



**Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
APPROVED
February 17th, 2021 at 6:30pm via Zoom**

Present: Rudy Marconi (RM), Bob Hebert (BH), Sean Connelly (SC), Maureen Kozlark (MK), Barbara Manners (BM)

1) Public Comment

- No Public Comment

2) Appointments & Reappointments

a. Arthur Harris Aaronson Reappoint to the Pension Commission

- Rudy Marconi introduced Arthur Aaronson. A. Aaronson has been a member of the Pension Commission since 2008. Their goal is to make the plan run efficiently and provide for retirees. He enjoys working with the committee to create the best plan possible.

b. Christopher Andrew St. Victor De Pinho - Reappoint to the Pension Commission

- Rudy Marconi introduced Christopher De Pinho. He enjoys working with the committee and that they have fun doing a complicated job.
- Sean Connelly asked the two members about their background. Arthur Aaronson is a senior portfolio manager on the tax exempt bond fund. He has worked for private equity, hedge funds, and has experience as a CPA.
- Chris De Pinho stated he comes from more of a Law background in



finance and he runs the tax and accounting at one of the world's largest banks.

- Bob Hebert asked about any particular challenges that might happen in the future.
- Arthur Aaronson pointed out with the low rates currently available in the marketplace it is very challenging to invest the funds. So far though returns have been good this year and hopefully it adds to the safety of the fund.
- Chris De Pinho stated that diversification would be key going forward with markets performing as they have in the past 36 months. You do not have the ability to profit from a fixed income portfolio when the stock market goes down. It is up to the committee to make sure it continues to be profitable.

Bob Hebert moved to re-appoint Chris De Pinho and Arthur Aaronso to the Pension Commission. Sean Connelly seconded the motion(Motion carries 5-0)

3) Covid Update

- Rudy Marconi stated that the numbers are coming down. The charts look good and the numbers look good.
- Rudy Marconi stated the data scientist is still in the process of developing the vaccination rate. He is working closely to monitor Ridgefield numbers.

Rudy Marconi introduced Geoffrey Morris and Bob Knight as members of a long term recovery committee representing the town. There are around 20



people who sit on the committee. G. Morris stated there have been two meetings so far.

- Bob Knight reviewed areas of concern with bus driver staffing for Ridgefield Public Schools and benefits, board discussions followed with regret for the situation, need to ask BOE to address the BOS updated as needed.

4) Pura Update

- Rudy Marconi said a brief has been submitted. R. Marconi feels as if this indicative of where Pura stands on the issue.
- After this Ridgefield will no longer have a financial obligation to paying legal fees.

5) Meeting Minutes (1/15/21)

- Postponed

6) Selectman's Report

- Rudy Marconi stated that Absentee Ballots will available for the Budget Meetings
- Sean Connelly asked what is the backup plan if the moving of the budget meeting is not authorized. Rudy Marconi stated in that case absentee voters would only have a day or two to submit their Absentee Ballots.
- Rudy Marconi stated that the Budget Meeting usually only gets 20% of 18,000 voters. There would be 1,400 absentee Ballots likely in that case and the town needs to be prepared for the maximum. Rudy Marconi stated that a huge turnout is not expected.



7) Vote to schedule Annual Town Budget Meeting Date

Bob Herbert moved to Schedule a special town meeting on March 3rd at 7:30 at the Ridgefield Playhouse to address 3-3 section 10-1D to allow for a scheduling budget meeting on Saturday, April 24th 3-5pm at the Ridgefield Playhouse. Sean Connelly seconded the motion(Motion carries 5-0)

8) General Budget Discussion

- Rudy Marconi stated that currently the town is at 2.07% increase. The largest number came from a decrease in the roads budget.
- Rudy Marconi stated that this was due to allocated money of almost \$400,000 being unused in an account that was allocated for road use. Along with receiving the highway grant all at once.

Adjournment

Maureen Kozlark moved to adjourn at 10:05pm. Sean Connelly seconds the motion. (Motion carries 5-0)