



Town of Ridgefield Board of Finance Approved Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2018

I. Call to order

D. Ulmer called to order the meeting of the Board of Finance at 7:30 PM on March 27th, 2018, Ridgefield Town Hall, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT (Large Conference Room). Board Members (D. Ulmer, D. Moccia, Connelly, J. Mancini, and A. Freidenrich) were in attendance.

Additional Officials in attendance include: R. Marconi (First Selectman), Kevin Redmond (Controller), Maureen Kozlark (BOS), Steve Zemo (BOS), Bob Hebert (BOS).

II. Review of Proposed Town Budget

- a) Cost Savings - R. Marconi presented a review of the proposed town budget during which he discovered numerous phone lines that weren't being utilized. R. Marconi will eliminate these which will result in a cost-savings going forward.
- b) Planning & Zoning - The line item for Planning and Zoning came in flat, which includes a part-time position that will now be made full-time.
- c) ECDC - A. Freidenrich expressed concern regarding the ECDC financial awards going to financially secure business entities, rather than funding initiatives like the Ridgefield Prevention Council, who's initiatives include addressing the opioid crisis.

- d) Volunteer Fire Department - D. Moccia asked if the volunteer fire department funding will be cut. R. Marconi stated that their budget will remain flat as their work is incredibly important to the town.
- e) RVNA - D. Ulmer discusses the new RVNA request, to which R. Marconi responds it is a reasonable request considering their community work.
- f) Ridgefield Police Department – After review, R. Marconi stated that it would be more cost-effective to purchase a standard Jeep Cherokee versus the Jeep Grand Cherokee, resulting in a \$10k savings (per vehicle). The annual line item total for the police department is \$3.24M, which includes one School Resource Officer at the high school (not including the summer months).
- g) Mobile Radio System – R. Marconi discusses this line item, as it's a fairly large expense being that it's the first year and the initial costs of implementation are included.

III. Review of Capital Budget

- a) Governor Street Parking Expansion – Town Engineer has requested \$1.159M for this project. The expansion will add an additional 63 parking spots (there are currently 70 spots available) to accommodate visitors, residents, and town employees. Town employees will be given weekday work passes.
- b) Founders Hall Parking Issue – Founders Hall has brought a parking issue to the town's attention. R. Marconi states that once capacity is reached, a traffic study must be performed.
- c) Schlumberger – The Schlumberger building is currently being utilized as a storage facility; however, the structure needs a new roof. A renovation is necessary as the future anticipated use will include 40% by the town and the remaining 60% will be utilized by other various entities. R. Marconi states that there will be \$971k left, to be bonded on the property.
- d) BOE/Superintendent Suspension – R. Marconi and the Chairman of the Board of Education met to discuss the recent suspension of the Superintendent. While the details of the discussion during the Executive Session could not be disclosed, R. Marconi states that this is in the best interest of the town and all involved.

D. Moccia moved and D. Ulmer seconded the motion to approve the transfer of the funds. Motion carried 5-0.

IV. Adjournment

D. Ulmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shannon Freda