

## COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY

JUNE 6, 2022

### TOWN MEETING



The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 6:00 pm in the town hall for the June 2022 town meeting. The following were in attendance: President Anthony Casey, Commissioner John Hurley, Commissioner Leonard John Buckle, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Public Works David Crist, Zoning Administrator Melissa Leonard, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Cathy and Rick Schwab, Domingo Llanes, Blair Carmean, Brett Carmean, Joe Anderson, Bill & Connie Zaruba.

President Casey opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2022 vote to go into closed session, May 2, 2022 Closed Session, May 2, 2022 Town Meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Hurley, all in favor, approved.

#### STAFF REPORTS

##### CLERK-TREASURER

Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve paying the bills, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Hurley, all in favor, approved. Total general funds reconciled \$211,195.27, total sewer funds reconciled \$69,283.20, total water funds \$48,572.01, total ARPA funds reconciled \$705,577.13.

##### DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

David Crist let the Commissioners know about the meeting held with Rauch Engineering to discuss them becoming our town engineering firm. They will be helping us to secure funding for a new water tower, as well as the sewer line replacement project. Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve contracting Rauch Engineering, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Hurley, all in favor, approved.

##### CHIEF OF POLICE

Not present.

##### ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Our Code Enforcement Official was out on sick leave and is now back to patrolling.

##### FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Gerald Sutton told the Commissioners that we are almost done with fiscal year 2022. ARPA funding was used to purchase the 2 new police vehicles. Income tax revenue is up, but he expects that it will level out for FY23. The town's debt situation is the best that it has been in fifteen years. There is less than 1.5 million in debt.

##### HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cathy Schwab said that the June open house at the train station had two visitors.

##### OLD BUSINESS

There was a vote on Ordinance No. 2022-390 FY23 Budget. Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2022-290, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Hurley, all in favor, approved.

##### NEW BUSINESS

Domingo Llanes, Vice President from Caroline North Little League, introduced himself to the Commissioners. He discussed their plans for the existing fields/grass infields. He asked if a permit would be necessary. David Crist said that a permit would not be necessary, but that they would need to provide the town with a letter of intent of their plans. The T-ball fields cannot be touched for 20 years because of the grant that was used to create them. Domingo asked if

they could be decreased from 4 to 2? David said that DNR would need to be contacted to answer that question, as they gave the grant. Domingo asked about putting a swing set out at the Cowbarn Fields. David said that if they did, they would have to insure it and have liability insurance. It would need to be a commercial structure. They were also reminded that the fields at Martin Sutton Park are open to the public and that little league will need to provide a schedule of when they need to use the fields at the beginning of the season to ensure that they are available to them.

Cathy and Rick Schwab spoke for Jok Walsh and the Caroline County Historical Society. They discussed the June 5, 2022 memo from The Caroline County Historical Society discussing the Telephone Exchange Building's roof. The Town had secured grant funding to replacing the existing roof with a metal roof that matches the train station. Jok Walsh is requesting that instead of the matching metal roof, the town used a metal roof that simulates the look of gray shingles. He proposed that the Society will provide the specifications for bidding a new metal roof that simulates shingles and is the historic color of the gray roof. That the Society will handle amendments to the town's application or any approval that are necessary from any government entity. Jok Walsh agreed to personally pay for any and all costs that exceed the \$9,000 grant. A discussion followed. The Commissioners agreed to let Cathy and Rick Schwab look into getting the simulated shingle metal roof, but that ultimately this is a grant and the town will not be contributing any additional funds to the roof.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joe Anderson said that there are private citizens that are making contributions to the pickle ball courts at Martin Sutton Park. He and Blair Carmean presented a \$200 check from the Caroline Tennis Association to help with maintenance of the park. They thanked the town for their help with the Strawberry Festival.

Cathy Schwab asked if there were any plans for the former diner. The Commissioners discussed that it has been purchased by the owners of Foster's. They are planning to make it a restaurant.

Gerald Sutton thanked the town, on behalf of the Lion's Club, for their help with the Strawberry Festival.

Stephanie Berkey thanked Connie and Bill Zaruba for all of their hard work on the bump-outs in front of the town hall. They look beautiful.

Anthony Casey requested that the other Commissioners consider increasing the donation for the RVFD golf tournament from \$2,000 to \$3,000. Commissioner Buckle made the motion to increase the donation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Hurley, approved.

David Crist said that the Public Works Produce Garden is starting to flourish. We will be picking the garden very soon. It will be free to the public.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephanie Berkey, CMC  
Clerk-Treasurer