

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
SEPTEMBER 5, 2018
TOWN MEETING**



The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date in the town hall at 7:00 pm for the September 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, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Joe Anderson, Reese Stafford, Debbie Bowden, Brandon Cunningham, Cathy & Rick Schwab, Michael Snow, Deb Minnich, Linda Jones, Alfred Sathhoff, Jesse Crook, RI Brown, John Bobb, Dawn Chase, Jasmyn Robinson, Lisa Robinson, Roger Ringgold, Jr. and Laura Patrick

President Buckle opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2018 Special Budget Review Workshop and the August 6, 2018 Town Meeting, 2nd Commissioner Casey, approved.

CLERK-TREASURER

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve paying the bills, 2nd Commissioner Casey, approved. Total General Funds Reconciled \$321,297.90, Total Sewer Funds Reconciled \$313,200.90, Total Water Funds Reconciled \$175,792.48

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

David Crist presented his report to the Commissioners. President Buckle asked to have some tree limbs cut on Maple Avenue for the school buses. Public Works is down a person for the next week or so. Trees have been ordered for Lister Estates and should be planted about the third week of October. It will be a 2-3 week process depending on the weather. We met with a broadband company to put equipment on the water tower and we are waiting for the official proposal. We will have Corrosion Control discuss the specifics if we decide to proceed.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Manos was not present, but his report was submitted to the Commissioners.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Jerry Sutton addressed the Commissioners. The 2017 financial audit will begin next week. He anticipates a good year and no problems.

RVFD

Not present

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cathy Schwab addressed the Commissioners. She complimented the town on the purple lights in town for Caroline goes purple. Saturday is the Ridgely chat session 10 am. A telegraph key was installed at the train station on behalf of the Easton Amateur Radio Club.

OLD BUSINESS

Dawn Chase of New Beginnings United Methodist Church made a request that the Commissioners allow them to connect to the town water and sewer services with the new 7,500 square foot building that they are building. They plan to have a campus that would include the parsonage. A discussion followed about EDU's, right of ways and planning that would be required to complete the job. The County would need to be involved, particularly if the church is to be connected. The town requested the square footage of the church to add that into the calculations and a set of plans. There was a discussion regarding annexing in the area of the new building. Ms. Chase indicated that they will get the information that the town requested. The decision to connect will be delayed until the additional information is discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

James Thomas submitted the dates that he wants to use Martin Sutton Park for his flag football league for the Commissioners approval. Pending a signed agreement with the town and public works with the league, Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, all in favor.

Debbie Bowden from Caroline County Economic Development requested the Commissioners to designate the North County Enterprise Zone that includes portions of the Town of Ridgely. A discussion where Mrs. Bowden explained the benefits of the designation followed. Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve including Ridgely in the designation as in the proposed draft, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, all in favor, approved. A public hearing on the designation will be held at the October 2018 meeting.

John Bob from the Ridgely Raptors Baseball team requested a donation/sponsorship from the Commissioners. They would also like to start hosting tournaments in the town and have some dedicated fields that they would maintain. The Commissioners discussed trying to meet with Little League to come up with a compromise. A discussion followed. They discussed using the field at Martin Sutton Park that they would maintain. The Commissioners agreed that would be acceptable and there will be a lease agreement drawn up. Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve a \$500 donation, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, all in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Jones of 2 Eighth Street discussed the situation at her neighbor's house. The town had the yard cleaned up. She is having a problem with her water. She believes it is a problem that is caused by the trees on the adjacent vacant property. She has water problems that are under her house. She is looking for relief and help from the town to help with the situation. It has become not only a nuisance, but a health issue. David Crist said that he will take a look at the trees and try to give her a recommendation, but if it is on private property he would not be able to physically do anything.

Lauren Sheets of 6 Park Avenue asked about the code enforcement letter that she received. She wanted to know why the town was sending the letters. A discussion followed. She complained about Hal Davis, the town inspector. David Crist explained that Middle Department Inspection Agency is contracted to do the Code Enforcement. She expressed her displeasure with the current code enforcement policy.

Reese Stafford talked about the grass cutting policy. He also complained about the town alley near his property and then around the water tower. He also had issues with Hal Davis and the letters that have been sent.

After a lengthy discussion, the Commissioners agreed to extend the deadlines on the code enforcement letters by an additional 30 days until Hal Davis can be present at the meeting. The Commissioners asked for a complete list of the letters that were sent out to be reviewed before the next town meeting.

Mike Howard 203 Oriole Avenue asked about the adoption of the 2015 property maintenance code.

Jesse Crook owns a rental property at 208 Central Avenue. He wanted to express his concern about Hal Davis. He feels that he is not people friendly. He suggests to the Commissioners that they have the authority to rescind the code or to put it on hold. He asked them to consider putting a moratorium for at least 3 to 6 months so that people would be able to do the work that was asked of them.

Laura Patron a nurse at the Caroline County Health Department wanted to offer the town of Ridgely \$3,000 grant to purchase signs that encourage pedestrian walking. The Commissioners thanked her for her generous offer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24.

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