

COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY

APRIL 3, 2023

TOWN MEETING



Summary of the March 28, 2023, closed session:

DATE: March 28, 2023

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: Town Hall

PURPOSE: To discuss personnel matters.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Md. Code Ann., General Provision Article §3-305(b): (1) "To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of an appointee, employee, or official over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals."

VOTE TO MEET IN CLOSED SESSION: In favor: Commissioner Hurley, Commissioner Buckle; Opposed: none.

TOPICS DISCUSSED: Zoning Administrator

ATTENDING: President Anthony Casey, Commissioner John Hurley, Commissioner John Buckle, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey (via phone), Director of Public Works David Crist, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Zoning Administrator Melissa Leonard.

ACTION TAKEN: Compensation for Zoning Administrator will be included in the FY24 Budget.

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 6:00PM in the town hall for the April 2023 town meeting. The following were in attendance: President Anthony Casey, Commissioner John Buckle, Director of Public Works David Crist, Chief of Police Jeff Eckrich, Zoning Administrator Melissa Leonard, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Rick & Cathy Schwab, Ralph & Michelle Hurley, Andy Hrobar, Christine Eckrich and Matthew Rust

President Casey opened the meeting at 6pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2023, town meeting. The motion was seconded by President Casey.

STAFF REPORTS

CLERK-TREASURER

Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve paying the bills, seconded by President Casey, all approved. The clerk was absent due to illness. Account reconciliation was tabled until the next meeting.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Nothing to report.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Nothing to report.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

A request was made from the Planning and Zoning Commission to the town Commissioners asking them to approve or deny the request made by Matt Rust to be allowed to build and sell one house on lot 3 before having to install the infrastructure (paved street, water & sewer connections). A discussion was had. The commissioners ultimately voted to deny the request. Melissa also addressed an email received from the town

attorney asking if we wanted to continue to pursue Property Maintenance violators from January 2020 that had been put on hold at the court due to the pandemic. She stated that at least one of the properties had been sold. The commissioners advised to go forward with the pursuit of violators that are still not in compliance.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Jerry mentioned the town voting on the budget revision and thanked town employees for the town being in such great shape.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cathy wanted everyone to know that the Train Station will be open on the first Saturday of the month from 10-1 throughout the warm season. She thanked the town for allowing the RHS to use our meeting room for their annual meeting to allow for the space needed to host. She reminded the public of Hannah Henry Day taking place on Saturday, April 8th and thanked Commissioner Buckle for his planned attendance. The Ridgely Pharmacy Easter Egg Hunt will also be on Saturday (rescheduled from April 1st) and should not interfere with Hannah Henry Day. Please follow them on Facebook and check out their improved website.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Buckle voted to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-391 Chapter 75 Building Construction. President Casey seconded, approved.

Commissioner Buckle voted to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-392 FY23 Budget Revision. President Casey seconded, approved.

NEW BUSINESS

A discussion was had about the FY24 tax rate. Commissioner Buckle made a motion to keep the tax rate at a constant yield of .4882. Commissioner Hurley seconded (via signed declaration in his absence). All approved

The request for proposal RFP2023-01 for grant writing and engineering consulting services was reviewed and approved by the commission. President Casey signed the necessary documents allowing us to move forward.

Joel Berger called to state he would not be in attendance tonight. David mentioned that the property is half in and half out of town limits and recommended that we follow suit as we've only allowed properties that are within town limits to connect into our system. It was suggested he goes to Planning and Zoning first.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerry Sutton mentioned that Saturday, April 22nd will be the 2nd Annual Town Yard Sale and that the Lions Club will be selling breakfast sandwiches in front of the Methodist Church. He also reminded everyone of Strawberry Festival coming up in May.

Ralph Hurley wanted clarity about his trailer. He noticed lots of boats and trailers parked on the streets and wanted to make sure it was allowed. He was told that if they are tagged, it's fine. If not or expired, the police should be notified. He also mentioned a surge in stray cats in the neighborhood and was directed to the Humane Society for their trap kit. They have a program to help.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32pm motioned by Commissioner Buckle and confirmed by President Casey.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa Leonard
Asst. Clerk-Treasurer