

COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY

DECEMBER 6, 2021

TOWN MEETING



The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 10:00 am in the town hall for the December 2021 town meeting. The following were in attendance: Commissioner Anthony Casey, Commissioner John Hurley, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Public Works David Crist, Chief of Police Jeff Eckrich, Zoning Administrator Melissa Leonard, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Ridgely Historical Society Rick and Cathy Schwab, Nicholas Tindall, Debbie Bowden, Joanne Sisco and Norma Pinkney.

Commissioner Hurley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2021 town meeting, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, approved.

STAFF REPORTS

CLERK-TREASURER

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve paying the bills, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, approved. Total general funds reconciled \$201,148.01 total sewer funds reconciled \$42,411.09, total water funds reconciled \$70,617.17, total ARPA funds reconciled \$704,349.19.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

David Crist told the Commissioners that the past month had been spent putting up the Christmas decorations throughout the town. The parade went well and the non-profits doing fundraising at the train station are doing well. The only issue was the placement of a food truck between the Ridgely Pharmacy and Provident State Bank. Brenda Walls was angry that the truck was placed near her business. A discussion followed. Commissioner Casey said that the plan for future years is to have a "Winterfest" celebration that will have vendors and food trucks all along Bell Street. Commissioner Hurley agreed.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Eckrich said that we will be hiring a new police officer that will be starting in January. Lillion Lone will be joining the department. The background investigation is going well and she speaks Spanish as a second language.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Melissa Leonard said that there are a few issues with chickens and roosters in town that are being addressed and that rental inspections are ongoing.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Gerald Sutton said that the FY21 financial audit is being finalized.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cathy Schwab thanked the town for letting the Historical Society use the town hall for their meeting this month and for the beautiful decorations in the park. The food donations that were collected at the train station during the parade went well. The RHS decoration contest will be on December 20th.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Debbie Bowden from Caroline County Economic Development gave a presentation of their five-year strategic plan. Highlights include increasing the businesses and tax base by 5% and the accommodation's tax by 25%.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephanie Berkey said that the town was one of 4 municipalities out of 9 counties to receive a \$2,500 grant from Exelon (Delmarva Power) for our Christmas light display. Elkton, Wilmington and Ocean City were the other recipients.

Gerald Sutton thanked the town for the help with the Christmas parade.

Nicholas Tindall from Caroline County Council of Arts discussed his support for Debbie Bowden and that he is excited for the 5-year strategic plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie L. Berkey, CMC