

COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
JUNE 1, 2026
TOWN MEETING



The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 6:00 pm in the town hall for the June 2026 town meeting. The following were in attendance: President John Hurley, Commissioner Chad Leister, Commissioner Brad Sears, Director of Operations David Crist, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Zoning Administrator Melissa Leonard, Cpl. Tracey Ferguson CCSO, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, David Tribbett, Nancy Sears, Anthony Zaza, Al Witkofsky, Andrew Myer, Cara Avery, Norma Pinkney.

The invocation was led by Pastor Courtney Lord, Ridgely United Methodist Church.

President Hurley opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of May 4, 2026, Town Meeting and May 13, 2026, Workshop were approved.

CLERK-TREASURER

Bills were approved. Total general funds \$76,934.18, total sewer funds \$3,561.47, total water funds \$12,661.04, total ARPA funds \$9,573.65.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

- Street paving projects are scheduled to start after the 4th of July holiday. Street work is scheduled for: Lister Lane, Robins Court, Carol Lane, 2nd Street from Central to Sunrise, and Caroline to Sunset. Bramble will be giving us a two-week notice so that we can let the residents know when they will need to make plans for parking off street.
- The Lister Estates grinder pump agreement with Freemire will renew in August for the 63 homes that have a grinder pump. Beginning August 1, 2026, any home that transfers property owners will come off the agreement the following August. New homeowners do have the option of paying for their own plan with Freemire & Associates.
- Public Works vehicles will be getting identifying decals early in fiscal year 27.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

- Code enforcement has identified many untagged vehicles in town and is ready to start issuing violations. Commissioner Leister will plan to have a finalized update to the town code and zoning ordinance by the July 2026 town meeting that will address the enforcement plan.

CAROLINE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

- Summary of recent calls and incidents.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Economic Development met with John Gooden of Ridgely Airport. He is hoping to host air shows and drag races in the future. Plans for opening the diner in town are moving forward. The owner hopes to have it open this summer. MAORC is hosting a field day on June 11th at 10 am in the Ridgely Fire Hall. The next EDC meeting is July 16, 2026, at 3:30 pm.

OLD BUSINESS

- The FY27 Budget Ordinance No. 2026-402 was passed.

NEW BUSINESS

- Commissioner Sears gave a slide show presentation of the proposed water and sewer rate increases. The slide show highlighted:
 - Review of how town finances work
 - Why the rates must change
 - What rates pay for
 - Designing rates for the community we have
 - Review of the 3 proposed rate schedules
 - Interactive application to show the effect of different water usage

We hope to have the interactive application available on the town website. The Commissioners unanimously voted to go with the capital reserve option of the water/sewer rate study.

- Resolution No. 2026-02 establishing the water and sewer rates was introduced. There will be a public hearing for the resolution during the July 6, 2026, town meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Al Witkofsky asked if something could be said to the contractor of the Sunrise Avenue subdivision. They have been working very early on Sunday mornings and the noise is an issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.

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