



**Town of Ridgefield**  
**Board of Finance**  
**Approved Meeting Minutes**  
March 28, 2018

**I. Call to order**

D. Ulmer called to order the meeting of the Board of Finance at 7:30 PM on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 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), Bob Hebert (BOS), Pete Hill (Director of Public Works), Dave Buccitti (Highway Foreman), Dennis DiPinto (New Director of Parks & Recreation), Paul Roche (Retiring Parks & Recreation Director), Phil Kearns (Parks & Recreation).

**II. Budget Deliberations and Presentations: Parks & Recreation**

- a) P. Kearns explained that the budget includes school grounds, community services and recreation facilities. The recreation expenses are offset by revenue. P. Kearns explains that school expenses account for one-third, the town one-third, and users one-third of the budgeted amount. The budget resulted in an increase of \$55k from last year. Per P. Kearns both school and field maintenance are holding flat in terms of revenue. Membership revenue suffered secondary to the bridge work, as traffic delays made the Recreation Center difficult to access. The Recreation center is asking for approximately \$200k of capital for the purchase of new equipment, for ADA compliance as outlined in their 10-year plan. \

- b) P. Kearns states that there are currently 31 full-time employees and 150 part-time and seasonal employees; however, there have been no recent new hires.
- c) The Recreation Center has a major renovation planned, the cost of \$950k was approved last year and they are in the process of reviewing the BOS recommendations. This renovation also includes the installation of an outdoor swimming pool which is expected to cost \$2M.

### **III. Budget Deliberations and Presentations: Highway Department**

D. Buccitti discusses the process of paving town roads. R. Marconi states that asphalt doesn't always adhere properly secondary to the amount of recycled materials used in the asphalt mixture. R. Marconi also states that due to a lack of work, contractors are taking on jobs in other boarding states – which will ultimately impact our paving schedule.

### **IV. Budget Deliberations: Operating and Capital**

- a) Venus Building - J. Mancini stated that the Venus Building was not in the budget and requested that it be included in the fiscal 2019 budget. R. Marconi stated that they have preliminary information that is being presented to the Town Engineer before it can be included.
- b) Venus Building (continued) – Plans for the Venus Building include the RVNA moving to their newly built space on Governor Street. With the Ridgefield Playhouse expansion (new lobby) in the infancy stage, the Board of Education will likely move into the RVNA's previous location. Included in this project will include a new elevator and bump out space allowing for a new entrance (handicap accessible), meant to secure the Board of Education space. The cost of this project is expected to be approximately \$1.34M, of which the Ridgefield Playhouse will be paying \$14 per sq. ft and will generate \$60k in rent. R. Marconi feels that the upgrades and increased rent are an investment for the town. D. Ulmer has requested parking studies (will be provided by R. Marconi) for review prior to voting on the budget.

### **V. Adjournment**

**D. Moccia moved and J. Mancini seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shannon Freda