

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
MARCH 5, 2018
TOWN MEETING**

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date in the town hall at 7:00 pm for the March 2018 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, Chief of Police Gary Manos, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard, Officer Ross Harper, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Rick and Cathy Schwab, Ceres Bainbridge, Anna Mansfield, Jeannette Delude, Connie Zaruba, Bill Zaruba, Lou Hayes, Eric Kellner and Ann Jacobs.

President Hurley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Anna Mansfield, the President of the Ridgely PTA, discussed the upcoming fundraisers that they are doing. They are doing a raffle for the entire month of May based on the Maryland Lottery. Tickets are \$20.00 and they asked us everyone to participate and spread the word.

Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2018 town meeting, 2nd Commissioner Casey, approved.

**STAFF REPORTS
CLERK-TREASURER**

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

Total General Funds Reconciled - \$654,324.77

Total Sewer Funds Reconciled - \$388,512.03

Total Water Funds Reconciled - \$177,578.13

The State of Maryland provided the 2018 Constant Yield Tax Rate Certification for the FY19 budget year. The rate is .5725 to produce the same revenue that we are currently receiving. The current rate is .5793. A discussion followed. Commissioner Buckle made a motion to set the rate at the constant yield rate of .5725, 2nd Commissioner Casey, all in favor, approved.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Director of Public Works David Crist presented his report to the Commissioners. Brush pick up after the big storm is happening this week and will continue. They are going to do their best to get it all picked up.

President Hurley presented David Crist, Ross Harper, John Buckle, Buddy Vanskiver and James Moore with gift cards to thank them for all of the hard work that they have done helping with the interior renovations of the town hall.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Gary Manos presented his report to the Commissioners. The upstairs police station renovation is coming together nicely. Chief Manos thanked Officer Ross Harper for all of the time that he has donated to the project. Commissioner Casey said that he has received many thanks and praises for the police presence at the elementary school. Chief Manos introduced Frank Jones as the new part-time police officer.

RVFD

Eric Kellner presented his report to the Commissioners. February was a slow month with only 13 calls. The recent Nor'easter storm did produce a lot of calls so far for March. The spaghetti dinners are going well. They have hit new records with meals served. The flea market will be later this month. He reminded everyone to change batteries on the smoke detectors when the clocks change this month.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

President Hurley congratulated Jerry on being named Caroline County's Most Beautiful Volunteer for 2017. Jerry thanked the town employees for all the hard work they have done on the town hall. Budget to actual looks good. State income tax receipts are only at about 1/3 collected. Water and sewer accounts looks great.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cathy Schwab thanked Jerry for his help with the 150th. They were proud to have submitted his name for the most beautiful volunteer. Rick Schwab has finished the 150th celebration book. It is 96 pages long and covers the past 50 years. All of the events from 2017 are covered.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2018-379 FY18 Budget Revision, 2nd Commissioner Casey, all in favor, approved.

NEW BUSINESS

President Hurley introduced Resolution No. 2018-01 USDA Loan for Town Hall Renovations/Improvement Project, a requirement to proceed with the USDA loan. Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2018-01, 2nd Commissioner Casey, all in favor, approved.

President Hurley introduced the USDA loan resolution, a USDA document necessary to proceed with the USDA loan. Commissioner Buckle made a motion to approve the USDA loan resolution, 2nd Commissioner Casey, all in favor, approved.

Ceres Bainbridge from Caroline County Tourism addressed the Commissioners. She complimented the town on the renovations. She requested funding from the town for the upcoming fiscal year budget. She discussed the many things that tourism does and the new changes that have been made lately to update with the "brand" of Caroline County "You Belong Here." Commissioner Buckle made a motion to contribute \$2,000 to tourism, 2nd President Hurley, approved.

Melissa Leonard submitted a request from James Thomas for a flag football league at Martin Sutton Park on Sundays in the spring. He will work to make sure it does not interfere with soccer. The Commissioners did not see any issues, but indicated that they would need to make sure that they clean up the park after use and have the proper insurance.

Melissa Leonard presented a cake to Jerry to celebrate his award and invited everyone to stay for cake.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.

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