

COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY

SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

TOWN MEETING



The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 6:00 pm for the September 2025 town meeting. The following were in attendance: President Brad Sears, Commissioner John Hurley, Commissioner Chad Leister, Director of Operations David Crist, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Corporal Tracy Ferguson, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Kristie Thompson, Patrice Flamer, Vanice L. Myers, Sherri Sparks, Henry Sparks, Mason Sparks, Lokia Pierce for Hannah Henry Way Neighborhood Association Water Equity Chair, Andrew Myer, Kennedy Thomasen, Tony Zaza, Anna Mansfield, Christine Eckrich, Billy Peterson, Gennie Woo, Sue Cherry, Jeff Eckrich, James S. Romph.

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve August 4, 2025, town meeting minutes, August 13, 2025, vote to go into closed session, August 13, 2025, closed session minutes. Commissioner Leister seconded the motion, all in favor, approved.

CLERK-TREASURER

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve paying the bills, 2nd Commissioner Leister, all in favor, approved. Total general funds reconciled \$234,176.37, total sewer funds reconciled \$7,075.58, total water funds reconciled \$18,794.55, total ARPA funds reconciled \$30,232.49. The date for the charter update workshop was set for September 17, 2025, at 6:00 pm. Donations for the winter festival have been coming in very slowly. As of the meeting, \$28,170 has been raised. The festival costs about \$50,000. Treasurer Berkey asked if the Commissioners wanted to proceed with the festival. The Commissioners discussed that perhaps some of the costs could be eliminated (such as the ice sculptures) if it becomes necessary. We are still anticipating receiving donations, and several organizations have reached out to us with pledges for their donations. The Commissioners agreed to proceed with the festival.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

David Crist said that the new skate park grant has been submitted to DNR. We should hear something in March or April of 2026. EPA has approved \$1.08 million grant for phase 1 sewer line replacement. There has been a lot of discussion about rate studies for the town's water and sewer rates. Director Crist asked the Commissioners if they would like him to begin getting quotes for the study. The Commissioners discussed the need for a study, as it has been more than a decade since rates have increased. The smoke machine to test the sewer lines has been ordered and we hope to begin using it later this year. Director Crist reviewed the quotes from Bramble on the street paving and recommended that we reduce the street work down to E Second Street and Lister Estates. The project cost is \$286,000. The commissioners agreed to go with his recommendations. There is still no confirmation of who will be moving into the Medifast building. Cub Scout pack 264 requested to use Martin Sutton Park for a rocket launch of small model rockets in November. President Sears made a motion to allow the Cub Scouts to use the park for their rocket launch, 2nd Commissioner Leister, all in favor, approved.

CAROLINE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Corporal Tracy Ferguson submitted the attached report to the Commissioners.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Not present.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Gerald Sutton said that the town auditors are here this week for the annual financial audit. He will be meeting with them to discuss the water/sewer rates and pending rate study.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President Sears read a report from the Historical Society. The train station had 6 visitors at the monthly open house. They will be open again for tours on September 21st from 9-12 for the poker run sponsored by Caroline County Historical Society.

OLD BUSINESS

Public comments for the proposed changes to allow chickens in town limits were heard. Andrew Myer supports allowing chickens in town. His son Mason worked hard getting residents to sign a petition to allow chickens. The commissioners discussed the information that had been provided and research from other towns with a similar code. The biggest factors would be no roosters and cleanliness. Commissioner Leister made a motion to move forward with making the changes to the town code to allow chickens in town, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, all in favor. We will begin working on the changes at the workshop later this month.

NEW BUSINESS

President Sears read a proclamation designating the month of September now and forever as Ridgely goes Purple for Drug Free Caroline.

Patrice Flamer gave an update on the Martin Sutton Park playground grant. We are next on the list to begin construction. She reviewed the financial information for the playground and thanked the donors. She requested \$11,768 from the town. The grand opening is scheduled for November 22nd from 12-3 pm. All are invited to attend.

Butch Martin from North Caroline Football request a donation to put towards post-game meals. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to donate \$500, 2nd Commissioner Leister, all in favor, approved.

Solar Simplified has reached out to the town to offer residents a discount on their Delmarva Power bills. Fliers for the service will be sent in water bills and are available at the town hall.

PUBLIC COMMENT

James S. Romph of 114 Lister submitted an MPIO request regarding financial information of employees, contract information on employees, donation information for the winter festival and financial information for the town's cleaning services.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie L. Berkey, CMC

Ridgely

August ACTIVITY REPORT 8/01/2025 TO 8/31/2025

Call For Service Type	Reports	CFS Count
Abandoned Vehicle		4
Animal Control		37
Alarm		3
Assault	1	1
Assiste Fire & EMS		1
Assist Other Agency (non PD)		1
Assistance to Sick or Injured	2	2
Attempt to Locate		1
Check Welfare		1
Civil Matter		1
Civil Process Attempt/Served		1
Disturbance		3
Domestic Verbal	1	1
Driving Under the Influence	1	1
Eviction		1
Part I, II, II Follow-Up		5
Police Information		4
Property Check		201
Special Assignment		1
Theft	1	1
Traffic Accident	2	2
Traffic Complaint		4
Traffic MA Violation	1	3
Trespassing/Unwanted		1
Weapons/Firearms		1
Traffic Stops	Captured	Below
Total	9	282

Calls For Service Activity Breakdown

SEE CHART DATA ON NEXT PAGE

QUICK FACTS	TOTAL
Total Hours Worked:	480
Number of TOTAL CFS:	282
Number of Reports Taken:	9
Total Traffic Stops:	127
Total Traffic Violations:	189
Total Arrests:	1

Traffic Enforcement Breakdown

Enforcement Type	TOTAL
Citations	44
Warnings	135
SEROS	10
Total Traffic Enforcement	189

Calls For Service REPORTS percentage breakdown

