

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY  
FEBRUARY 1, 2021  
TOWN MEETING MINUTES**



*Summary of the February 1, 2021 closed session:*

*DATE: February 1, 2021*

*TIME: 1:56 PM*

*PLACE: Town Hall and Zoom Teleconference*

*PURPOSE: To perform an administrative function not subject to the Open Meetings Act and to discuss personnel matters involving specific individuals over whom the Commissioners have jurisdiction*

*STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Md. Code Ann., General Provision Article §3-305(b): (1) "To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of an appointee, employee, or official over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one of more specific individuals."*

*VOTE TO MEET IN CLOSED SESSION: In favor: President Hurley, Commissioner Casey; Opposed: none.*

*TOPICS DISCUSSED: Personnel matters involving specific individuals over whom the Commissioners have jurisdiction*

*ATTENDING: President John Hurley, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Public Works David Crist, Chief of Police Jeff Eckrich, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton.*

*ACTION TAKEN: Police will be filling a full-time and a part-time position, Public Works will be filling a full-time position – both in upcoming months.*

*Commissioner Casey made a motion to adjourn the closed session part of the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> President Hurley, approved. The closed session was adjourned at 2:53 PM.*

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date in the Town Hall at 3:00 pm for the February 2021 town meeting. The following were in attendance: President John Hurley, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Public Works David Crist, Chief Jeff Eckrich, Zoning Admin Melissa Leonard, Cathy & Rick Schwab, Gerald Sutton.

President Hurley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the January 4, 2021 Town Meeting minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> President Hurley, approved.

#### STAFF REPORTS

##### CLERK-TREASURER

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve paying the bills, 2<sup>nd</sup> President Hurley, approved. Total General Funds reconciled \$519,622.08, Total Sewer Funds reconciled \$121,465.32, Total Water Funds reconciled \$57,339.20. Hannah Henry passed away just before her 108<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Commissioners agreed to send flowers to the funeral.

#### DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

President John Hurley presented David Crist with a 20-year service award and thanked him for his years of service to the Town of Ridgely. KCI has offered to work on a stormwater grant for Martin Sutton Park pro bono. They need approval to proceed. Commissioner Casey made the motion to allow KCI to submit the grant on behalf of the Town, seconded by President Hurley. Approved.

#### CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Jeff Eckrich reviewed the year-end report for the department. Calls for property checks were up. They are watching the elementary school traffic patterns now that there are split dismissals due to COVID-19. The conference room/training room upgrade is going well and Walmart has donated shotguns to the department, as well as helping with the cost of the television for the training room. Chief Eckrich suggested that for the FY21 Budget Revision the \$10,000 that has been allocated in the past to the Drug Task Force, be allocated to the Ridgely Volunteer Fire Company. Commissioner Casey made the motion to approve the change, 2<sup>nd</sup> President Hurley, approved.

#### ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Notices for rental inspections have been mailed. We expect to be able to do the inspections again in the Spring as restrictions for COVID ease.

#### FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Gerald Sutton told the Commissioners that with the favorable audit report we are adding things to our new budget. Once again, we have received an unmodified opinion from the auditors, which is the best rating that you can receive.

#### HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cathy Schwab thanked the Commissioners for sending flowers to the family of Hannah Henry. The Historical Society has submitted a permit application for the sign for the Library. They are hoping to be open by appointments in the Spring.

#### OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Shannon Hannawald had submitted a request via email to light up the town in yellow for endometriosis awareness month. The Commissioners agreed.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT (None)

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16pm

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