



## **Town of Ridgefield**

### **Board of Finance**

#### **Approved Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday March 19, 2019

#### **Call to order**

D. Ulmer called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Finance at 7:30 PM on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at Ridgefield Town Hall Meeting Room, 400 Main St., Ridgefield, CT.

Board Members D. Ulmer, J. Mancini, A. Freidenrich, D. Moccia and S. Connelly (via phone) were in attendance.

#### **I. Comments from the Public:**

None at this time.

#### **II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Members of the BOF tabled discussion on the January 2019 minutes as they were not prepared to discuss at this time.

February 2019 minute corrections as follows:

- Page 1 correct spelling of Barrick to Barrack (address)
- Page 2 Ed Tyrell stressed fees charged aren't in jurisdiction of BOF in relation to pickleball.
- Page 2 CAFR is abbreviation for Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
- Page 3 March 22 change to March 27. Correct word "big" to "bid" (same line)
- Page 3 Dr. Collins to look into bus contracts and get back to BOF in relation to pick up times for St. Mary's and Ridgefield Academy.
- Page 4 Grand list increase correction from .06 to 0.59%

Motion to approve minutes for February 2019 by A. Freidenrich, seconded by D. Moccia. All in favor.

#### **III. Treasurer's Report by Molly McGeehin**

Analysis of Month End Balances and Debt Service Payment Plan provided. Currently investing money from bond issuance in December. A treasury note will be seen within the next year. There is currently no loss of a percentage rate at all. Currently has money to invest. Fairfield County Bank ambulance fees are listed. She lists anything where money can be earned. The depository

account is for the ambulance fees in which only deposits go into. From there, funds are swept to earn interest.

#### **IV. Tax Collector's Report by Jane Berendsen Hill**

Currently down to three tax sales. Payoff amounts for all three have been requested. Two are business condos, the third is a home. We've already collected budget on bottom three categories of spreadsheet provided. Prior year collections were swayed by tax sales. In January, \$180,000 deferred account was paid off. Interest rate on deferrals is currently 3%. Recommendation is to stay with this figure. It has been at 3% since the 2011 grand list.

Motion to keep at 3% by D. Moccia, seconded by A. Freidenrich. All in favor.

#### **V. Board of Education**

Members of the BOE were absent. D. Moccia questioned that the substitute report no longer lists the number of substitutes. "What is the expense for substitutes and tracking the rate of absentees?" No firm answer has been provided on the amount being paid to subs. "How do they develop their numbers? What is the trend towards sub head count? Is our absentee rate higher/lower than surrounding towns?" These questions need to be specifically answered.

#### **VI. Controller's Report, Kevin Redmond**

**Revenues-**Taxes and intergovernmental are two big drivers of revenues. Currently light in golf revenues. Parks & Rec will make up some revenue. April 1<sup>st</sup> is opening for golf. Parks & Rec started slow due to low camp attendance. Members were also lost due to bridge construction.

##### **Expenses**

- Legal-a settlement on a conservation issue. Legal fees have been recovered.
- Fire over time will be an issue. Fire captain thought they would come in on budget, however, will be about \$50,000 over for the year. This is due to vacancies and disabilities.
- Computer supplies-server needed to be replaced.
- School grounds-over time was over budget. Weather related due to snow and ice.
- Schlumberger Building Maintenance-covered through transfers. Costs were high. Going into next year this budget will be hit. The need is to consistently come in under budget.
- Highway Vehicle Fuel-February high amount of \$11,000.

#### **VII. Ordering/Calendaring BOF Deliberation Meetings**

- Monday March 25 at East Ridge
- Tuesday March 26 at Town Hall
- Wednesday March 27 at Town Hall
- Thursday March 28 at Town Hall
- Monday April 1 at Town Hall
- Tuesday April 2 at Town Hall

\*All meetings are 7:30 pm

\* Meeting agenda provided

### **VIII. Old Business**

Discussion on possibility of CT tolls. “What will the money be used for?” Discussion on the possibility of residents using back roads i.e.: Ridgebury Road as a cut through to avoid tolls. This would cause back road congestion as well as disrupt neighborhoods.

### **IX. New Business**

Discussion on grant for rooftop patio at Ridgefield Library. “What’s the ongoing expense, maintenance costs, long term up-keep?”

### **Communications & Correspondence**

No communications or correspondence.

### **X. Adjournment**

D. Moccia moved and J. Mancini seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM. Motion carried 5-0

Next meeting March 25, 2019

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Mia Belanger