

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
MARCH 2, 2026
TOWN MEETING**



Summary of March 5, 2026, closed session:

DATE: March 5, 2026, TIME: 5:00 pm PLACE: Town Hall PURPOSE: To discuss personnel matters.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Md. Code Ann., General Provision Article §3-305(b)(1) "To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation or performance evaluation of an appointee, employee, or official over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals."

ATTENDING: President Brad Sears, Commissioner John Hurley, Commissioner Chad Leister, Director of Operations David Crist, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard, Town Attorney Patrick Thomas.

VOTE TO MEET IN CLOSED SESSION: In favor: President Sears, Commissioner Hurley, Commissioner Leister; Opposed: None.

TOPICS DISCUSSED: Various personnel issues.

ACTION TAKEN: No action was taken.

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 6:00 pm for the March 2026 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, Zoning Administrator/Asst. Clerk Melissa Leonard, Corporal Tracey Ferguson, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Ralph Hurley, Cristine & Jeff Eckrich, Alex Willis, Anna Mansfield, James Romph, Debbie Bowden, Heather Amador, Victor Reynolds, Anthony Zaza, Dawn Chase.

President Sears opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: February 2, 2026, town meeting and February 18, 2026, workshop minutes approved.

CLERK-TREASURER: The Commissioners approved paying the bills.

Financial Report: General Funds: \$297,750
 Sewer Funds: \$18,434.12
 Water Funds: \$27,425.45
 ARPA Funds: \$18,495.57

Discussion on FY 27 tax rate and constant yield rate certification from Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation. Decision will be made at the April 2026 town meeting.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS: Discussions included:

- Storm cleanup.
- Salt spreader installation and salt purchased using ARPA funding.
- Sewer line replacement grant status has not changed.
- Discussion on lettering of DPW vehicles.
- Road maintenance, paving and pothole repair plans to begin in late spring/early summer.

ZONING ADMIN/ASST CLERK: Work continues on the leases for Martin Sutton Park by the Caroline North Little League and Caroline County Youth Soccer Association.

CAROLINE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE: Corporal Ferguson discussed the past month's calls for service.

OLD BUSINESS: Updates from the February 2026 workshop meeting.

-Commissioner Hurley met with the Sheriff's department to work on the FY27 MOU. It is with the lawyers now for final approval. The cost will be less expensive than this year.

-President Sears discussed the Identity Theft Program he is working on.

Commissioner Leister Discussed Chapters 173 – 178 of the town code regarding parking and how to enforce the rules.

NEW BUSINESS

-Victor Reynolds of CASA discussed the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign. The Commissioners agreed to sponsor the \$500 level.

-Alex Willis of Caroline Tennis Association discussed the upcoming plans for the summer camp at Martin Sutton Park.

-President Sears discussed the need for updating our water and sewer rates. A study needs to be done to ensure that we get the best possible rate.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anna Mansfield read a prepared statement addressing Commissioner Hurley.

James Romph discussed town employees' salaries/overtime and David Crist's contract.

Cara Avery thanked public works for helping her during the storm.

Debbie Bowden (Caroline Review) is hosting a candidate forum for all town elections. She is looking at April 20th or 21st to have the forum.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie L. Berkey, CMC
Clerk-Treasurer