

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
AUGUST 7, 2017
TOWN MEETING**

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at the Town Hall at 7:00 pm for the August town meeting. The following were in attendance: President John Hurley, Commissioner Leonard John Buckle, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Public Works David Crist, Chief of Police Gary Manos, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Sgt. Gordon Geesey, Officer Jeff Christopher, Officer Ross Harper, Gary Nesselroad, Sandra Pitts, Patrice Flamer, Joe Anderson, Eric Kellner RVFD, Norma Pinkney, Ruth Scheeler, Ron Markey Harper & Sons, Debbie Pfiel KCI, Don Purdy, Charles Dean, Michelle Christopher, Speedy Christopher, Nora Pruett, Lee Pruett, Garnette Hines, Lilian Lone, Cathy Schwab and Rick Schwab.

President Hurley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a reminder of meeting protocol (attached).

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2017 town meeting, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, approved.

STAFF REPORTS

CLERK-TREASURER

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

Total General Funds Reconciled \$279,731.48

Total Sewer Funds Reconciled \$368,321.80

Total Water Funds Reconciled \$167,316.58

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Director of Public Works David Crist presented his report to the Commissioners. School Street pump station has had another pump fail and one pump has been pulled and sent out for repair.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Gary Manos presented his report to the Commissioners. National Night Out was a success and a very nice event. Coffee with the Chief will be August 26, 2017 at 9:00 am at the 9 Central Diner.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton addressed the Commissioners. The auditors will be back for the final audit in September.

RVFD

Chief Eric Kellner addressed the Commissioners. 23 suppression calls for service. RVFD

did assist Kent Island during the tornado. They were helping the first responders. They also assisted in the National Night Out. The first Thursday of every month is the spaghetti dinner at the fire house. All are invited to attend.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cathy Schwab addressed the Commissioners. The train station should be finished by September 8th. Progress is moving right along. September 23rd celebration plans are moving right along. Please contact the historical society if you would like to be in the parade.

OLD BUSINESS

President Hurley re-read Ordinance No. 2017-378 concerning chapters 183 (water) and 185 (water and sewer rate charges) of the code of the Town of Ridgely. Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved.

NEW BUSINESS

President Hurley introduced Resolution No. 2017-05 amendment to the Town of Ridgely Personnel Policies (Section 4.4 – Overtime). Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved.

The Ridgely Lions club are requesting sponsorship of a hole and a team for their golf tournament. Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, all in favor.

Debbie Pfiel, KCI Technologies, Inc. presented her report to the Commissioners regarding the Town Hall renovations (attached). The following items were voted on: Requesting Change Orders & Partial Payments be signed by the Town Clerk-Treasurer upon review and approval by the Project Manager as well as signatures from the Project Architect and Contractor as long as the changes do not increase the bottom line of the \$1 million project total. The Project Manager will email all the Commissioners with an update on Change Orders and the Schedule for input prior to approval as well as elevate the items to the Commissioners during a meeting that may need a vote. Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved.

Additional services will need to be approved by the Commissioners for existing professional service contracts. A request to increase additional services for Brandywine Design Guild, LLC regarding the west wall design shoring with structural engineers for \$1,900. Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved.

A discussion followed regarding the timeline of the improvements.

The Commissioners reviewed the request from Ridgely Aviation, LLC for a tax abatement. A discussion followed. They have questions that they would like to address with our attorney. Tabled until a meeting with Patrick Thomas, Town Attorney.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Purdy of 6 Lister Lane wanted to discuss the trees that were removed in Lister Estates. He was very disappointed that any trees were removed. He wanted to know why they were not informed of the packet that was mailed to Lister residents and why additional trees were removed other than the 7 trees that were discussed at the June 2017 meeting. He believes that the Commissioners have no concern what the residents feel. He does not understand why there is no tree commission any longer. President Hurley discussed that out of the 18 trees taken down 17 were requested to be removed and the other tree was already causing damage. A lengthy discussion followed.

Garnett Hines Lister Estates resident wants the Commissioners to consider opportunities for the town to grow and gain value in the homes of Ridgely. She believes planting trees will help. She wants this to benefit the whole town.

Commissioner Buckle addressed the audience asking that the residents get involved in all the events in town. He invited everyone to the town events that we are celebrating.

Commissioner Casey addressed the audience asking the residents to consider volunteering for the different organizations and committees. Regarding property values, he discussed how not only trees, but neighbors and the way they keep their yards affect property value.

Patrice Flamer addressed the Commissioners about getting feedback from the Commissioners for the non-profits. She believes that they should get involved in all of the events and organizations.

Joe Anderson of CTS addressed the Commissioners. He discussed how the Ridgely Commissioners do more than any other town that he has seen. Ridgely has so many events that are hosted here and the Commissioners are always in attendance.

Chad Dean, 9 Robins Court, gave his family history as long time Ridgely natives. Mr. Dean indicated that he is probably the only local to live in the Lister Estates subdivision. He gave a speech regarding his feelings and opinions regarding Commissioner Casey. He indicated that he believes Commissioner Casey is the reason volunteerism is low and how Commissioner Casey undermined him as the Chairman of the 150th Celebration Committee. He had spent many hours planning the celebration and that all of the ideas for the event were his. He went on to say that the event will now be a second-rate, not well attended event run by someone who is not even from the State of Maryland. He accused the town of not properly advertising for the most recent election. Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey refuted his statement, Mr. Dean would not concede. He had planned to run for Commissioner and believes the town to be at fault.

Jerry Sutton addressed the Commissioners. He rebutted Chad's comments. He appreciates Chad's family, but does not appreciate Chad trash talking the volunteers that are trying to put on the 150th celebration. He asked for positivity and not the negative trash talk.

Cathy Scwab addressed the Commissioners. She publically thanked Chad for everything that he has done for the Historical Society and the 150th Celebration, but stated that he was not the only one to dedicate their time, work and effort in the making of the 150th celebration. Even though she was not born here, she loves this great little town of Ridgely. She believes the event will still be a memorable event and expressed her disappointment in Mr. Dean's comments.

Michelle Christopher, 202 Walnut Street, addressed the Commissioners. She asked for clarification if Lister Estates is part of the town. The Commissioners said yes they are, they pay town taxes and a separate home owners' association fee. She asked if there is a plan in place for repairing the sidewalks. Are the commissioners willing to take ideas on how to repair the sidewalks? She discussed lifting the sidewalks and other options. She is willing to meet with the Town to discuss and make suggestions. A discussion followed.

David Crist Director of Public Works and Ridgely resident addressed the Commissioners. He feels like after the events of this evening's meeting and the social media bashing that has been happening, things have reached an all-time low. He does not understand how with everything that is going on in the world, why we cannot come together. We need to work together.

Garnett Hines discussed volunteerism and having a sign outside of the town hall to help promote events. She commented that she agreed with David Crist.

Eric Kellner addressed the Commissioners. He has Ridgely roots and is the head of the RVFD. He discussed the struggle for volunteers and the perceived drama that some people have regarding organizations. He feels that Chad's display this evening does nothing to help gain volunteers.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Berkey, CMC
Clerk-Treasurer