



Town of Ridgefield Board of Finance

**Approved Meeting Minutes
Tuesday April 5, 2022**

Call to Order

Dave Ulmer called the Board of Finance meeting to order at 7:00 PM on April 5, 2022 in the Town Hall large conference room. Board Members Dave Ulmer, Greg Kabasakalian, Mike Rettger, Andrew Okrongly and Karen Ogden present.

Others Participating:

First Selectman Rudy Marconi; Kevin Redmond, Controller; Jonathan Steckler, BOE Chair; Dr. Susie Da Silva, RPS Superintendent; Cori Gillette, RPS Assistant Superintendent.

- I.** Motion to move the bonding resolution discussion to the beginning of the agenda by Ms. Ogden, seconded by Mr. Rettger. All in favor.

II. Bonding Resolution

Mr. Ulmer reported that the town's legal counsel had advised that formal motions regarding FY 2020-21 capital were advisable before going to bonding. Motion to waive reading of the full text of the bond resolution by Mr. Rettger, seconded by Mr. Okrongly. All in favor.

Mr. Ulmer made the following motion:

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled "Resolution Making Appropriations Aggregating \$2,124,218 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition, Installation And Construction Of Various Public Improvements And Equipment And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$2,124,218 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes", a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town by Town Meeting vote.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Rettger. All in favor. Mr. Ulmer thereupon declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted.

III. Additional BOE Budget Information

In response to a request by Mr. Ulmer prior to the meeting, Dr. Susie DaSilva presented information on items in the proposed BOE budget that could be considered non-recurring. The BOE has identified items totaling approximately \$330,000. These include purchases of texts and program materials that, once purchased, will be used for a number of years. The listing also includes program material subscriptions that had been getting purchased one year at a time in the past, but which offer substantial savings over time if purchased in multi-year blocks, which is planned for several programs. In some cases, the front-end cost will be spread over this and next year, but the budget will then see savings for the next 3-5 years depending on the subscription. Also in the listing were several items of equipment and consultant costs.

IV. Voting and Adoption of FY 2022-23 Budgets

Mr. Rettger made a motion to approve the Town Operating Budget in the amount of \$40,818,807 for 22-23 fiscal year as proposed by the Board of Selectmen, which represents an overall increase of 3.82%. Seconded by Mr. Okrongly. All in favor.

Mr. Ulmer made a motion to approve the Debt Service Budget in the amount of \$8,265,705 for 22-23 fiscal year as proposed by the Board of Selectmen, which represents an overall decrease of 15.6%. Seconded by Ms. Ogden. All in favor.

Following comments on the proposed BOE budget by the members, Mr. Rettger made a motion to approve the BOE Operating Budget in the amount of \$106,600,490 for 22-23 fiscal year, which represents an increase of 4.24%, and is \$250,000 larger than the 4% non-binding recommendation made by the BOS. Seconded by Mr. Ulmer.

The members offered comments regarding their support or opposition to the increase indicated by the motion. Following further discussion, the motion was approved 4-1, Mr. Kabasakalian voting no.

Mr. Ulmer noted that based on these approved amounts as well as the revenue assumptions approved previously, the resulting increase in the mill rate for the coming year will be 0.77% if the budgets are approved by the voters.

V. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 8:07 pm by Mr. Okrongly, seconded by Ms. Ogden. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Mia Belanger