

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY**  
**APRIL 4, 2016**  
**TOWN MEETING**

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 7:00 pm in the Ridgely House for the April 2016 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, Chief of Police Gary Manos, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard, Officer Gordon Geesey, Officer Stewart Ewing, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Cathy and Rick Schwab, Ken Groves, Rob & Jan McQuade, Mike Redgraves, Joe Inman, Stacey Singer, Mike Passwaters, Donna Miedl, Ross Harper, Ginger Lockhart, Danny Lockhart, Carol Balderson, Lee & Nora Pruett, Christine Eckrich.

President Buckle opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2016 town meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Casey, approved.

**STAFF REPORTS**  
**CLERK-TREASURER**

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve paying the bills, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Casey, approved.

Total General Funds Reconciled \$532,911.44

Total Sewer Funds Reconciled \$404,606.36

Total Water Funds Reconciled \$170,046.83

Election Day is April 25, 2016 from 1—7 pm.

We have received approval from the Maryland Energy Administration to proceed with the insulation of the town hall. This grant was started in 2013 and has finally been approved.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

Director of Public Works David Crist presented his report to the Commissioners. There was a discussion about the ongoing vandalism problems at the skate park. The Commissioners agreed that skate park is normally closed before Strawberry Festival and won't be opened back up until after the festival. There was a discussion about installing cameras at the skate park.

We are working on a master plan to update the playground and walking trail at Martin Sutton Park. A discussion followed regarding making it ADA compliant. There was a discussion regarding the town trees. We have just removed 15 trees and there are many others that need to come down. We are waiting for a plan from DNR regarding what comes out next. A discussion followed.

**CHIEF OF POLICE**

Chief Manos presented his reported to the Commissioners. Officer Geesey on behalf of the town donated \$300 to the Cambridge Animal Hospital in honor of the K9 officer that passed away. Jan Mcquade from Lister Estates addressed the Chief about miscommunications with the police department and Lister Estates. A discussion followed, and Chief Manos presented the attached report of calls for Lister Estates.

**RVFD**

Not present.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANT**

Gerald Sutton spoke to the Commissioners. We are busy working on budget preparation.

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Rick Schwab addressed the Commissioners regarding the SHA train station grant. There was a discussion regarding the ramp that SHA is requesting we put into the plan. Rick has requested to submit a waiver to keep the plans as we had originally planned. A discussion followed. The Town of Denton is very willing to help us in the process as they are just ahead of us in their grant. The Commissioners agreed to submit the waiver. Cathy Schwab said that the Historical Society is celebrating its' 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade tree planting will be April 27<sup>th</sup>. The next chat session will be April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There is a request for sponsoring the Humane Society Gala. A discussion followed. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to do the silver sponsor, 2<sup>nd</sup> President Buckle, all in favor.

Chris Rogers from AECOM was unable to attend the meeting.

Ken Groves President from Lister Estates home owners association spoke regarding the trees and sidewalk problems that they are having. They believe that the town should repair the sidewalks. The town has received a letter from DNR has indicating that all of the trees will need to be removed. Anything that is between the sidewalk and curb, will need to be removed. A discussion followed. The Sycamores will come out first. The town is planning to fix the sidewalks that have been damaged by town trees throughout the town, not just in Lister Estates. It was asked if the community could file an appeal to DNR.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Danny Lockhart spoke about Danny's Walk for Wishes. Ridgely Elementary is going to provide support for the walk. The event will be May 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 – 2.

Mike Passwaters addressed the Commissioners regarding his building permit for a carport. Commissioner Hurley indicated that the \$100 charge he was assessed is exactly what the town is charged for the inspection. Commissioner Casey suggested sending a letter to MDIA to ask for a breakdown of the cost for the service. The Commissioners agreed.

Jerry Sutton presented a plaque to the Commissioners for their support of Fuel Up To Play 60.

Carol Balderson thanked the police for keeping track of their property while they were away and was happy to see the water tower painted upon her return.

Donna Mietel 148 East Bell has asked for help with the vacant house next to her that gets vandalized. Melissa will reach out to Queenstown Bank (owners) to have them properly board up the building.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephanie Berkey, CMC  
Clerk-Treasurer