motion to proceed with the amendments, 2nd commissioner Hurley, all in favor. Commissioners Hurley and Casey stated that they are both members of the fire company and will receive no financial gain from this change.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cathy Schwab asked Rick Baker if the Historical Society could use the paramedic building for historical society documents for the 150th. He will bring it up at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Berkey, CMC
Clerk-Treasurer