

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY  
DECEMBER 4, 2023  
TOWN MEETING**



The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 6:00 pm in the town hall for the December 2023 town meeting. The following were in attendance: President John Hurley, Commissioner Leonard John Buckle, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Operations David Crist, Chief of Police Jeff Eckrich, Cathy & Rick Schwab, Christine Eckrich, Lakia Pierce.

President Hurley called the meeting to order and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the November 6, 2023, town meeting minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Buckle, approved.

**STAFF REPORTS  
CLERK-TREASURER**

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve paying the bills, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Buckle, approved. Total general funds reconciled \$211,343.89, sewer funds reconciled \$46,532.33, water funds reconciled \$40,281.13, ARPA funds reconciled \$120,952.58. The January 2024 meeting night will fall on the New Year's holiday. The Commissioners agreed to reschedule the meeting for January 3, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

**DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**

David Crist said that this week will be spent preparing for the winter festival.

**CHIEF OF POLICE**

Chief Eckrich said that he is also working on the winter festival and coordinating with emergency services and the state police for assistance.

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**

Melissa Leonard was not present. David Crist said that there are some options that are being discussed regarding the Tech Park with the county. Once we know more about the plans, he will update the Commissioners.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANT**

Not present.

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Cathy Schwab congratulated the town on receiving the Best of the Best Award for the winter festival. She commented on how wonderful the park looks with the light display. The historical society Christmas decorating contest will be on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

President Hurley read Ordinance No. 2023-395 "A temporary moratorium on the processing, review, and approval of applications, site plans, permits and other authorizations for the location, construction and/or selling of cannabis for a period of 12 months." Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve Ordinance No 2023-395, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was a donation request from the cheer booster club of North Caroline High School. Several of the girls have been selected to go to an elite camp in Hawaii over the summer. Commissioner Buckle said that he would like to see the town donate for the cost of one girl, \$2,997. A discussion followed as this is considerably more than the usual \$500 donation. The Commissioners decided to table the vote until the January meeting so that they could see how much money is left in the budget line item for donations by Commissioners.

There was a donation request from Caroline North Little League to sponsor a team. Director Crist said that he would like to have a public works team and Chief Eckrich also would like to have a police team. Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the sponsorship, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Buckle, approved.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cathy Schwab discussed the AMP program at the North Caroline Technology Center and would like to see a donation made to the program. She will reach out to them to send in a request.

Stephanie Berkey asked the Commissioners to sponsor residents at a local nursing home for Christmas. In years past, we have adopted a family to buy gifts for. A \$500 donation would give gifts to 10 residents of the nursing home. Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Casey, all in favor, approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 pm.

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