

COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY  
DECEMBER 3, 2018  
TOWN MEETING MINUTES



The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 7:00 pm in the town hall for the December 2018 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, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Joe Anderson, Donna Hayes, Officer Ross Harper, Mike Redgraves, Bill Zaruba, Connie Zaruba, Joseph Graham, Michael Lesniowski, Cathy Schwab and Rick Schwab.

President Buckle opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2018 Special Meeting with TGM Group and the November 5, 2018 Town Meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Casey, all in favor, 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 \$520,137.20  
Total Sewer Funds Reconciled \$356,165.07  
Total Water Funds Reconciled \$205,455.34

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS**

David Crist presented his report to the Commissioners. There was a discussion to try to make it a no parking area in front of the train station. David will make a call to State Highway. The street sweeper will be here next week and Bramble is supposed to have North Park finished this month. The trees in Lister Estates should be finished this month as well.

**CHIEF OF POLICE**

Chief Manos presented his report to the Commissioners. A policy has been created and sent to the State's Attorney office for the body cameras.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANT**

Gerald Sutton discussed with the Commissioners what would be involved and the pros and cons of paying off the State Retirement Loan and the RVFD Loan early. We had a favorable audit report and are considering paying off some debt. We would save \$55,000 if we paid off the fire company loan before 6/30/19. The State Retirement Loan would decrease the overall debt by \$43,000 in the enterprise fund and \$106,000 in the general fund. It would decrease our positive fund balance by \$173,000. Commissioner Casey made a motion to pay off the State Retirement Loan and the RVFD Loan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Hurley, all in favor, approved.

**RVFD**

Not present.

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Create in Caroline event was held in November at the Train Station. They hope that this event will continue on and grow. The Lions Club had Santa at the Train Station on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The event was a success. The Historical Society is having the annual Christmas decorating contest on December 22<sup>nd</sup> with the Lions Club and Historical Society are donating prizes.

Cathy & Rick Schwab received a volunteer award from the Rural Maryland Council and a proclamation from the Governor for all that they do to volunteer for the town. The Ridgely Christmas ornament will be ready on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December and is the old post office/bank. She asked David to look at the HVAC air filters in the train station.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mike Lesniowski of the Ridgely Airpark requested the Commissioners if they would give a discount on the property taxes. A discussion followed. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to proceed with the offer that was extended to the previous owner of an abatement of the portion of the runway taxes for a period of 5 years, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Casey, all in favor. The town will contact our attorney to start the process. There was a discussion about the zoning of the property.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joseph Graham of Maryland Avenue complained about the unmarked police cars. He wanted the cars marked. He believes it is a safety issue. A discussion followed. He also discussed the ADA policy and that we need to repair the ramps from the sidewalks. David Crist discussed the town code re: the sidewalks.

Donna Hayes from Caroline North Little League asked if there would be a meeting between the town and Caroline North Little League. There has not been a meeting set. They suggested a meeting on January 10, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the town hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm

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