

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
SEPTEMBER 6, 2023
TOWN MEETING**



The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at the town hall at 6:00 pm for the September town meeting. The following were in attendance: President John Hurley, Commissioner Leonard John Buckle, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Operations David Crist, Zoning Administrator Melissa Leonard, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Joe Anderson, William Zaruba, Carla Mosley, and Blair Carmean.

President Hurley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve the following minutes: June 21, 2023, vote to go into closed session, June 21, 2023 closed session, July 3, 2023 town meeting, August 7, 2023 town meeting. The motion was seconded by President Hurley, approved.

STAFF REPORTS

CLERK-TREASURER

Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve paying the bills, 2nd President Hurley, approved. Total general funds reconciled \$290,324.17, total sewer funds reconciled \$47,819.50, total water funds reconciled \$39,163.80, total ARPA funds reconciled \$692,991.95. A request was made from the Maryland Junior Black Bears for a donation request. Commissioner Buckle made a motion to donate \$500, 2nd President Hurley.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

David Crist addressed the Commissioners. The vacant position within public works has been filled and the new employee will be starting on September 19, 2023. There are several items that have been pending approval for purchase using the ARPA funding: updating the cameras at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (\$4,000), ditch mower for the tractor (\$21,500), admin/code enforcement vehicle \$30,000, festival lighting/safety lighting with power supply (\$21,050). Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve the purchases, 2nd President Hurley.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Not present.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Nothing to report.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

The FY23 audit will be the week of September 11, 2023. Gerald Sutton said that he is anticipating another good year with positive fund growth.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Gerald Sutton said that there were about a dozen visitors at the train station open house over Labor Day weekend. He apologized for accidentally breaking a picture frame inside of the train station.

OLD BUSINESS

Angel Perez of Drug Free Caroline submitted a written request for a proclamation for Ridgely Goes Purple for the month of September. Commissioner Buckle approved the proclamation, 2nd President Hurley.

Carla Mosley has property just outside of the town limits at the intersection of School Street and Hannah Henry Way and is requesting to be allowed to connect into the town's water and sewer system. President Hurley discussed that the town has a limited number of allocations and that if the town were to open it up to this property, we would have to for

everyone. The allocations that we have are for properties located within the town limits. He was not in favor of the connections. Commissioner Buckle agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The discussion during Carla Mosley's request prompted David Crist to address rumors that he has been hearing that the town has a failing sewer system. He refuted the rumors (which are said to be based on the 2009 Comprehensive Plan) and explained that the Comprehensive Plan project the build out of the town. The projected development has not happened, so the capacity of the plant and the station is not in jeopardy.

Blair Carmean of Caroline Tennis Association said that the summer tennis program went well. They had 67 kids participating. He thanked the town for the use of the tennis courts and said that they are planning to have the program again next summer.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie L. Berkey, CMC