



**Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectman Meeting Minutes
APPROVED**

May 19, 2021 at 6:30pm via Zoom

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

Present: Rudy Marconi, Sean Connelly, Barbara Manners,

Absent: Maureen Kozlark, Bob Hebert

1) Public comment

There were no public comments.

2) Vendor Permit Renewal: Zawack Shack

Greg Zawacki, owner of the Zawack Shack food truck, submitted an application to renew his vendor permit. Mr. Zawacki talked briefly about the challenges of his business during the pandemic, but was happy to report that it was a strong year for the Zawack Shack, which is in its 10th year of business. Mr. Zawacki also discussed COVID protocols and said his employees and himself will continue to wear masks throughout the summer.

Mr. Connelly moved to approve Greg Zawacki's application for vendor permit renewal for the Zawack Shack. Mrs. Manners second the motion. Motion carries 3-0.

3) Appointments:

a. Andrew Okrongly – Ridgefield Pension Commission

Chris Christiansen said Andrew Okrongly is extremely qualified for the position and strongly endorses him. Mr. Okrongly spoke about his experiences in life and work that he feels make him qualified to be on the Pension Commission. Both Ms. Manners and Mr. Connelly expressed their enthusiasm for Mr. Okrongly's interest in joining the Commission.

Ms. Manners motioned to approve the appointment of Andrew Okrongly for a 3-year term on the Pension Commission. Mr. Connelly second the motion. Motion carries 3-0.

- b. Sean Dowd – Economic & Community Development Commission
Geoffrey Morris sang Mr. Dowd’s praises, highlighting his positive additions to the Town, such as the Ridgefield Bicycle Company. Mr. Dowd spoke about his background and the reasons he is qualified for the position. Mr. Dowd then answered questions from the Board, which covered what his focus will be if he joins the Commission. There was a discussion about the future of businesses in terms of remaining virtual or returning to an office space and the plan to better the internet service for Ridgefield.

Mr. Connelly moved to approve Sean Dowd for a one-year term on the Economic & Community Development Commission. Ms. Manners second the motion. Motion carries 3-0.

4) Tax Collector Refunds

Ms. Manners moved to approve the \$7,753.68 tax refund to the public. Mr. Connelly second the motion. Motion carries 3-0.

5) COVID Update

Mr. Marconi provided an update on the status of the Ridgefield’s COVID cases and vaccinations. Mr. Marconi discussed a Grant that was submitted by Ridgefield on behalf of R4 technologies (Ridgefield Company) that will help with getting community vaccinations. The Grant will not only help other communities, but will create jobs for Ridgefield. There was a discussion about the challenges these cities are facing in terms of getting people vaccinated and how Ridgefield can help.

No motions were made.

6) Meeting Minutes (5/5/21)

A few changes to the minutes were discussed.

Mr. Connelly moved to approve the 5/5/21 Meeting Minutes with the discussed changes. Ms. Manners second the motion. Motion carries 3-0.

7) Selectman’s Report

A big part of the Selectman’s report had already been discussed during the meeting. Mr. Marconi asked if there were questions.

There was a discussion about when the Connecticut Department of Health would be coming out with new Covid guidelines and what new protocols the Town had decided on during a staff meeting. There are now signs in place at Town Hall that say if you are not vaccinated you are

required to wear a mask, but if you are vaccinated masks are optional.

Ms. Manners commented that people are asking about the procedures for entering Ballard Park during the Chirp Concerts. This year there is no pre-registration, but it is being asked that concert goers wear a mask into the park until they are seated in their designated pod. The Chirp Team is asking for everyone's cooperation with following protocols this summer.

Mr. Connelly commented on the small turnout at the budget vote and said he was surprised at how many people did not know to come out and vote. There was a discussion about the various signs and banners that were put up around town to encourage people to vote and what can be done moving forward to make people more aware.

There was a brief discussion about an informal car Memorial Day Parade happening again this year.

Mr. Connelly moved to adjourn the BOS meeting at 7:23pm. Ms. Manners second the motion. Motion Carries 3-0.