

**COMMISSIONER OF RIDGELY  
JUNE 5, 2023  
TOWN MEETING**



The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 6:00 pm in the Town Hall for the June 2023 town meeting. The following were in attendance: President John Hurley, Commissioner John Buckle, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Public Works David Crist, Zoning Administrator Melissa Leonard, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Cathy and Rick Schwab, Josh Elliott, Mike and Donna Passwaters, Norma Pinkney.

President Hurley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the April 14, 2023, vote to go into closed session, April 14, 2023, closed session and May 1, 2023, town meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buckle, all in favor approved.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**CLERK-TREASURER**

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve paying the bills, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved. Total general funds reconciled \$200,189.90, total sewer funds reconciled \$47,243.10, total water funds reconciled \$38,691.74, total arpa funds reconciled \$970,007.89. We received notification from Provident State Bank that two of our accounts are inactive. The Police savings account and the K-9 donation savings account were both cited. Commissioner Casey made a motion to close the accounts and deposit the remaining funds into the general fund checking account to offset some of the costs that the police have incurred, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved.

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS**

David Crist said that the public works staff did an excellent job getting everything ready for the Strawberry Festival. We are waiting to hear from Bramble a date for the street work to begin.

**CHIEF OF POLICE**

Chief Eckrich was not present. He had sent a text message to President Hurley saying that the license plate reader has arrived, and that Officer James Joles will be starting with the town on July 1, 2023.

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**

Melissa Leonard discussed the need to increase our fees for planning and zoning and for water/sewer connections and reservations. MDIA is increasing their fees and we have reviewed and compared our rates with other towns and the county. The proposed changes will be introduced in New Business.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANT**

Gerald Sutton said that the current year of actual to budget is looking good and he believes we will end fiscal year 23 with a positive balance. Next year will be a tougher budget year with cash flow to expenditures because of how the town receives tax payments and highway user revenue.

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Cathy Schwab said they participated in the Strawberry Festival and several applications for bricks in the Railroad Memorial Park were taken. The train station will continue to be open on the first Saturday of the month through September. The next Ridgely chat session will be Saturday June 17, 2023, from 10-12.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2023-393 FY24 Budget, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

David Crist led the discussion on the packets that were submitted to the town for engineering and grant services. He reviewed the pros and cons of each submission and recommended the town go with Wallace Montgomery. Lauren Good would be the project manager. Lauren had previously done work for the town when she was with KCI and had a great rapport with the staff and great results with the projects she took on. All the commissioners agreed that she would be the main reason for selecting Wallace Montgomery. Commissioner Casey made a motion to select Wallace Montgomery for the engineering and grant writing services, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved.

President Hurley introduced Ordinance No. 2023-394 Chapter 70 business licenses and Chapter 105 impact fees. A public hearing for the ordinance will be held on July 3, 2023, during the 6 pm town meeting.

President Hurley introduced Resolution No. 2023-01 Building Construction/Inspection Fee Schedule. Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-01, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved.

President Hurley introduced Resolution No. 2023-02 Zoning and Subdivision Fee Schedule. Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-02, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved.

President Hurley introduced Resolution No. 2023-03 Water/Sewer Connection Charges and Hook Up Fees. A public hearing will be held during the July 3, 2023, town meeting.

Mike Passwaters and Donna Murphy Midel of East Belle Street wanted to let the town know that he was not happy with the public works for not picking up the brush that he had set out. David Crist said that he would speak to his crew. They also asked about what was going to be done about the road. They were not happy with the millings that were put down. David said that we are waiting for an estimate from the county for putting down tar and chip.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jerry Sutton thanked the town on behalf of the Lions Club for everything that was done for the Strawberry Festival.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 pm.

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