

COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
FEBRUARY 4, 2019
TOWN MEETING



The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall for the February 2019 Town Meeting. The following were in attendance: President Leonard John Buckle, Commissioner Anthony Casey, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Public Works David Crist, Sgt. Gordon Geesey, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard, Town Attorney Patrick Thomas, Officer Ross Harper, Officer Jeff Christopher, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Brenda Walls, Donna Hayes, Joe Anderson, Everett Sesker, Zach Reid, Norma Pinkney, Sandra Pitts, Lucille Ball and Tonya Wilson.

President Buckle opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to approve the January 7, 2019 closed session meeting, the January 7, 2019 Town Meeting and the January 10, 2019 Special Meeting with Caroline North Little League, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, all in favor, approved.

STAFF REPORTS

CLERK-TREASURER

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

Total General Funds Reconciled \$620,960.62

Total Sewer Funds Reconciled \$335,712.40

Total Water Funds Reconciled \$185,929.84

Town Attorney, Patrick Thomas, has question for the Commissioners before proceeding with the tax abatement for the runway portion of the taxes for the airport. It will require a resolution which must follow the same process as an annexation resolution (published four times in the paper following introduction; notice to County and State planning agencies; public hearing; does not take effect until 45 days after adoption; subject to right of referendum). It needs to be determined who will cover the costs associated with the resolution and what the benefits to the Town will be in abating the property taxes. The Commissioners discussed having the owner of the airport pay for the costs associated with the abatement and the benefits to the town. It would be good for economic development and the owner is planning to fix up the airport and make it more profitable. Commissioner Casey made a motion to have the costs associated with the tax abatement to be covered by the property owner, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, all in favor. The town will contact the owner to give him an approximated cost for the process.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

David Crist presented his report to the Commissioners (attached). State Highway has not contacted us yet about the parking in front of the train station.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Sgt. Gordon Geesey presented the police report to the Commissioners (attached).

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Melissa Leonard reported that we are still working on the zoning ordinance update.

RVFD

Not present.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Gerald Sutton reviewed the budget revisions for FY19. Ordinance No. 2019-381 will be introduced in New Business. The payoff of the Fire Company loan saved us about \$50,000 and the State Retirement loan will save a lot of interest. We used dedicated fund balance revenue to pay off the loans and it is reflected in the budget.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Not Present.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

President Buckle introduced Ordinance No. 2019-381 FY19 Budget Revision. The ordinance will be voted on at the March 2019 Town Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm.

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