

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
MAY 4, 2026
TOWN MEETING**



The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 6:00 pm for the May 2026 town meeting. The following were in attendance: President John Hurley, Commissioner Brad Sears, Commissioner Chad Leister, Director of Operations David Crist, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Zoning Administrator Melissa Leonard, Lt. Ricky Baker CCSO, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Cathy Schwab, Rick Schwab, Nancy Sears, David Tribbett, Jessica Duerstine, Joshua Duerstine, Cara Avery, Heather Amador, Anna Mansfield, Anthony Zaza, Christine Eckrich, Kennedy Thomason, Alicia Moxley, Thomas Moxley, Rev. Buddy Dunn.

Reverend Buddy Dunn led the invocation.

President Hurley opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

Brad Sears was sworn in as Commissioner.

Minutes from the April 6th town meeting and April 23rd budget workshop were approved.

CLERK-TREASURER

- Approval to pay bills was granted.
- General funds reconciled at \$297,750, sewer funds at \$18,434, water funds at \$27,425.
- Discussion on the remaining ARPA funds and their intended use for a smoke test machine.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

- Street paving scheduled for late May/early June; costs have increased due to fuel prices.
- Sewer line replacement grant is still waiting for updates from the state.
- Working to get quotes for DPW vehicle lettering.
- Discussion on farm lease and Lister Estates grinder pumps service contract. David would like a set plan for moving forward with removing the houses that have transferred from the original service agreement. The Commissioners tabled the matter for the June meeting.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

- Approval of chicken license application.
- Discussion on abandoned vehicles ordinance.

CAROLINE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

- Summary of recent calls and incidents.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

- Updates on community pavilion, billboard discussions, farmland lease, and pine tree harvesting project.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- Recent activities and events, including honoring a local teacher and community engagements.

OLD BUSINESS

The Carriage House removal went well and has been completed.

The Commissioners reviewed the MOU for law enforcement services with the Caroline County Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Sears made a motion to approve the MOU, 2nd Commissioner Leister, with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Sears gave highlights of the updated Town Code Identity Theft Program.

Commissioner Leister reviewed his progress in the update of the town code regarding vehicles and parking. More work will need to be done in the workshop.

Commissioner Sears gave an update on the water and sewer rates. He requested a workshop to discuss further and after the workshop he wanted to have an open town hall to address the residents and answer their questions. The workshop will be on Wednesday May 13, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

President Hurley introduced Ordinance 2026-402 FY27 Budget Ordinance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Heather Amador discussed the election process, emphasizing the need for improvements in ballot handline and enforcement of guidelines for watchers and challengers.

Anna Mansfield requested better notice for workshops.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm.

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