

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
OCTOBER 2, 2023
TOWN MEETING**



The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 6:00 pm for the October 2023 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, Chief Jeff Eckrich, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Hayden Edelen, Eleanor Beach, Shawn Beach, Mark Jarrell, Ava Jarrell, Olivia Jarrell, Zoey Waidner, Cathy & Rick Schwab, Lokia Pierce, Christine Eckrich, Michelle Jarrell.

President Hurley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the September 6, 2023, town meeting minutes, 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 \$231,368.95, total sewer funds reconciled \$46,132.04, total water funds reconciled \$39,934.62, total ARPA funds reconciled \$692,991.95. The

Employee severance account at Summit bank does not earn much interest with the current rates. There was a discussion to close the count and open an investment account with Shore United Bank that would yield a higher rate. Commissioner Casey made a motion to make the changes to the account, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved.

Director of Operations, David Crist, suggested allowing the girl scouts to go first because it is a school night.

NEW BUSINESS

The girls of Girl Scout Troop 899 gave a presentation to the Commissioner about Gaga Ball and that in order for them to receive their Bronze Award, they would like to work together and build a Gaga Ball Pit at Martin Sutton Park. All the girls took turns speaking. The labor would be done by the girl scouts and their parent volunteers. David Crist discussed possible locations for the pit and said that he thought it was a great idea. Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the pit, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, all in favor, approved. After the presentation the girls and their parents left the meeting.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

David Crist provided a winter festival update. We have met with the Department of Emergency Services and will be getting lots of help from them, the county, and the state police. We are sold out of vendor spaces.

Regarding the town trees: he is aware of numerous complaints on Facebook about trees that have been promised to be trimmed and/or removed. The contractor that we are contracted to use has brain cancer and has asked us to be patient. They will be working on the trees over the next few months.

On September 25, 2023, Lokia Harris-Pierce sent an email to Melissa Leonard regarding the comprehensive plan and the School Street pump station, which David read to the Commissioners (INCLUDED IN MINUTES). During this time Ms. Pierce left the meeting. He provided the Commissioners with his responses to the email and read them aloud (INCLUDED IN MINUTES) along with property records and the wastewater capacity management plan (INCLUDED IN MINUTES). After listening to David's explanation and history on the issues noted in the email, the Commissioners did not see that Ms. Pierce had any valid issues. They discussed that if the defamation continues, the town may have to seek legal counsel.