



Town of Ridgefield Board of Finance

Approved BOF Meeting Minutes Tuesday May 10, 2022

I. Call to order

Dave Ulmer called to order the Board of Finance meeting at 7:00 PM on May 10, 2022 in the Town Hall large conference room. Board Members Dave Ulmer, Greg Kabasakalian, Mike Rettger, Andrew Okrongly and Karen Ogden present.

Others Participating: Kevin Redmond, Controller; Jane Berendsen-Hill, Tax Collector

II. Public Comments

None

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Okrongly to accept minutes from March 15, 28, 29, 30, 31, April 4, 5, 14th.
Seconded by Mrs. Ogden. All in favor.

IV. Treasurer's Report – No report was available for the meeting. Mr. Rettger and Mr. Okrongly reported that they had met with Treasurer McGeehin and Mr. Redmond to discuss amortization accounting for the town's securities holding. They will provide a recommendation and exhibits for discussion at the next BOF meeting.

V. Tax Collector Report

Ms. Berendsen-Hill presented the Tax Collector Report which had been distributed in advance of the meeting**. The town has fully met its tax revenue budget, and the current year collection rate should exceed the budget target.

Transfer of Uncollectable Tax Bills to Suspense - Ms. Berendsen Hill reviewed her report on uncollectible taxes which had been distributed in advance of the meeting**, with the recommendation to transfer \$152,244.03 of unpaid bills for prior years to suspense. She clarified that this action does not void the bills, which remain open for potential collection, but removes them as assets on the town's balance sheet. The proposed transfer is lower than last year's transfer of \$162,240.99. Motion to approve by Mr. Rettger, seconded by Mrs. Ogden. All in favor.

VI. BOE Financial Report – The members discussed the BOE financial report for March 31, which had been distributed in advance of the meeting**. Mr. Ulmer commented that not much has changed from February. Mr. Ulmer also reviewed emails from the BOE discussing recent changes in the state budget affecting reimbursement for excess special education costs, and the likely impact on the budget. The members requested that the BOE be asked to make a presentation at a future meeting outlining how they develop their estimates for special education recoveries in their budget and periodic financial reports.

VII. Controller's Report – Mr. Redmond reviewed the town's financial report for April, which had been distributed in advance of the meeting**. Revenues remain strong for Golf, Parks & Rec, and conveyance and recording fees. April saw an improvement in ambulance fee collections. Overall Mr. Redmond reported that his current estimate for the current budget is \$1.35 million net favorable combined revenue and expenses, without the BOE included.

VIII. Old Business/ARPA - Mr. Kabasakalian reported on a recent meeting of the ARPA advisory discussion group. Remaining unallocated ARPA funds are estimated to be \$1.7 million. The group has asked the Arts Council and Economic Development Commission to jointly develop recommendations for potential allocation of the funds, for discussion at the next meeting of the group on May 24, 2022.

IX. New Business-None

*Motion to recess the meeting until results for the budget referendum are available was made by Mrs. Ogden, seconded by Mr. Rettger. All in favor.

*Following the re-convening of the town annual meeting and the report of the budget vote, the BOF meeting was re-convened.

X. Mill Rate Recommendation – It was reported that all questions on the town's May 10 budget referendum were approved. Voter turnout was just under 7%.

Mr. Ulmer moved and Mrs. Ogden seconded the following motion to approve the mill rate for the 2021-2022 fiscal year based on the results of the referendum:

Resolved, that the tax rate for the Town of Ridgefield be set at 28.43 mills on the Grand List of October 1, 2021 and that said taxes shall become due and payable on July 1, 2022. Each motor vehicle tax bill shall become due and payable on July 1, 2022. Each real

estate and personal property bill in excess of \$100.00 may be paid quarterly. If any quarterly installments shall not be paid within thirty (30) days after the same becomes due, then the unpaid quarterly tax thereof shall be subject to interest at the rate of eighteen (18) percent annually or one and one-half (1.5) percent each month, or part thereof, from the due date, subject to a minimum interest fee of \$2.00 (CGS 12-146). Each motor vehicle tax bill shall be paid in full by August 1, 2022 and if not so paid, interest shall be charged at one and one-half (1.5) percent each month, or part thereof, from July 1, 2022 subject to a minimum interest fee of \$2.00 (GSC 12-146).”

All in favor.

XI. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. by Mr. Rettger, seconded by Mr. Okrongly. All in favor. Next meeting June 21, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Mia Belanger

** Materials that were distributed in advance of the meeting in the BOF members’ packets are maintained on file in the Controller’s office.