

COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY

APRIL 1, 2019
TOWN MEETING



Summary of the April 1, 2019 closed session:

DATE: April 1, 2019

TIME: 5:05 PM

PLACE: Town Hall

PURPOSE: To consult with and obtain legal advice and recommendations from the Town Attorneys regarding a personnel matter involving a specific individual over whom the Commissioners have jurisdiction and potential litigation involving the Town associated therewith.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Md. Code Ann., General Provision Article § 3-305 (b): **(1)** "To discuss a personnel matter involving a specific individual over whom the Commissioners have jurisdiction;" **(7)** "To consult with Town Attorneys to obtain legal advice;" **(8)** "To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation."

VOTE TO MEET IN CLOSED SESSION: In favor: President Buckle, Commissioner Casey; Opposed: none; Absent: Commissioner Hurley

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

- A personnel matter involving a specific individual over whom the Commissioners have jurisdiction
- Legal advice and recommendations from the Town Attorneys regarding the personnel matter and potential litigation involving the Town associated therewith
- Engagement of the law firm of McNamee Hosea to conduct an independent investigation into whether Chief Gary Manos complied with the Town Police General Orders in connection with the events of September 15, 2018

ATTENDING: President Leonard John Buckle, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard, Town Attorney Patrick Thomas

ACTION TAKEN:

- The Commissioners unanimously voted to engage the law firm of McNamee Hosea to conduct an independent investigation into whether Chief Gary Manos complied with the Town Police General Orders in connection with the events of September 15, 2018

Commissioner Casey made a motion to adjourn the closed session part of the meeting, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, approved. The closed session was adjourned at 5:28pm. End of summary.

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall for the April 2019 Town Meeting. The following were in attendance: President Leonard John Buckle, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Public Works David Crist, Officer Ross Harper, Officer Jeff Christopher, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard, Town Attorney Patrick Thomas, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Cathy & Rick Schwab, Norma Pinkney, Daphine Croom, Patrice Flamer, William & Mary E. Flamer, James Miller, Florence Dobson-Gonzalez, Keith Radtke, Alvin R. Cain, Jr., Rodney Dobson, Donna R. Hayes, Alfreda Dennis-Bowyer, Mike Redgraves, Beverly King, Connie Wilkerson, Margaret Thomas, Mary H. Boyce, William Zaruba, Dawn Chase, Janie Ricketts, Jessica Taylor, Sandra Pitts, Leroy Harris, Lenita Rich, Anthony Pennington, Bridget Pennington, Richard Potter, Teri Hinch, Andy Hrobar, Megan Maloney, Joe Graham, Cecilia Acocella, Al Witkofsky, Jennell Black, Henry Cherry, Vontiva Acree Carter, Jane Tibbitt, Amanda Boggs, Lucy Ball, Everett J. Freeman, Reginald I. Brown, Latoya Holley, Nautica Holley, Christina Robinson, Kamesha Roberts, Bryan Roberts, Rene Swafford, Vy Rev John B. Gabage, VF, Sue Simmons and Cathy Radeke.

President Buckle opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Buckle read the Proclamation for Hannah Henry Day. He then presented Rodney Dobson with a Commissioners of Ridgely Challenge Coin to honor him for all that he has done for his community.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the minutes of the following meetings:

- March 4, 2019 Town Meeting
- March 11, 2019 Executive Session (Recording of vote to go into closed session)
- March 11, 2019 Closed Executive Session
- March 21, 2019 Executive Session (Recording of vote to go into closed session)
- March 21, 2019 Closed Executive Session

President Buckle 2nd the motion. The minutes were approved.

STAFF REPORTS

CLERK-TREASURER

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve paying the bills, 2nd President Buckle, approved.

Total General Funds Reconciled \$601,938.04, Total Sewer Funds Reconciled \$258,876.90, Total Water Funds Reconciled \$185,324.56.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

David Crist presented his report to the Commissioners (attached). He talked about the fire on Maple Avenue last Monday and thanked Melissa Leonard and Stephanie Berkey for what they did to help the family.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Officer Ross Harper presented the report to the Commissioners (attached). He reminded people to store valuables out of site and to lock car doors. There have been several thefts out of vehicles that have been left unlocked.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Melissa Leonard let the Commissioners know that notices have gone out for untagged vehicles. Grass season is starting and the Code Enforcement Official will be sending out letters for un-mowed lawns.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Gerald Sutton addressed the Commissioners. We will be working on the FY20 budget very soon. He feels that we are doing well this year. He also commended the town staff for their help with the family that was displaced by the fire.

RVFD

Not present.

STATE'S ATTORNEY

Not present.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cathy Schwab thanked the town for the dedication for Hannah Henry Day and for recognizing Rodney Dobson. The 5th grade tree planting for RES is April 18th at 10:00 am. Ridgely Chat Session will be April 13th at 10:00 am in the Ridgely Train Station.

OLD BUSINESS

Donna Hayes of the Caroline North Little League was present to sign the lease for the Cowbarn Park with the Commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. E. Mitchell Arion was not present

Sue Simmons discussed the upcoming "Walk in her Shoes" event that will be held on Saturday April 13, 2019 in the Town of Ridgely. This is a fundraiser for the Mid-shore Council on Family Violence. It starts at 11:00 am and runs through 12:30 pm. She thanked the town for their hospitality.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Megan Maloney discussed the sidewalks that she would like to have repaired. David Crist discussed that the curb painting that was recently done is for marking the fire hydrants.

Richard Potter from the Coalition for Justice for Anton Black spoke. He discussed the events that happened after the September incident and the Coalition's request for answers regarding their request to put Chief Manos on administrative leave. They would like to work with the town, but are prepared to protest and take action of their own. He urged the Commissioners to respond to the request.

Latoya Holley, sister of Anton Black, requested Chief Manos be put on paid administrative leave.

Jenelle Black, mother of Anton Black, discussed the events of the evening her son died. She accused Chief Manos of killing her son. She wants some type of justice and her son's name cleared.

Mary Boyce, great grandmother of Anton Black's baby asked the council to have a heart and look into what is going on with the officer and the incident. She asked the town to honor Anton's mother and look into their hearts and the incident. She is scared for the future and for our children. We need to teach that our country is just.

Al Witkofsky discussed the Medical Marijuana facility possibly coming to the town and voiced his opposition.

Anthony Pennington stated that he also opposes the Medical Marijuana facility coming to the town.

Christina Robinson worked with Anton Black through the teen group and is close with the family. She wanted to know when they will get a response. Patrick Thomas indicated in his letter to Mr. Potter that we were working on a response and hoped to have one soon. As it is a personnel issue, we are unable to comment further.

Jaime Tibbett stated that he is in favor of the Medical Marijuana facility coming into town. He thinks it will be good for the town.

Nautica Holly, Anton's niece said that they are not opposing police, but they are seeking justice for the incident that resulted in Anton's death. She discussed the pain that the family is feeling. She asked the Commissioners to look at this incident like it was someone that they loved. She said they respect the police, but want the town to see it from their perspective.

Cathy Rackey discussed that she lives where the proposed medical marijuana plant is to go and is opposed. She would rather see business that would be better for our community.

William Zaruba is also opposed to the medical marijuana facility coming into town. He also expressed his concerns regarding property values decreasing.

Henry Cherry would like to know if the coalition would be on the agenda for next month. Other members of the coalition also asked to have Anton Black on the agenda for next month. The Commissioners agreed they will be put on the agenda for the May 2019 meeting.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd President Buckle. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Berkey, CMC
Clerk-Treasurer