



## **Town of Ridgefield**

### **Board of Finance**

#### **Approved Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday March 27, 2019

#### **Call to order**

D. Ulmer called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Finance at 7:30 PM on March 27th, 2019 at Ridgefield Town Hall Meeting Room, 400 Main St., Ridgefield, CT.

Board Members D. Ulmer, J. Mancini, A. Freidenrich, S. Connelly were in attendance. D. Moccia absent

#### **I.Highway Department**

Peter Hill, Director of Public Works and Dave Buccitti present. Discussed the proposal of road paving. Some roads are partial only. List of roads to be paved in 2019: Barrack Hill (partial), Grandview Drive, Mimosa Circle, Oscaleta Road, Peaceable Hill, Peaceable Ridge (partial), Perry Lane, Pumping Station, Revere Place, Rising Ridge, Standish Drive, Stony Hill/Terrace, Stonecrest, Thunder Hill, Whipstick. Total cost \$2,151,196.32.

Cost of roads if paved-2019: Nod Road, Cattle Pen, Comstock Court, Nod West, Turner Development. \$753,966.16.

Roads suggested for Microsurfaced: Nod Road, Cattle Pen, Comstock Court, Nod West, Lynn Place, Hunt Court, Howes Court, Barnum Place, Taylor Court, Titus Place, McKeon Place.

Highway Department has reached out to contractors for different types of paving. They're happy with the process in Redding and it's more budget friendly. For Oscaleta Road, the cost would be over \$300,000; with the new process it would be \$117,000. The process is Cold In Place Recycling. Machine adds oil into one process and it's done on site which is much quicker and less expensive. Another process discussed is Fiber Mat. Conditions of the road determines the type of process used. Dates from contractors get pushed out due to weather conditions. The new process is highly recommended by the towns currently using it. Ridgebury Road is a candidate to be done after 2019. It will possibly be done in four stages and contracted out. A great job is being done by the Highway Dept.

The Capital is light. Their biggest item is Sweeper. Sweeper is currently down but should be back up in the next week. Currently have 17 Mack trucks. Trucks cost \$200,000 and last 15+ years. Public Works requests a truck wash. Under bodies of trucks get sand and salt underneath. Town cars go through car wash at no cost. A truck wash would give longevity to the trucks and periodic repairs would be less.

The Highway Department is requesting funds to hire a contractor for on-site crushing, recycling and screening of material to be used as base material for general road maintenance, pavement and drainage projects. The request for an increase in funds is due to larger rocks and stones which require a larger style crusher to break them. By crushing material, it is about 1/3 the cost of buying it.

## **II. Capital**

Routers-\$99,000, 8-10-year life span.

Golf-Equipment running, fixing current issues with some equipment. Cart path extension is important; pushed off for the future. Cart path will be big push for 2021.

Parks & Rec-\$98,000 figure concerned about; high number.

Building Estimate-\$10 million for police. Wanted the figure identified in the police budget. Very lean in the budget.

Fire-Ladder truck \$1.2 million, grant application pending. Old truck from 1986 can be sold. Question posed- "Will drone technology be used in fighting fires?" Possibly in the future. EMS, paramedic and medical offers the best services to residents. Technology improves medical success rate.

Engineering- A.C. at the Venus building is the biggest concern. East Ridge school making repairs; steps being redesigned. A suggestion of not having doors across the whole center and reduce entry points. Approval for Barlow, Scotland and Scotts Ridge for solar roof.

Library- \$20,000 for computer annual budget. Library is good at fundraising. They source various grants and have people that devote time to grant research and applications. The library is always full.

2021 will be an interesting year. Looking at regionalization. Many regionalization things we can do that will save money. Looking at possibility of regional police stations but don't want to compromise the safety of residents.

## **III. Jane Berendsen-Hill, tax collector**

Supplemental-basically flat in forecast; good lists this year. Suggestion to take prior down and supplemental up. 1 million collected. Interest and lien fees are a bit high. Tax sale is about \$700,000. Two business condos and one home went on auction. Suggestion to take interest and liens down to 400.

Conveyance- last year finish at \$802,000. 2019 forecast would be an all time low. Housing was equal for first half. National trend is slow down, then pick back up. Upcoming spring market projects a positive forecast. Suggestion to go back to \$800,000 for old figure of \$725,000.

Building- \$550,000 for 2019; same number as 2018 actual. Suggestion to go up \$25,000.

ECS-Education Cost Showing-\$579,005; next year close to same.

Fire Marshall Services- trending lower, ambulance will be lower. Stick with \$800,000. 3-4% rate increase in ambulance fees.

Golf-will not make their numbers due to seasonal weather

Skate park-large drop in numbers.

School bus fuel-reduction due to lower fuel rate that we're locked in at.  
1.47 mill rate increase.

\*Board of Finance prepared to discuss and ask questions of Board of Education at next meeting.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

S. Connelly moved and J. Mancini seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 PM.  
Motion carried 4-0

Next meeting March 28, 2019

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Mia Belanger