

COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
AUGUST 6, 2018
SPECIAL BUDGET REVIEW WORKSHOP



The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 5:00 pm in the town hall for a special budget review workshop. 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 of Police Gary Manos and Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton.

President Buckle opened the meeting.

Jerry Sutton led the discussion of the FY18 budget and financial highlights. He was very excited to share his analysis of the year. He believes that we will be increasing the positive fund balance by about \$133,000 this year. We were very conservative on budgeting the revenue. The AECOM Martin Sutton Park grant came in under budget which also helped increase the revenue. Expense increases were in the tree maintenance in town and paying off the Martin Sutton Park playground loan. We are still in the 2 month lookback period for the bills and revenue for the audit. This will make the fund balance at about \$500,000, which is very close to where the auditors want the town to be financially.

He wants us to think about paying off the fire company loan before the July 1, 2019 deadline for the discount. A discussion followed.

He believes the police department budget is right where it needs to be. It is about half of the general fund budget.

Jerry discussed the enterprise fund balances and how the enterprise fund operates. He cautioned against paying off loans too quickly and we would deplete our rainy day funds.

There was a discussion about beginning to change out sewer lines as part of our capital planning.

Chief Manos informed the Commissioners that Sgt. Geesey is interested in leaving the Ridgely Police force. If he does, he would like to purchase K-9 Keita from the town. A discussion followed. They agreed that \$2,000 would be acceptable as it is about what her depreciated value would be. The dog is very attached to Sgt. Geesey and it is doubtful she would do well with a different handler.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.

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