



Town of Ridgefield Board of Finance

Approved BOF Meeting Minutes (Final Draft)

Tuesday October 19, 2021

I. Call to order

Dave Ulmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM October 19, 2021 via Zoom. Board Members Dave Ulmer, Greg Kabasakalian, Mike Rettger, Andrew Okrongly and Karen Ogden present.

Others Present:

Town Officials: Kevin Redmond, Controller; Jane Berendsen Hill, Tax Collector; Molly McGeehin, Treasurer.

II. Public Comments:

None

III. Approval of minutes:

August 8, 2021-approved as amended. Motion by Ms. Ogden, seconded by Mr. Rettger. All in favor.

August 24, 2021-approved as amended. Motion by Mr. Rettger, seconded by Mr. Okrongly. All in favor.

September 21, 2021-approved as amended. Motion by Mr. Rettger, seconded by Mr. Ulmer. All in favor.

IV. Treasurer's Report:

Ms. McGeehin reviewed the Treasurer's Report for September. She indicated there was not much new to report – little investment activity and interest rates remain low. In response to a question from members, it was agreed that the Janney investment report will be distributed to the members each quarter end.

V. Tax Collector Report:

Ms. Berendsen-Hill reviewed the Tax Collector's report for September. She reported that collections are doing well with not much new news to report. There is a reasonable chance to

beat the budget but she feels it is too early to tell and by how much if any. Prior year collections look strong, but this is due to the tax deferral program that was done in 2020.

VI-Controller's Report:

Mr. Redmond reviewed the September Controllers' Report, with specific comments on the following items:

- Tree Warden expenses are running high at 44% of budget YTD. He is keeping an eye on the numbers and will need to reallocate budget from another budget line to supplement the tree expense budget if necessary.
- Civilian Dispatch is not hitting the report yet and likely shows as higher costs in the Police Support budget line. Mr. Redmond will meet with the police chief to discuss the costs to determine if there is any impact on the budget.
- Fire-OT continues to run high driven by vacancies. There are related savings in the full-time line item, but not a one-for-one offset.

Mr. Redmond also responded to members questions regarding worker's comp, Parks and Rec, Police Patrol, and expected utility costs, particularly fuel oil.

Mr. Redmond also reviewed the 3+9 Revenue Forecast. Revenue projections are up slightly from 2+10 forecast. There was discussion that for this year we should monitor tax collections, recording and conveyance fees, and look to recognize favorability earlier in the year if results seem stable.

Mr. Redmond reviewed the updated RSI-1 and RSI-2 Reports. He indicated that there were not many changes from the prior version other than the inclusion of \$376k resulting from the BOE release of prior year encumbrances.

Budget Transfers

Mr. Redmond reviewed the proposed budgetary transfers for FY2020-21 (attached as Exhibit 1), which had previously been reviewed and approved by the Board of Selectmen. Following questions by members and discussion, upon motion by Mr. Kabasakalian and second by Ms. Ogden, all transfers were approved 5-0.

VII. Old Business:

ARPA-American Recovery Plan Act-

Mr. Rettger reported that nothing has been scheduled at this time for a second meeting of the ad-hoc ARPA planning group.

WPCA

Mr. Ulmer noted that there is a Town Meeting scheduled to be held October 20, 2021 to consider the recommendation of the BOS and BOF for approval to use up to \$2.9 million of ARPA funds for Phase 2 sewer project.

VIII. New Business:

Upcoming meeting agendas-The members discussed a suggestion for a place holder on future meeting agendas to discuss planning topics such as the debt payment schedule, the property

valuation process, and the pension plan. Members were asked to submit their thoughts for topics to be covered.

BOE- Mr. Ulmer reported that negotiations with the teacher's union came to a tentative settlement. The main impact involves scheduled wage increases of 9.8% cumulative over the coming 3 years beginning in 2022. This cost is partially offset by an increase in the employee contribution to their health care premiums. This proposed settlement still requires approval by the BOE and review by the BOS, as well as ratification by the NEA Ridgefield membership.

IX. Adjournment-Motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. by Ms. Ogden, seconded by Mr. Rettger. All in favor.

It was proposed that the next meeting, scheduled for November 16 include a Tri-Board combined meeting, then followed by the regular BOF meeting. To accommodate this schedule, it was proposed to start the first meeting at 6:30pm. Mr. Ulmer will discuss with Mr. Marconi and Ms Da Silva, including whether to meet in person or via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Mia Belanger