

Town of Ridgefield

Board of Finance

Approved Meeting Minutes

Tuesday January 15, 2019

I. Call to order

D. Ulmer called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Finance at 7:30 PM on January 15, 2019 at Ridgefield Town Hall Meeting Room, 400 Main St., Ridgefield, CT.

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

II. Comments from the Public- None

III. Election of Officers:

Nomination by S. Connelly of D. Ulmer as Chairman, seconded by A. Freidenrich. All in favor.

Nomination by A. Freidenrich of J. Mancini as Vice Chairman, seconded by S. Connelly. All in favor.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes-December 18, 2018. D. Moccia moved and S. Connelly seconded the motion to approve with revisions. Motion 5-0.

V. Treasurer's Report-attached. Balance and monthly budget included in minutes are very promising. Much time and work goes into the report.

No motions posted.

VI. Tax Collector's Report

Presented by Jane Berendsen Hill. Numbers are lower than usual for December. 57.55% collected. Not many residents are paying taxes early. 7 properties will likely be sold. Started off with 15, down to 6 or 7. This makes the back-tax line look better. Anticipating \$175,000 from deferred account. Town will get lump sum and monthly amount for the difference. There is no date of expected payment yet. Should occur in 2019. S. Connelly asked about the deferment program. Jane doesn't think the deferment program should be in ordinance. The tax relief credit must be on their main residence and for a minimum of 1 year. The policy is in the ordinance. Approximately 45-55 people have applied for tax credit relief. The application is for a 2-year period and gets evaluated at the time of renewal. Following review of the Tax Collector's Report, no questions or clarification was requested by the BOF members. No motions posted.

VII. Controller's Report-Kevin Redmond

Revenue- auditors to attend next meeting. Currently up against fixed assets. In the capital budget, module requested. Fixed assets are always being dealt with. Trying to streamline the fixed asset process. Not much change from last time other than a lift on interest. Many numbers such as CD's will be fixed. Sales are happening at a lower rate. High end homes are taking a hit and families are moving on.

Expenses-3 layoffs and 7-8 early retirements. On page 11 of last report, the SRO time gets impacted. Holiday pay affected during December. SRO billing at this time is to cause a change in holiday figures. 1 police salary early retirement taken. The tree budget is high. Many residents' complaints about trees that need to be removed. A Freidenrich asked how some costs hit the system in relation to schools/school grounds. "Where does this number come from?" Town engineer trying to understand how the figures are budgeted.

VIII. Transfer-At the Board of Selectman meeting November 28, 2018, a vote was taken and approved to transfer funds for the buy-out of a Police Department Ford Explored to replace a Fire Department Ford Expedition with over 100,000 miles. Funds for this buyout will be transferred as follows:

Operating Account 10501-52020 \$4789.74

Capital Account 30651 56882 \$16,734.26

Total \$21,524.00

J. Mancini suggested to revisit the vehicle transfer discussion and is not ready to make a decision at this time. Is there a time frame on the transfer? A special meeting may take place to discuss this again with more information. Currently uncomfortable with moving forward. Motion to table this topic from D. Moccia, seconded by A. Freidenrich. Questions are on legality and pending legal advice. All in favor of motion.

IX. Od Business-A. Freidenrich joined an education walk through of schools. J. Mancini disappointed in the approach taken. Current deferred items should be addressed but this did not happen. At the Tri-Board meeting, schools fell apart. J. Mancini would like a robust discussion on budget items. The process doesn't seem to be followed. Haven't heard or seen anything for a supplemental budget. The budgets needs to be fought over. A Freidenrich noted that at the December Tri-Board meeting, a site visit was suggested. This began on December 19. Areas of concern in schools' buildings were noted; asbestos. Why is necessary work not being done? Significant work needs to be addressed. Mold is a concern and curs and ramps need attention. Some issues seen at some schools did not need immediate addressing. Some issues can be addressed by maintenance. Carpet and cosmetic issues were noted. There are instances with seaming issues that can cause tripping. Kitchen equipment and some lighting need replacement. Discrepancies range from school to school. A level of prioritizing needs to take place. S. Connelly is looking for priorities of school repairs. There are inefficiency problems that can be addressed by maintenance. Communication is needed to address these issues between BOE, principals, maintenance etc. Solar roofs on schools are being evaluated. An ad hoc committee needs to be developed and not to include BOF members due to a conflict of interest. S. Connelly: "Some issues are unacceptable. Responsibility of funding school repairs need to be taken." A suggestion was made of an engineer being brought into every school to audit them. A much greater focus has been on school security over the past years. Better internal coordination needs to be in place and funding

needs to be adequate. A P&Z study was recently in the paper and a copy of it has been requested for residents' concerns. Noted in the study increased living expenses, education, taxes etc. Approximately 200-300 have taken an online survey with approximately 100 on a telephone survey. S. Connelly wants to see what concerns residents have. He requested a copy of the P&Z study to K. Redmond.

X. New Business-None

Communications & Correspondence-None
No motions posted

XI. Adjournment-D. Moccia moved and A. Freidenrich seconded the motion to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Next meeting February 19, 2019

Respectfully Submitted by,

Mia Belanger