

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY  
MAY 6, 2019  
TOWN MEETING**



*Summary of the April 29, 2019 closed session:*

**DATE:** April 29, 2019

**TIME:** 4:02 PM

**PLACE:** Town Hall

**PURPOSE:** *To perform an administrative function not subject to the Open Meetings Act and to discuss personnel matters involving specific individuals over whom the Commissioners have jurisdiction.*

**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."*

**VOTE TO MEET IN CLOSED SESSION:** *Unanimous*

**TOPICS DISCUSSED:**

- *Discussion and development of the FY20 Budget*
- *Personnel matters involving specific individuals over whom the Commissioners have jurisdiction*

**ATTENDING:** *President Leonard John Buckle, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Commissioner John Hurley, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Public Works David Crist, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton*

**ACTION TAKEN:**

*Recommendations were made for the preparation of the FY20 Budget. The budget will be introduced at the May 6, 2019 Town Meeting.*

*Commissioner Hurley made a motion to adjourn the closed session part of the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Casey, approved. The closed session was adjourned at 5:29 pm.*

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall for the May 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, Officer Ross Harper, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer/Zoning Administrator Melissa Leonard, Town Attorney Patrick Thomas, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Dave Atwater, Joseph Riley, Jeff Scharf, Arthur Haley, Troy Smith, Joe Anderson, Latoya Holley, James Holley, Jennell Black, Donovan Adams, Emily Lewis, Lisa Saunders, Denice Lombard, Amia Mcfar, Mary Boyce, Katya Boyce, Nicole Breck, illegible signature, illegible signature, illegible signature, illegible signature, Rick & Cathy Schwab, Monique Sorrell, Rene Swafford, Andre Sorrell, Sr., Lucy Ball, Richard Potter, Norma Pinkney, Donna R. Hayes.

President Casey opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Casey made a motion to re-appoint Stephanie Berkey as the Clerk-Treasurer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Hurley, all in favor.

Stephanie Berkey swore in Leonard John Buckle as Commissioner of Ridgely for another 3 year term. Commissioner Casey is now President for the next year.

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2019 Executive Session (recording of vote to go into closed session), April 1, 2019 Closed Executive Session, April 1, 2019 Town Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Buckle, approved.

#### **STAFF REPORTS**

##### **CLERK-TREASURER**

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve paying the bills, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved.

Total General Funds Reconciled \$137,836.99, Total Sewer Funds Reconciled \$204,349.30, Total Water Funds Reconciled \$140,669.13.

##### **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS**

David Crist reported that the DNR Grant was denied for Martin Sutton Park. We have a master plan for the park and will still try to accomplish all of our goals. He is planning to reach out to other agencies about other possible grant funding.

##### **CHIEF OF POLICE**

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

##### **FINANCIAL ASSISTANT**

Nothing to report.

##### **RVFD**

Not present.

##### **STATE'S ATTORNEY**

State's Attorney Joseph Reilly listed the Ridgely cases for the month of April.

Daniel Thomas – Theft \$100 - \$1,500

Amanda Yerser/William Schindler – Theft

Ashley Clark – Driving without license

Philip Freeman – Burglary

Audra Bowers – DUI

Elija Bordley – Possession

Don Chester, Sr., - Unsupervised Probation

##### **HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Cathy Schwab spoke for the Historical Society. She thanked the Commissioners for the proclamation for Hannah Henry Day. On April 13<sup>th</sup> the Historical Society held a Ridgely Chat Session at the train station. It was well attended. On April 18<sup>th</sup>, the RES 5<sup>th</sup> grade class planted

their tree in the Railroad Park. May 9<sup>th</sup> is Discovery Day at Linchester Mill. May 9, 2019 is the next Historical Society meeting at 7:00 pm in the train station.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

President Casey introduced Ordinance No. 2019-382 FY20 Budget Ordinance.

Jeff Scharf of the Caroline Cougars spoke to the Commissioners regarding a 6 x 10 LED message board that they would like to put up at the Medifast Field. He was instructed to get approval from the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Coalition for Justice for Anton Black

Rene Swafford attorney for the family spoke to the Commissioners. She discussed the family's request to put Chief Manos on administrative leave and the body worn camera footage. They believe the footage was altered by Chief Manos. They again demanded that Chief Manos be put on administrative leave. Patrick Thomas, attorney for the Town, informed the members of the audience and Ms. Swafford that the Town has engaged 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. The investigation is expected to be completed by mid-May. He also indicated that neither he or the Town officials had any knowledge of any formal allegations that the body worn camera footage was altered.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Andre Sorrell, brother in law of Anton Black, asked that Chief Manos to be put on administrative leave because of his involvement in the death of Anton Black.

Richard Potter asked for Chief Manos to be placed on administrative leave. He said that he has given the town the opportunity to do what is right. He stated that the town's failure to comply with the Coalition's demands will result in protests that will disrupt the businesses in town. They plan to be in town every day, including weekends, protesting.

Latoya Holly demanded that Chief Manos be placed on administrative leave. She discussed the police report and the training that the police have attended. She discussed Chief Manos' resume/job history.

Jeff Scharf told the Commissioners that he personally knows Chief Manos and does not believe that he is the man that they are describing. He offered support for Chief Manos.

Monique Sorrell, sister of Anton Black, discussed that white officers do not treat black people the same. They will continue to fight for justice.

Amia Mcfar, niece of Anton Black, said that it is in town's policy that if there is an investigation the police must be placed on administrative leave.

(Illegible signature) Cousin of asked Anton Black, asked for Chief Manos to be placed on administrative leave.

Christina Jordan asked for Chief Manos to be placed on administrative leave.

Nadiya Ward asked that Chief Manos be placed on administrative leave.

Sade Rosado asked that Chief Manos be placed on administrative leave.

Latoya Holly spoke for Anton's mother asking again for Chief Manos be placed on administrative leave.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephanie Berkey, CMC  
Clerk-Treasurer