

# Commissioners of Ridgely

APRIL 6, 2026, TOWN MEETING

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 6:00 pm in the town hall. The following were in attendance: President Brad Sears, Commissioner Chad Leister, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Zoning Administrator Melissa Leonard, Town Attorney Patrick Thomas, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Lt. Ricky Baker CCSO, David Tribbett, Jr. EDC, Tony Zaza EDC, Nancy Sears, Doug Jones, Ralph Hurley, II, Anna Mansfield, Ken George, Cathy & Rick Schwab, Kennedy Thomason, Domingo Llanes, Christine Eckrich, Andrew Myer, Cara Avery, Debbie Bowden, Norma Pinkney.

Pastor Ken George opened the meeting with an invocation.

President Sears led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- The meeting was called to order, and the agenda was set with adjustments, including moving the water and sewer update to the end of old business.
- The Town Attorney outlined the meeting protocols for public comment, emphasizing courtesy and respect.
- Motion to approve the previous meeting minutes was passed.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

- Discussion on adding descriptions to bill approvals for clarity. Motion to approve the bills was passed. Total general funds \$297,750.43, sewer funds \$18,434.12, water funds \$27,425.45, ARPA \$18,495.57.
- Jerry Sutton provided an update on the town's financial status, including general funds and sewer and water funds. Discussion on setting the FY 27 tax rates, with a motion passed to maintain the current rate.

## **Director of Operations Report:**

- Director of Operations was not present due to illness, but President Sears read his report (attached).

## **Zoning Administrator**

- Melissa reported on code enforcement activities and the start of grass cutting season. Leases were signed for Caroline North Little League and Caroline County Youth Soccer.

## **Caroline County Sheriff's Office Report:**

- Lieutenant Baker provided statistics on calls for service and highlighted recent incidents in the attached report.

## **Economic Development Commission Update:**

- Dave Tribbett and Russ Durstein presented potential projects to increase foot traffic and attract businesses, including a pavilion and digital signage.

## **Historical Society Update:**

- Rick and Cathy discussed the upcoming opening of the train station and the need to relocate the Buck Herzog carriage house. Commissioner Leister will work with them to get the house removed as quickly as possible.

### **Old Business**

#### **Identity Theft Prevention Program**

- President Sears reviewed his progress on the update of Chapter 27 in the town code regarding identity theft prevention.

#### **Vehicles and Parking**

- Commissioner Leister reviewed his progress on the update of Chapters 173-178 of the town code regarding vehicles and parking.

#### **Water and Sewer System Update:**

- President Sears presented a detailed explanation of the current financial shortfall in the water and sewer system and the need for a rate increase was provided. The importance of public input and a fair rate structure was emphasized.

#### **New Business**

- Support for MML's resolution on modernizing municipal revenue sources was discussed. Commissioner Leister motioned to approve Resolution No. 2026-01 a resolution supporting HB1142/SB, establishing the tax force to modernize county and municipal revenue. President Sears approved and the Resolution was passed.
- Doug Jones from Caroline County Emergency Services gave information for public awareness regarding emergency siren protocols.
- Debbie Bowden, The Caroline Review has organized a candidate forum on April 21<sup>st</sup> for the candidates for Commissioner in the election.

#### **Public Comment:**

Anna Mansfield had questions regarding the distribution of expenses for the town hall in the budgeting process.

Ralph Hurley thanked Debbie Bowden for hosting the candidate's forum.

#### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie L. Berkey, CMC

Clerk-Treasurer

# **COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY**

**April 6, 2026**

## **Sewer Line Replacement Grant**

I received an email last week. It's still in the works but this is a new grant and MDE is still working out the kinks to make this a faster process

## **DPW VEHICLE LETTERING**

Still in the process working on getting the best price possible.

## **STREET PAVING**

Looking at a May start date from the contractor. Waiting on an updated price due to fuel increases. Will update as soon as I have the numbers

## **GRASS**

DPW is starting grass cutting this week. We hope to cut twice this week and should get on our regular Wednesday schedule next week

## **TREE WORK**

Still going through this past winters storm damage. A formal list will be proposed by next month. Will be built into the budget

## **CNLL and SOCCER**

Both agreements look good to me. They are ready to be signed and put into effect.

## **LISTER ESTEATES GRINDER PUMPS**

Looking at a standard 3 to 5 percent increase in cost from last year according to the contractor

# Ridgely

## March ACTIVITY REPORT 3/1/2026 TO 3/31/2026

Call For Service Type	Reports	CFS Count
Abandoned Vehicle		1
Animal Control	1	63
Alarm		4
Assault	3	3
Assist Fire & EMS		1
Assist Other Agency (Non PD)		1
Attempt to Locate		3
Bike Patrol		4
Check Welfare		5
Civil Matter		3
Civil Process Attempt/Served		7
Death Investigation	1	1
Disturbance		3
Domestic	2	2
Foot Patrol		9
Fraud	1	1
Missing/Found Person		1
Part I, II, or II Follow-up		5
Police Information		5
Property Check		201
Protective/Peace Order Service		1
Radar Assignment		36
Ridgely Patrol		3
Suicidal Person	1	1
Traffic Accident	1	1
Traffic Complaint		1
Traffic Detalis		1
Training		1
Trespassing/Unwanted		1
Traffic Stops	Captured	Below
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>369</b>

### Calls For Service Activity Breakdown

SEE CHART DATA ON NEXT PAGE

QUICK FACTS	TOTAL
Total Hours Worked:	480
Number of TOTAL CFS:	369
Number of Reports Taken:	10
Total Traffic Stops:	68
Total Traffic Violations:	87
Total Arrests:	0

Traffic Enforcement Breakdown	
Enforcement Type	TOTAL
Citations	13
Warnings	73
SEROS	1
Must Appear Cases	0
<b>Total Traffic Enforcement</b>	<b>87</b>

### Calls For Service REPORTS percentage breakdown

