

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
NOVEMBER 2, 2020
TOWN MEETING
MINUTES**



The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 11:00 am in the Town Hall and Via Zoom Meetings for the November 2020 Town Meeting. The following were in attendance: President John Hurley, Commissioner Leonard John Buckle, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Public Works David Crist, Lt. Jeff Eckrich, Zoning Administrator Melissa Leonard, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Merry Mears, Debbie Bowden, Robert Bradley and Loge Knight.

President Hurley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2020 Closed Session and the October 5, 2020 Town Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Casey, all in favor.

STAFF REPORTS

CLERK-TREASURER

Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve paying the bills, 2nd Commissioner Casey, approved.

Total General Funds Reconciled \$261,027.65, Total Sewer Funds Reconciled \$86,997.87, Total Water Funds Reconciled \$34,063.73. Maryland Department of Transportation has provided us with updated Highway User Revenue amounts. \$122,372.10 for FY21 and \$129,631.33 for FY22. We are hopeful that in spite of the COVID 19 Pandemic, the numbers will remain at this amount.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

David Crist presented his report to the Commissioners. Public Works will be working on leaf pickup and the Christmas decorations in the park for the first part of November.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Lt. Eckrich gave a report to the Commissioners. 205 W First Street had an eviction of a problem resident. There was a breaking and entering on 3rd Street and a warrant was served. There is a skydiving event at the airport November 13-15 that the police will be assisting. We will be working with LGIT insurance and the attorney to create a plan for the shooting range by the end of the year.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Grass letters are winding down.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Nothing to report.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Rick Schwab reported that Mactoberfest tours of the train station went well. Christmas ornaments are available. They have the Breyers Milk Plant on them and are \$4.00 each. The Christmas home decoration contest will be on December 20th. November 3 is the 15th anniversary of the Ridgely Historical Society. There will be an article in the Caroline Review. They thanked the town for all of the support they have received over the years.

OLD BUSINESS

There will be a Veterans Day celebration on November 11, 2020 at 9:00 am at the flagpole memorial in Martin Sutton Park.

NEW BUSINESS

Debbie Bowden of Caroline County Economic Development discussed the strategic plan effort for Ridgely.

President Hurley introduced Ordinance No. 2020-386 RE: Chapter 78 (Burning, Outdoor) of the Code of the Town of Ridgely. The Ordinance will allow for the use of approved fire pits in town limits.

Robert Ballinger (via letter) is concerned with the noise level of the fire house, specifically the siren. The Commissioners discussed that it is zoned accordingly and that the siren system is still used.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Loge Knight from His Hope Ministries gave an update on housing and homeless services in the county. They are considered essential and were never closed during the COVID 19 pandemic. They are the largest shelter in Caroline County and service every single town in the County. November is Homeless and Hunger Awareness Month. They are in need of volunteers and are seeking a volunteer from every town to be on the board.

Commissioner Casey discussed the flag pole lighting at the town hall and options that we will look into.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33pm.

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