

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY  
MAY 3, 2021  
TOWN MEETING**



The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 11:00 am in the Town Hall and via Zoom for the May 2021 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 Jeff Eckrich, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Debbie Bowden and Asaff Bogg.

Outgoing President John Hurley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Casey made a motion to appoint Stephanie Berkey as Clerk-Treasurer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Buckle, unanimous approval.

Commissioner John Hurley was sworn in by Stephanie Berkey to serve as Commissioner for another 3-year term.

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2021 Town Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Casey, 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 \$283,437.99, total Sewer Funds reconciled \$104,238.72, total Water Funds reconciled \$104,947.19. Special Events permits were presented for signature by the Commissioners from Caroline Tennis Association and YMCA. There was a request from David Twigg at 304 Caroline Avenue for a partial sewer abatement for a leak that he had repaired. The Commissioners approved the partial abatement.

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS**

David Crist presented his report to the Commissioners. D.W. Masonry, Inc. has submitted a quote for the repairs at the skatepark for \$23,000. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to accept the quote, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Casey, approved. The repairs should begin within the month. An invoice was sent to Caroline County Board of Education for the sewer line break at Ridgely Elementary School. Chuck Petrick, from the Board of Ed has emailed David and is disputing the invoice. We have submitted with the invoice all of our invoices that were incurred and documentation from the subcontractors as to the how and where the damages originated. As a courtesy to the Board of Ed, we did not assess the 15% administrative fee that would

typically be added. The Commissioners agreed that the County does owe the town the money. The County recycle bins have been an ongoing problem. People have been dumping household garbage at the site and there have been numerous complaints about the trash all over and blowing into yards, the smell and the problem of the raccoons and rodents that this is attracting. Nearby homeowners are upset and there are plans for 7 houses to be built adjacent to the site. The bins have been removed and we are trying to work with the County to have them relocated. The Commissioners suggested that we ask the County to put them out at the site of the County Tech Park. We will send them a request.

#### CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Eckrich presented his report to the Commissioners. There have been several complaints for speeding on Maryland Avenue and patrols have stepped up. The principal at Ridgely Elementary has asked the police to help with traffic at dismissal time.

#### FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Jerry Sutton said that the budget looks great and that it is good that we are going with the Constant Yield Tax Rate.

#### HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Jerry Sutton discussed the train station being open and the visitor that have been received. The Ridgely Lions Strawberry Festival is going to be virtual this year. He discussed the plans to have strawberry art sidewalk drawings done throughout town.

#### OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

#### NEW BUSINESS

President Buckle introduced Ordinance No. 2021-388 FY22 Budget Ordinance. The ordinance will be voted on at the next meeting.

Debbie Bowden from Caroline County Economic Development introduced Asaff Bagg from Dagan/BSD Farms. He discussed their plans to purchase 10 acres of land at the Tech Park. They have been in business for 35 years in Israel. The Commissioners welcomed them to Ridgely.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 am.

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