

COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
JANUARY 3, 2024
TOWN MEETING



The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 6:00 pm for the January 2024 town meeting. The following were in attendance: President John Hurley, Commissioner Leonard John Buckle, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Operations David Crist, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Cathy & Rick Schwab, Carolyn Crist, Rosalie Harris, Brandon & Jennie Samuel.

President Hurley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Hurley asked Carolyn Crist, Rosalie Harris, and Jennie Samuel to come to the front of the meeting room to present them each with a Commissioners' Challenge Coin for going above and beyond in helping the town during the Christmas in Ridgely festivities.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2023, town meeting, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved.

STAFF REPORTS

CLERK-TREASURER

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve paying the bills, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved. Total general funds reconciled \$209,395.81, total sewer funds reconciled \$46,736.61, total water funds reconciled \$40,457.96, total ARPA funds reconciled \$71,539.54. Last year we raised \$22,380 for the winter festival. We budgeted \$35,000 for anticipated donations for the 2023 festival, and to date we have raised \$54,000. The costs for the festival are \$46,668 as of today, with a few outstanding statements still coming in January. If there are any remaining funds, they will be put towards the required deposits on the amusements for 2024.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

David Crist reviewed the winter festival. It went smoother than the first year, but we still have a lot of things to learn and improve on. We will be deciding later this month if we will proceed with a festival for 2024. The main issue that we have is being understaffed for the event. It would be easier to hire help for the event than to rely on volunteers. We are competing with so many other events during this time of year and the volunteers are stretched thin.

Heartland Holdings has purchased Hanover Foods. We were very recently informed that they are using the old Hanover lagoons for DAF pits. If they are allowed to continue, this will be devastating to the town. DAF causes a horrible stench that consumes a 4-5-mile radius and draws thousands of flies. Denali is the big company that is behind the pits. The county has passed a 60-day moratorium on the use of the DAF pits and there is a hearing on January 23, 2024, at the HAPS building in Denton to discuss the pits. The town is planning to attend to oppose the pits. The Commissioners discussed their concerns and opposition to the DAF pits.

We have been getting quotes from engineering companies to revise the 2009 Comprehensive Plan. We are planning to utilize ARPA funding to complete the project. We need one more quote before we can select the company and hope to have that in either February or March.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Not present.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Not present.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Gerald Sutton said that the auditors were finishing up the financial reports and an extension was granted until January 31, 2024.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cathy Schwab said that there were 17 winners in the Christmas decorating contest. The Ridgely train station was featured in Shore Magazine and received good reviews. She discussed their trip to Williamsburg and Accomac, Virginia.

OLD BUSINESS

The Commissioners discussed the donation request from North Caroline Cheer Boosters that was tabled at the December meeting. After reviewing the remaining funds in the budget for donations, Commissioner Casey made a motion to donate \$1,000, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved.

NEW BUSINESS

There was a donation request from CCTC AMPP program. Commissioner Casey made a motion to donate \$500, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 pm.

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

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Thank you for attending.

PLEASE PRINT NAME CLEARLY

Cathy Rick Schwab

Carolee Cist

Rosalie Hance

Small to Little

XXXX Brandon Hance
Sinner