

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY  
DECEMBER 5, 2022  
TOWN MEETING**



The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 6:00 pm in the town hall for the December 2020 town meeting. The following were in attendance: President Anthony Casey, Commissioner John Hurley, Commissioner Leonard John Buckle, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Chief of Police Jeff Eckrich, Zoning Administrator Melissa Leonard, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Linda Walls, Alexa Murray, Michelle De Crispino, Tony De Crispino, Shianna Ninemann, Barbara Tucker, Cathy & Rick Schwab, Christine Eckrich, Clarence Murray, Thomas A. Tucker, Nicholas Tindall CCCA, Ty De Crispino.

President Casey opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve the November 7, 2022 town meeting minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Hurley, all in favor, approved.

**STAFF REPORTS  
CLERK-TREASURER**

Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve paying the bills, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Hurley, all in favor, approved. Total general funds reconciled \$157,919.82, total sewer funds reconciled \$46,184.40, total water funds reconciled \$37,824.68, total ARPA funds reconciled \$1,239,876.88. Stephanie Berkey thanked everyone that voted for Christmas in Ridgely Winterfest of Lights in the APG Media Best of the Best Awards. Ridgely was the winner for best festival/fair, best seasonal attraction, and best local event.

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Not present.

**CHIEF OF POLICE**

Chief Eckrich introduced the new police officer PFC Dalton De Crispino. He comes to us from Prince George's County. Stephanie Berkey swore in PFC De Crispino.

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**

Melissa Leonard had nothing to report. Commissioner Hurley brought up the house on Maryland Avenue that is being rebuilt. The builders can get around the town code by leaving up a small piece of the original house and rebuilding everything else. This allows them to avoid impact fees and having to add a sprinkler system to the house. He would like to see future zoning laws changed so that this practice cannot continue. Melissa will investigate this at future zoning meetings.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANT**

Gerald Sutton said that we are still waiting for the FY22 audit report. An extension has been filed.

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Cathy Schwab said that the town looks wonderful. She thanked the Lions Club for hanging the lights across the street and the town for all of the hard work for the Christmas display and festival. The annual Christmas ornament is of Lucy's Store and available for purchase. The Historical Society is going to be a vendor at the Winter Festival and will sell some there. The Christmas decorating contest is December 20th. Prizes will be awarded.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Nicholas Tindall from Caroline County Council of Arts discussed that they have upcoming grant funding for public art projects. He discussed the benefits of public art and types of projects. They would like for the town to apply.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Linda Walls works in a doctor's office and wanted the town to know that people are talking about the light display and the upcoming festival. She loves what the town has done. She also inquired about the process of running for town commissioner. Stephanie Berkey told her that election information will get posted late February early March and that you had to file for candidacy in person to the town clerk by the close of business on the first Monday in April.

Stephanie Berkey told everyone that she and David Crist will be appearing on WBOC Delmarva Life on Tuesday December 6, 2022, to discuss Christmas in Ridgely and the Winter Festival.

Gerald Sutton said that the coordination between the town and the Lion's Club for Christmas has been phenomenal.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm.

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