

COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY

MARCH 1, 2021

TOWN MEETING



The Commissioners of Ridgely met at 11:00 am on the above date in the town hall for the April 2021 town meeting. The following were in attendance: Commissioner Leonard J. Buckle, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Public Works David Crist, Chief of Police Jeff Eckrich, Zoning Administrator Melissa Leonard, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Cathy and Rick Schwab.

Commissioner Buckle opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2021 vote to go into closed session, the February 1, 2021 closed session and the February 1, 2021 town meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buckle, approved.

STAFF REPORTS

CLERK-TREASURER

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve paying the bills, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, approved. Total general funds reconciled \$481,580.13, total sewer funds reconciled \$121,465.32, total water funds reconciled \$57,339.20. The State of Maryland Constant Yield Tax Rate Certification for FY22 is .5329 which is down from .5686. Commissioner Casey made a motion to set the FY22 real property tax rate at the constant yield rate of .5329 and the personal property tax rate at 1.275 and to have the county continue to do the collection of the real property taxes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buckle, approved.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

KCI Technologies needs approval of the grant request in order to submit the application for the CBT Grant for Martin Sutton Park. Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve option 2 (Cash Match Grant Request with In Kind and Cash Match) 2nd Commissioner Buckle, approved.

David Crist discussed the recycle bins that are at the end of Railroad. They are owned by MES and there is a lot of overflow into the parking lot. The area is looking very trashy. The property behind the bins has recently sold and there are plans to build houses there. He is worried that this is going to become a problem in the future if not addressed soon. A discussion followed on possible relocation spots and contacting MES about removal of the bins or additional pick-ups.

The quote for the purchase of a new Kubota was presented to the Commissioners. We will be trading in the John Deere Gator to help offset the costs. Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the purchase of the Kubota, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, approved.

With all of the wet weather, the inflow and infiltration into the sewer lines is above average and our aging sewer lines are in need of replacement. A discussion followed that would allow for an annual allotment to do a set amount of linear feet a year. David will begin to get pricing.

There have been complaints about trucks long term parking in front of the businesses on Belle Street. The Commissioners agreed to put a 2-hour parking limit on Belle Street between Central Ave. and N. Maryland. There have been numerous complaints and traffic problems with the trucks that are turning into Medifast (blocking traffic, running all night, getting stuck, running over fire hydrants). The zoning is written so that

police could enforce these issues. There was a discussion about moving the hydrant. Chief Eckrich is planning to meet with Medifast to discuss the issues.

We have hired a new public works employee that is starting in mid-March.

We are working on getting quotes to replace the welcome signs on Route 480.

CHIEF OF POLICE

A shed has been ordered for the shooting range. K9 Keita assisted the Maryland State Police over the weekend that resulted in a large opioid seizure.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Emergency Services has requested that 104 E Third Street be changed to 4 E Third Street.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Nothing to report

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cathy Schwab thanked planning and zoning for approving the new library sign. She asked if we could put information about the Train Station on the new welcome to Ridgely signs.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Buckle introduced Ordinance No. 2021-387 FY21 Budget Revision.

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 am.

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