

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
NOVEMBER 7, 2016
TOWN MEETING**

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 7:00 pm for the November 2016 town meeting. The following were in attendance: President Anthony Casey, Commissioner John Hurley, Commissioner Leonard 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 & Rick Schwab, Herb Geary TGM Group, Debbie Pfiel KCI, Joe Zeblekis, Officer Ross Harper, Angela Visentainer CEDC, Stanley Hutchison, Joe Anderson, Brenda Walls, Chad Dean, Sgt. Gordon Geesey, Patrice Flamer, Donna Eveland, Teri Hinch and Norma Pinkney.

President Casey opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Casey announced that Yolanda Mayers was the winner of the Ridgely flag contest. The official flag dedication will take place on the 150th anniversary of the town, May 13, 2017.

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2016 bid opening, September 28, 2016 train station meeting and the October 3, 2106 town meeting. 2nd Commissioner Buckle, approved.

STAFF REPORTS

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

Total General Funds Reconciled \$278,064.73

Total Sewer Funds Reconciled \$521,439.76

Total Water Funds Reconciled \$250,601.60

BDK has revised the estimate for the network relocation and upgrade. The additional cost is \$2,500. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to proceed, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, approved.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Director of Public Works David Crist presented his report to the Commissioners. The bid for the front end loader was presented to the Commissioners. We will put a down payment towards the purchase and finance the rest for 5 years. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve the purchase of the front end loader from Alban Cat, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, unanimous approval.

There was a discussion regarding the plans that the little league has for the Cowbarn Park. They would like to add another ball diamond. Where they want to put it is in the leased part of our farm. It will not cost the town. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve the plans, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, unanimous approval.

The proposals for the Martin Sutton Park playground upgrade were presented to the commissioners. A discussion regarding the bids and the different funding venues that will be used (grants, park savings & loan) followed. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve the proposal from All Recreation, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, unanimous approval.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Gary Manos presented his report to the Commissioners. There was a discussion regarding the status of the police vehicles. A new vehicle has been ordered. We received \$19,000 from the GOCCP for a grant to help pay for the new police radios.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Herb Geary of TGM Group presented the draft of the 2016 financial audit to the Commissioners. The audit went very well. Once again, TGM Group is providing an unmodified opinion of the town, which is the highest level recommendation an independent audit firm can provide. The fund balance continues to grow. The management team was ready for the audit. We have a good team and the financial report proves it. Commissioner Hurley said the best thing is that we did this without raising taxes.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cathy Schwab said the 2016 Christmas ornament are available. It is the Ridgely High School this year. Previous years are still available. Rick Schwab gave an update on the train station bid. We are still waiting for the approval for additional funding.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Debbie Pfiel of KCI and Joe Zeblekis spoke to the Commissioners regarding the Town Hall Architectural Feasibility Study. USDA has accepted the feasibility study. KCI recommends that we accept the report. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to accept the study and proceed, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved. A proposal was prepared to authorize KCI to work on the town hall improvements project and BDG for the Building Envelope Renovations. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to accept the proposals and proceed, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, unanimous approval.

Angela Visintainer of CEDC discussed the tax credit proposal for the tech park and the two leads for the tech park. The 2 prospects include a manufacturer in the early start-up process and an overseas hydroponic greenhouse operation. State and federal funds were used for the development of the tech park. These businesses have been approved for the site. Department of Commerce is providing incentive to the businesses. There is a required local match of \$80,000 from the town over 5 years. At this time CEDC is not ready to ask the town for a specific match. There are a few options to consider as we get more information.

Stanley Hutchison spoke to the Commissioners regarding the water bill at 501 Maple Avenue. He would like a bill that indicates specifically what he used. He is concerned that the meters are not accurate and that there is a fault in our system. A discussion followed. The commissioners questioned Melissa Leonard about the process of getting a leak notification. Melissa is waiting to hear from Neptune about the leak notification system. The Commissioners would like clarification on why there was no leak report given to the town. The commissioners will look into it and will table the issue for the month.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Commissioners signed the agreement with Middle Department Inspection Agency to continue with their services.

Joe Anderson thanked everyone for their help with the Ridgely Car Show. He gave a preliminary report on the car show.

Brenda Walls thanked the police department for their help and also from everyone that helped. The car show was an amazing success.

Cathy Schwab asked the Commissioners if there was a way we could advertise the empty businesses in town online. Melissa has contacted Rachel Barry with Economic Development to do that for the town.

Patrice Flamer is beginning a non-profit called Spirited Minds that would provide after school programs for the kids. She described her goals for the kids of Ridgely.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Berkey, CMC
Clerk-Treasurer