

RIDGELY COMMISSIONERS

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

November 3, 2025

The meeting of the Commissioners of Ridgely was called to order at 6:00 PM with the invocation led by Pastor Courtney Lord from Ridgely United Methodist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The following were in attendance: President Brad Sears, Commissioner John Hurley, Commissioner Chad Leister, Director of Operations David Crist, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Zoning Administrator Melissa Leonard, CCSO Corporal Tracey Ferguson, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Robert & Jennifer VanLoo, Ralph Smith, Krista Carter-Smith, Patrice Flamer, Regina Flamer, Mason Sparks, Henry Sparks, Sherri Sparks, Cathy Schwab, Rick Schwab, Christine Eckrich, Jeff Eckrich, Jamie Romph, Terence Perry, Larry Porter, Andrew Myer, Anna Mansfield, Gordon Geesey, Yolanda Geesey, Mide Redgraves Lyle David, Al Boggess, Pablo Constanza, Brenda Walls, Sue Cherry, Tony Holt, Kennedy Thomason, Annie Rossi-Gill, Clint Gilil, Randi Rae McConnell-Lee with children Annabelle, Elijah, Noelle & Nazareth, Scott Barron.

Approval of Minutes

- October 6, 2025, Town Meeting
- October 16, 2025, Commissioners Workshop
- Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Hurley. Motion seconded by Commissioner Leister. All in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer

Approval to Pay Bills

- Commissioner Hurley motioned to approve the payment of bills. Motion seconded by Commissioner Leister. No objections voiced. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Total General Funds: \$133,848.59
- Sewer Funds: \$8,004.95
- Water Funds: \$18,864.09
- ARPA Funds: \$30,240.20
- Winter Festival Budget Achieved: \$45,521 with an additional \$4,500 promised.

November Workshop

- Discussion on scheduling a workshop resulted in setting the date for December 8th at 6:00 PM.

Director of Operations

- Road projects scheduled for spring.
- Sewer line replacement grant phase 1 approved; reapplication for phase 2 in March.
- Allocation of \$2,500 for snow equipment parts.
- Christmas decorations ongoing.

Caroline County Sheriff's Office

- 306 total service calls; 480 hours worked.
- Appreciation expressed for Halloween parade participation.

- Resident concern noted about weekend police coverage delays.

Zoning Administrator

- Patrice Flamer provided an update on Martin Sutton Park: - Project completion expected by Friday; grand opening scheduled for November 22, 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM with food vendors and music.
- Proposal to waive late fees for water bills due to federal shutdown circumstances was approved, including suspension of disconnects.
- We would like to prepare meal boxes for Thanksgiving for families in need. We will be accepting donations to help with the boxes. The Commissioners agreed.

Financial Assistant

- Nothing to report.

Historical Society

- Appreciation expressed for Halloween event participation and upcoming Buffalo Soldiers event on November 13.
- Christmas decorating contest set for December 20th.

Old Business

- None

New Business

Town Code and Charter Amendment Process

- Commissioner Sears reviewed the Town Code and Charter Amendment Process.

Resolution No. 2025-03 Sustainable Communities

- Motion to pass Resolution No. 2025-03 was made and seconded. Motion passed. Chad Leister explained that it opens grant opportunities not available without the designation.

Introduction: Code/Charter Amendments

- Chapter 12 (Economic Development) and Chapter 64 (Domestic Poultry Ordinance) introduced, setting a public review process in motion.
- Commissioner Leister questioned the Economic Development amendments suggesting omitting the need for a commissioner to be on the committee.
- Charter Amendment Resolution 2025-01 was introduced. Public hearing will be held on December 1, 2025, town meeting.

Maryland Federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

- Approval to pursue the grant discussed with Synergy. The grant's minimum award is \$100,000 and will go towards energy audits on all town-owned buildings. Motion approved with President Sears abstention due to concerns about ongoing maintenance obligations.

Presentation to Brenda Walls, Owner of Ridgely Pharmacy

- Brenda Walls, owner of the Ridgely Pharmacy, was recognized for her retirement after 22 years of service in the town, with a certificate and flowers.

Public Comment

Henry Sparks of 310 Maryland Avenue:

- Voiced concerns over high permit fees and setback requirements in chicken ordinance.
- Advocated for renters' eligibility to run for commissioner.

Andrew Meyer of 9 Ridgeway Drive:

- Agreed with Henry Sparks on coop requirements being too restrictive.

Scott Barron

- Suggestions for improved communication using local student volunteers for social media and website updates.

James Romph

- Thanked CCSO for their coverage of the Halloween activities in town. Thanked the town clerk for the timely response to his public records request. He would like to see code enforcement addressing the aesthetic issues in the town. Making the town look better would attract businesses.

Jennifer Van Loo

- She is concerned about the slow progress of making the sidewalks in town more accessible for wheelchairs. She would also like to see volunteer groups help clean up and fix houses in town that are in need.

Anna Mansfield

- Questioned how many qualified voters there are in the town. She would like to see the town have more chairs in the meeting room.
- She thanked the Commissioners for waiving the late fees this quarter.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie L. Berkey, CMC

Clerk-Treasurer

Ridgely

October ACTIVITY REPORT 10/01/2025 TO 10/31/2025

Call For Service Type	Reports	CFS Count
911 Hang-Up		1
Animal Control	1	50
Alarm		3
Assist Fire & EMS		1
Assist Other Agency Non PD		1
Attempt to Locate		1
Check Welfare		3
Civil Matter		1
Civil Process Attempt/Served		11
Disturbance		1
Fight		1
Miscellaneous		3
Noise Complaint		4
Part I, II, or III Follow-Up		3
Police Information		3
Property Check		180
Radar Assignment		23
Ridgely Patrol		4
Special Assignment		3
Suspicious Person		
Suspicious Vehicle		2
Theft	2	2
Traffic Detail		4
Traffic MA Violation	1	1
Traffic Stops	Captured	Below
Total	4	306

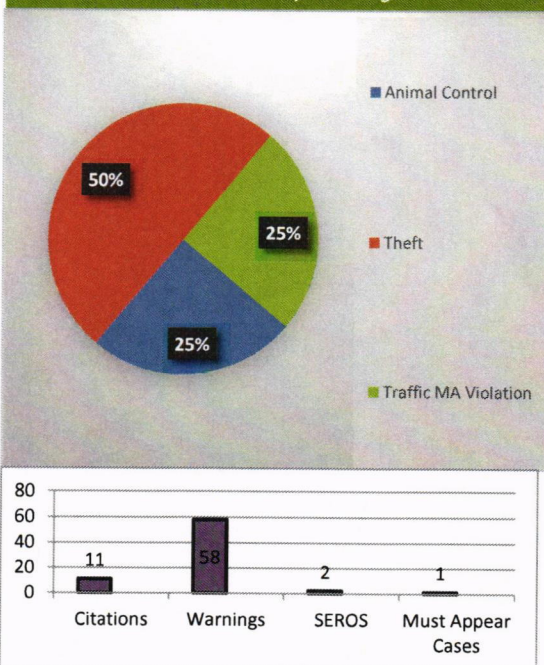
Calls For Service Activity Breakdown

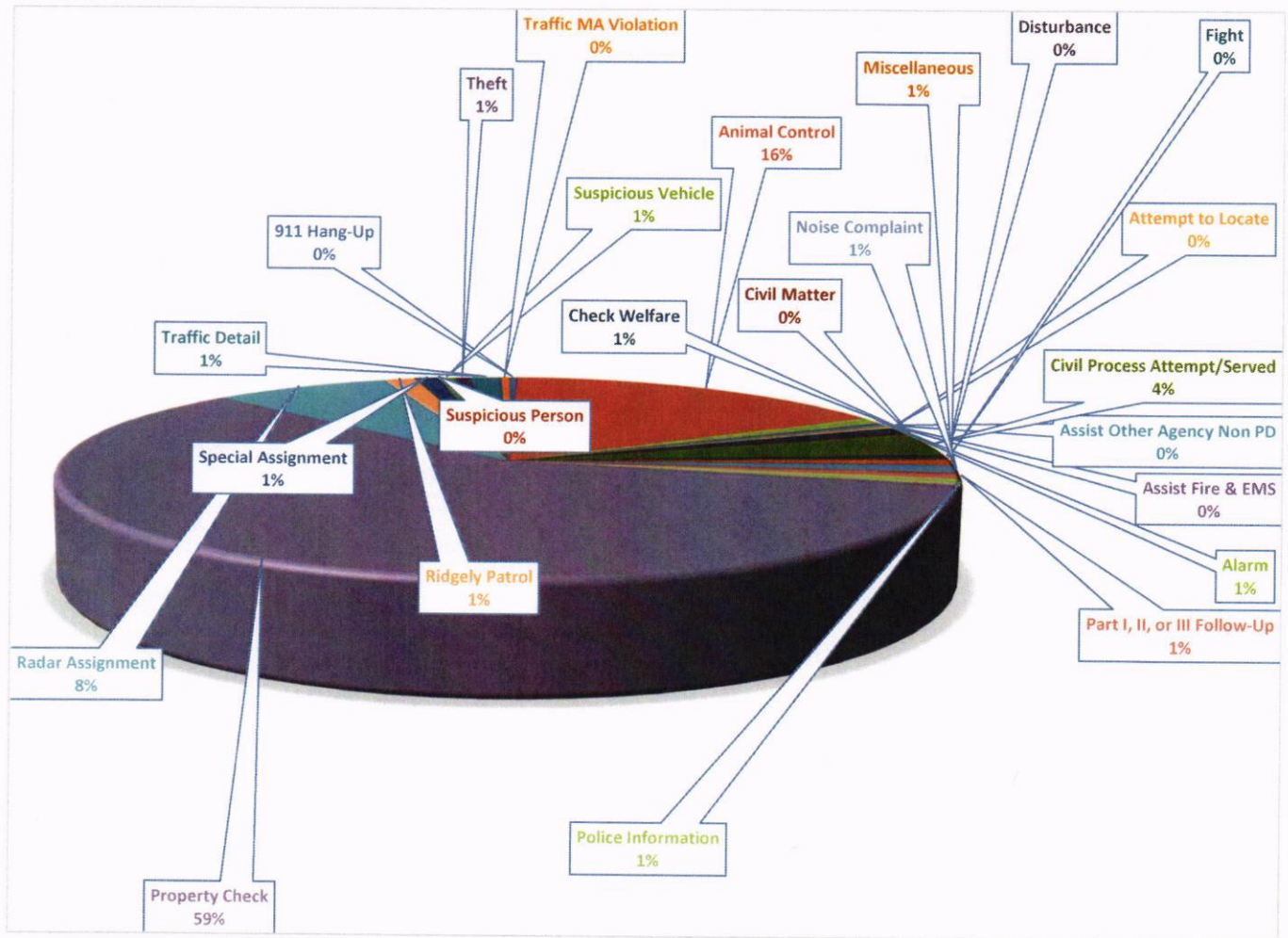
SEE CHART DATA ON NEXT PAGE

QUICK FACTS	TOTAL
Total Hours Worked:	480
Number of TOTAL CFS:	306
Number of Reports Taken:	4
Total Traffic Stops:	54
Total Traffic Violations:	71
Total Arrests:	0

Traffic Enforcement Breakdown	
Enforcement Type	TOTAL
Citations	11
Warnings	58
SEROS	2
Must Appear Cases	1
Total Traffic Enforcement	71

Calls For Service REPORTS percentage breakdown





COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
NOVEMBER 3, 2025
TOWN MEETING



Thank you for attending.

PLEASE PRINT NAME CLEARLY

Robert & Jennifer Van Leo

Ralph Smith

Krista Carter-Smith

Patrice James

Regina James

Mason Sparks

Henny Sparks

Sherri Sparks

Donald R. Smith

Cathy Schwab

Rick Schwab

Christine Eckrich

Jeff Eckrich

Jamie Pough

TERENCE POTRY

WAKKED

Andrew Myer

Anna Mansfield

Gordon Geesey

Yolanda Mayers

MIKE REDGRAVES

LYLE DAVIS

Al Boggess

Pablo Constanza

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PLEASE PRINT NAME CLEARLY

Brenda L. Gale

Sue E. Curry

Tony Holt

Kennedy Thomas

Annie Rossi-Gill

Clint Gill

Randi Rae McConnell-Lee

and 4 children ~ Annabelle,
Elijah, Noelle
at Nazareth

[Handwritten signature]