

Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Monday, February 4, 2019 – 7:00 pm
Town Hall Large Conference Room
400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut
UNREVISED/UNAPPROVED MINUTES

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.

In attendance: R. Marconi, M. Kozlark, B. Manners, S. Zemo, B. Hebert

Agenda

1. General Budget Opening Discussion
2. Information Technology (IT) Budget
3. Parks and Recreation Budget
4. General Budget Discussion
5. Possible Capital/Operating Budget Vote

1. General Budget Opening Discussion

Present: Kevin Redmond

- Cost of health insurance was 18% over for a total of \$800,000. Ideal amount is no more than 8% for a total of \$500,000. As it stands now it can't be sustained, according to R. Marconi. R. Marconi mentioned they are considering the possibility of switching to the State of CT health insurance, which would require reopening all related contracts.
- A meeting was scheduled for 2/5/19 for preliminary discussions on health insurance.
- R. Marconi added that the switch would save the BOE 1 million dollars in budget expenses.
- R. Marconi stated that the goal is to get out of the negative.
- An amount of \$225,000 is an anticipated need.
- Revenues were flat compared to last year's budget.
- There were no added expenses, even though there have been requests
- "Open Spaces," a mission statement developed by two members of the Conservation Committee, was briefly discussed

2. Information Technology (IT) Budget

Present: Andrew Neblett (IT Director) and Al Garzi (Tax Assessor)

Andrew Neblett spoke about the IT budget:

- IT is a "conglomerate" budget, which means it helps many departments.
- There was a need for new financial software that requires a lot of work. The expenses would flatten if they moved to the cloud version, which also guarantees the most updated software. Since initial installation has already occurred, expenses are anticipated to go down.

Operating budget:

- Parks and Rec, Fire Dept., Treasurer, Office supplies, Training, Professional/Technical Services, Town Clerk, Annex, Core IT or internet for the town, presented as flat.
- Planning and Zoning and Finance presented as a decrease
- R. Marconi asked with Assessor was up by 200%. A. Neblett answered that they needed to cover an expense that wasn't in the budget, a camera-related issue which caused the increase
- Assessor went up but fluctuates up and down consistently
- The Police cruisers with computers require constant maintenance. IT replaces 3 a year. Overall expenses are down
- Tax up slightly
- Part-time salary for Jim Burns instated
- R. Marconi proposed to do some reductions. Target range is over and he will recommend changes
- A. Neblett said the most spending is done in May and June because he waits until then to purchase a lot of programs due to sales and most updated software
- Pertaining to Capital, A. Neblett said switches in the area are old and had to be changed, a \$99,000 expense

3. Parks and Recreation Budget

Present: Dennis DiPinto, Director; Phil Kearns, Parks and Recreation Commission Chair; Barbara Dobbin, Vice Chair

Overview:

- Approximately .5% over in revenue for a total of \$200,000
- Approximately .39% over in expenses, an \$18,000 increase
- Restructured salaries; saving \$99,000
- Pitched for \$20,000 for school grounds
- Asked for \$10,000 toward aquatic, a \$40,000 increase in revenue
- On track for expenses so far this year
- Asking for additional summer/seasonal help because they only have 3 instead of 5 workers and 1 worker became full-time to fulfill hours requirement
- Requested help with fulfilling the mandatory recycling program that they have yet to be able to complete
- Asked to take on responsibility for an additional groundskeeping project
- \$17,000 increase in revenue
- Projects recovery from any over expense within the next couple years
- Potential for growth for new programs to add to attraction
- Typically age out approximately 4th grade
- Considering having a conversation with the Boys and Girls Club about providing programs for middle schoolers
- Pickleball fee is projected to go up
- Recreational Center membership is projected to increase

- Asked to replace a 22-year-old tractor that is on a 10-year replacement plan
- Aim to rip up and repave area over 20 years old. Asked for \$20,000 is for project. Work is not affected by state work
- Tractor numbers are inconsistent
- Have expense for A/C in pool area in the amount of \$320,000. If in disrepair, Recreational Center will have to close. They anticipate a need for repair to the 17-year-old unit or need funds for a new one. They can't run pool without it because the chlorine needs constant air flow. S. Zemo proposed having smaller units instead of 1 large in the case of needed repair
- Parks and Rec claim they were previously "underfunded." They were able to come up with \$172,000 and are asking for \$98,000 to repair a leak in the family changing locker room. BOS recommends fundraising and they will take another look to supplement the funds with possible capital in the future. BOS wants to see operating costs
- Requested needed fencing for Fitzgerald Field. Parks and Rec are willing to wait on the tractor to see this happen
- Asking for \$52,000 for renovations to tennis courts from the operating budget. Parks and Rec think it might be more reasonable to keep repairing rather than rebuilding due to costs.

4. General Budget Discussion

- R. Marconi proposed cutting insurance
- R. Marconi proposed cutting back from 50 to 25 electronics
- Request from ACT for \$20,000, BOS denied request
- Kids in Crisis increase from 75 to 85 is a future BOS goal

5. Possible Capital/Operating Budget Vote

No vote

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa M. Ackerly