

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY**  
**MARCH 4, 2019**  
**TOWN MEETING**



The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at the Town Hall at 7:00 pm for the March 2019 town meeting. The following were in attendance: President Leonard John Buckle, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Commissioner John Hurley, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Public Works David Crist, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard, Town Attorney Patrick Thomas, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Officer Ross Harper, Officer Jeff Christopher, Cathy & Rick Schwab, Joe Riley, Joe Anderson, Brenda Walls, Debbie Bowden, Bernie Demczuk, Latoya Holley, Richard Potter, Swafford, Aaliyah Holley, James Holley, Trevor R. Hewick, Joe Graham, Monique Sorrell, Andre Sorrell, Jaylen Redding, Jessica Taylor, Tim Crosby, Darlene Lovelace, Megan Maloney, Rob McQuade, Donna Hayes, Karen Kemp Dockstader, Bradford Johnson, Gerald Dockstader, Darryl Hill, Blair Carmean, Christina Robinson, Randy Robinson, Lucy Ball, Abby Andrews, Carol Dobson, Carolyn Garrett, Jeff Garrett, Charles Henry, Jerome T. Burton, Cornelius Berny, Cheleste Sevant, Martin Sokolich, Ceres Bainbridge, Timothy Covington, Mary h. Boyce, Katyra Boyce, Jeff Eckrich, Greg Herestod, Capri Lee (The Mogul Circuit), Eric Daniels, Henry Cherry.

President Buckle called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Attorney Patrick Thomas addressed the audience about meeting protocol.

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2019 Town Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Casey, approved.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**CLERK-TREASURER**

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve paying the bills, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Casey, approved.

Total General Funds Reconciled \$620,960.62

Total Sewer Funds Reconciled \$335,712.40

Total Water Funds Reconciled \$185,929.84

The 2019 Constant Yield Tax Rate Certification was provided by the State. The Constant Yield for FY20 would be .5686. Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve setting the FY20 tax rate at the Constant Yield of .5686, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Hurley, all in favor, approved.

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS**

David Crist presented his report to the Commissioners (attached).

**CHIEF OF POLICE**

Officer Ross Harper presented the report to the Commissioners (attached).

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**

Melissa Leonard reported that rental Inspections are beginning for 2019 as are outside maintenance issues. Untagged vehicles are also being looked at.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANT**

Nothing to report.

**RVFD**

Not Present

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Cathy Schwab discussed that next month we will be celebrating Hannah Henry Day on April 8, 2019. She asked if tours for the train station could be advertised on the both the Historical Society and Town Facebook pages. The Commissioners agreed.

**STATE'S ATTORNEY**

Joe Riley spoke to the Commissioners about recent crimes that were committed in the Town of Ridgely. He is planning to attend all of the Caroline County Town Monthly Meetings moving forward.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2019-381 FY19 Budget Revision, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Casey, all in favor, approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Brenda Walls discussed the Ridgely Car show. September 22, 2019 will be the last car show. The foundation will continue to do things in the town and the county. Richard Petty will be returning for the last car show. She wants to do a wing car display and a display in the train station with the historical society and info about our town.

Chicken Bridge Tax Ditch representative, Brent Carmean, thanked the Commissioners for the previous year's support. The ditch is 16 ½ miles long and was established in 1965. Costs are increasing and they are barely covering costs. He requested the Commissioners increase their contribution from \$3,250 to \$6,000 for FY20. A discussion followed. Commissioner Casey said that we would consider it for FY20 in our upcoming budgeting for FY20.

Ceres Bainbridge from Caroline County Tourism requested funding for FY20. She played a radio announcement that supported the Ridgely Car Show and discussed other things that they have done to support the Town of Ridgely. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to continue with the same contribution as last year, 2<sup>nd</sup> President Buckle, Commissioner Casey abstained, approved.

Caroline North Little League Donna Hayes said that they are reviewing the lease for the Cowbarn Park. A discussion followed. It was agreed that it will be on the April agenda for signing. She reviewed the sign-up numbers for this spring.

Karen Kemp-Dockstader from Horticultural Solutions, LTD came to discuss their plans for building a medical cannabis processing facility at the Tech Park in Ridgely. She discussed the advantages of building in this area. Also discussed were security issues and jobs.

Debbie Bowden with Caroline County Economic Development clarified that the Ridgely Tech Park is owned by the County and that she is employed by the County, not the Town of Denton.

Darryl Hill from Tilstar, LLC discussed with the Commissioners his company's interest in building a medical cannabis cultivation and processing facility. He discussed his company's plans and how the low income under-served citizens of the area would benefit from his company locating to Ridgely. He gave a brief history on his company.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Andre Sorrell, a resident of Smryna, Delaware, from the Coalition for Justice for Anton Black spoke to the Commissioners to demand that the Commissioners put Chief Gary Manos on administrative leave, pending further investigation. They believe that Chief Manos was directly responsible for the death of Anton Black.

Tim Covington had a question regarding the discussion of the Tech Park. He wanted to know why the medical cannabis industry would not go to a developed industrial park in the county. He also supports the Black family and their demand to put Chief Manos on administrative leave.

Bernard Demczuk, Ph.D., a professor of African American History and Culture at University of the District of Columbia, and a teacher at the MPD Police Academy, and Caroline County resident gave his support of the Anton Black Coalition and provided literature to the Commissioners about educating police officers on black history and law enforcement.

Monique Sorrell came in support of her brother Anton Black. She did not approve of the way her brother was handled during his encounter with the police. She asked to have Chief Manos put on administrative leave.

Capri Lee representing the Mobile Circuit addressed the Commissioners. She is an educator in Caroline County and also requested that Chief Manos be placed on administrative leave.

Henry Cherry was a witness to the events on September 13, 2018. He had questions about the officers discussing Anton reaching for a gun during the encounter. Anton was unarmed. He blamed Chief Manos for choking Anton and laying on him as the cause of his death. He supports the Black Family's request to have Chief Manos placed on Administrative Leave.

Latoya Holly is a sister of Anton Black. She is asking that Chief Manos be placed on administrative leave. She said that they will continue to come to every meeting until the coalition gets what they want. She said that there are good men that are in the police department and they could fill in for Chief Manos.

Mary Boyce is the great grandmother of Anton's daughter. She was at the scene that evening. She couldn't believe the actions of the police department that evening. She said that Anton was murdered and the coalition will not stop until justice is served for Anton. She asked the Commissioners to remove the Chief of Police.

Richard Potter, co-founder for the Coalition for Justice for Anton Black addressed the Commissioners regarding the events surrounding the death of Anton Black. He discussed the chapter 4 policy manual regarding mental illness and that the policy was not followed. He says that according to the body camera footage Chief Manos actually escalated the situation by not following procedure. He asked the Commissioners to read their policy. On behalf of the Coalition, he asked that Gary Manos be placed on administrative leave pending the Maryland State Police investigation.

Christina Robinson from Greensboro, MD and an employee of the Benedictine School, spoke regarding how the police officers recognized the situation as a mental health issue and did not follow procedure nor did Chief Manos identify himself as a police officer. She supports the family and the coalition and requested that Chief Manos be put on Administrative Leave.

Carol Dobson spoke in support of the request of the Coalition. She is a retired community educator from both Del-Tech and Chesapeake College. She is also a social worker. She indicated education and training are so important to better policing. She urged the Commissioners to value education and training and do what they can to help the community heal.

Joseph Graham from Ridgely discussed the progression of the police department from bicycle police officers to a military style police department. He discussed taking the K-9 dogs and police officers out of the town of Ridgely, marking the police cars and community policing. He also supports the Black Family.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

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



**Commissioners of Ridgely**  
**Public Works Department Report**  
**Commissioners Meeting**  
**March 4, 2019**

**SEWER**

- 55 days holding capacity
- All reports have been completed and sent to MDE

**WATER**

- All reports have been completed and sent to MDE

**PUBLIC WORKS**

- 16 locates
- 2 loads of brush
- 6 rubble pick ups
- Worked on allies
- Patched pot holes
- Serviced equipment
- Sweeping streets every other week

**ADMIN**

- Working on Little League Lease
- Working on Liberty Street Drainage
- Hanover Foods
- MML Golf Tournament
- Have permission to do no parking at the train station per SHA. Waiting for weather to break to complete

# Ridgely Police Department

2 Central Avenue, Ridgely, Maryland 21660

Phone: 410 634-2151

Fax: 410 634-8083



## February 2019 Police Department Report

Calls for Service	601
Property Checks	281
Community Policing	132
Arrests	5

Chief Manos attended the American Legion First Responders Luncheon. The American Legion Ladies Auxiliary discussed having the luncheon yearly.

Attended the Social Services SMART Meeting to discuss cases that are ongoing currently in Caroline County.

We had an armed robbery at the Dollar General. Pfc. Christopher is the lead investigator. Pfc. Harper and myself have been assisting. A suspect has been developed and the investigation is continuing. The last armed robbery in Ridgely was in 2014 when an unknown suspect used a large stick to threaten and take money from the teenage clerks at the Ridgely Subway.

The Ridgely Police Department's Extreme Risk Protection Orders Policy as defined in Maryland's Public Safety Code 5 Sec 602 – 610, has been completed by Sergeant Geesey. All of our officers will receive training that pertains to this new law. Three officers have already completed the training and the others will have completed the training within the next two weeks. This was a big undertaking by Sergeant Geesey and through his leadership we are ahead of the mandatory implementation of the law and the other departments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Manos  
Chief of Police

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Thank you for attending.

**PLEASE PRINT NAME CLEARLY**

Debbie Bowden

Daryl Hill

Blair Carmean

Brenda L. Jones

Chestna Robinson

Randy Robinson

Lucy Ball

Abby Andrews

Carol Dobson

Carolyn Harrell

Jeff Gault

CHARLES W HENRY

SEROME T. BURTON

Cornelius Berry

Chester Servant

MARTIN SKORICHT

Ceres Bainbridge

Timothy Covington

MARY K. Boyce

Katym Boyce

Jeff ECKRICH

Nicole Black

Greg Strosrud

Capri Lee (The Magul Circuit)

Eric Daniels

Denny Cherry



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**PLEASE PRINT NAME CLEARLY**

Patricia Thomas

Joe Anderson  
(JOE ANDERSON)

Bernie Demczuk  
BERNIE DEMCZUK

Rick & Cathy Schwarz

Lateja Holley

Richard Rott

Snafford

Aaliyah Holley

James Holley  
(James Holley)

Trevor R. Hewick

Joe Graham

Monique Sorrell

Andre Sorrell

Jaylen Redding

Jessica Taylor

TIM CROSBY

Darlene Loveace

Megan Maloney

Rob McQuade

Paul H. Helt  
(JEFF)

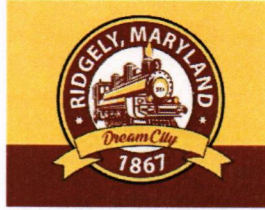
Donna Hayes

Kevin Kemp Dockstader

Phaedra Johnson

Gerald Dockstader





COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY

MARCH 4, 2019

TOWN MEETING

PUBLIC COMMENT LOG

**ALL PUBLIC COMMENTORS MUST SIGN THE PUBLIC COMMENT LOG**

**NAME (PLEASE PRINT)**

Andre' Sorrell

Richard Ditt

Jim Corington

Carol Dobb

BRENE DAVEZ

Jos Graham

Morgan Sorrell

Capri Lu

Henry Cherry

Latoya Hoileg

Mary H Dyer

Christina Robinson