



Town of Ridgefield Board of Finance

Approved BOF Meeting Minutes

Tuesday August 16, 2022

I. Call to order

Dave Ulmer called the Board of Finance meeting to order at 7:00 PM on August 16, 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, Town Controller; Jane Berendsen-Hill, Tax Collector; Dr. Susie Da Silva, RPS Superintendent; Jill Browne RPS Finance Business Manager; RPS Facilities Manager Joe Morits; Jerry Myers, Fire Department Chief; Michael Grasso, Assistant Fire Chief.

II. Public Comments-None

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Rettger to accept minutes from June 21, 2022 with no changes. Seconded by Ms. Ogden. All in favor.

IV. BOE Request for Special Appropriation to Capital Projects

The members reviewed a request from the BOE, with endorsement by the BOS, for a supplemental capital appropriation of \$229,420 (which had been distributed in advance of the meeting **.) The funds are intended to cover additional costs for two school security-related projects that had been approved in the 2020 capital budget. Both projects had been started and partially completed before being suspended due to the covid situation in 2020. When picked up again in 2022, costs to finish the work were found to have increased due to demand and supply-

chain conditions. After questions and discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Rettger to support the request, seconded by Mr. Okrongly. All in favor. The request will now go back to the BOS to schedule the required town meeting for final approval.

V. Treasurer's Report

The members reviewed the June 30 and July 31 Treasurer's Reports (which had been distributed in advance of the meeting**.) Mr. Rettger explained changes in format related to investment income and maturity data based on work he and Mr. Okrongly had done with Ms. McGeehin.

VI. Tax Collector Report

Ms. Berendsen-Hill reviewed the July 31 Tax Collector's Report (which had been distributed in advance of the meeting**). She reported that the town continues to see an active real estate market and that recent transfer activity approached the record for a single month.

VII. BOS Request for Allocation of ARPA Funds

Mr. Marconi reported that at its July 13, 2022 meeting, the BOS had approved the allocation of \$232,978 of ARPA funds as recommended by the ARPA workgroup for reimbursement to the Ridgefield RVNA for unreimbursed expenses associated with the Covid vaccination clinic operated jointly by the town and RVNA in 2021. Teresa Santoro, RVNA President, explained various issues with the RVNA's efforts to obtain insurance or other reimbursement for their costs of operating the clinic particularly early in the process, resulting in a revenue/reimbursement shortfall. After questions and discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Ogden to support the request, seconded by Mr. Rettger. All in favor. The request will now go back to the BOS to schedule the required town meeting for final approval.

VIII. Proposal for the Purchase of Two Fire Engines

Mr. Marconi reviewed the background of the request of a supplemental capital appropriation of \$1,766,800, which is supported by the BOS for the purchase of two new fire trucks to replace two existing trucks that are becoming increasingly problematic in terms of lost time and maintenance costs. He noted that the issue had been discussed during the 2023 capital budget process for one of the trucks, but now a second truck has also been having serious issues. Both trucks are in the town's capital plan, but were not scheduled for replacement until next year and the following year. Thus, the request is to accelerate the timing of the replacement of these trucks. Chief Myers and Assistant Chief Grasso explained the situations they are experiencing because of the mechanical difficulties with trucks and reviewed the purchase proposal. If the order is placed now, delivery will be approximately 17 months. The new trucks are a different manufacturer, which is being used by Danbury and Bridgeport, both of which have had good experience. Mr. Marconi reported that he is discussing a plan with Danbury to have a shared maintenance program for the fire equipment under Danbury's management, which gets the town access to the required certified mechanic skills now required for all emergency vehicles. Motion to approve by Mr. Kabasakalian, seconded by Ms. Ogden. All in favor. The request will now go back to the BOS to schedule the required town meeting for final approval.

IX. Controller's Report

Mr. Redmond reviewed the Controller's Report for July 31. He indicated there is not much to note given this is just a one-month result, but he is hearing some concern with rising supply costs in some areas. He explained that June 30 results should be available to review shortly and that the auditors have begun their work on the 2022 year-end audit.

X. Old Business

The members reviewed an exhibit of potential allocations of remaining ARPA funds, that have been discussed by the ARPA working group.

XI. New Business-

1. Mr. Ulmer to reach out to the WPCA for an update at an upcoming BOF meeting.
2. Mr. Ulmer reported that he has invited Mr. Garzi to attend the September meeting to discuss the current property reassessment effort.
3. It was noted that the town expects to receive a grant of \$400,000 for ADA improvements for school playgrounds.

XII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. by Ms. Ogden, seconded by Mr. Okrongly. All in favor. Next meeting September 20, 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.**