

Town of Ridgefield  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Wednesday, July 17, 2019 - 7:30pm  
Town Hall (Large Conference Room)  
400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut

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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, B. Hebert, M. Kozlark, B. Manner, S. Zemo (absent)

Agenda

1. Public Comment
2. 2019-2020 BOE Technology Lease - Dawn Norton, Business Manager
3. First Selectman's Office - College Interns Presentations
  - a. Farmingville Community Garden
  - b. Ridgefield Sports Code of Conduct
4. Itinerant Vendor Permit
  - a. Only the Hungry - Mark McManus (Renewal)
  - b. Chill Hawaiian Shave Ice - Stephen Cristoforo (New)
5. Deer Hunt Update - Possible Vote
6. RIFF (Ridgefield Independent Film Festival) - Funding Request
7. Tax Collector Refunds
8. Approval of Minutes - 5/22, 6/5 & 6/19
9. Selectman's Report

R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen's Meeting to order at 7:30pm.

B. Manners moved and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to remove Original Agenda Items 3 & 4 (3. Reappointments - Christine Santorum - Reappointment to the Commission for Accessibility; 4. Ridgefield High School Facade Funding transfer request - Jacob Muller, Director of Purchasing, Facilities and Safety) and Adding Items 3a & 3b (3. First Selectman's Office - College Interns Presentations, a. Farmingville Community Garden & b. Ridgefield Sports Code of Conduct). Motion carried 4-0.

#### 1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

#### 2. 2019-2020 BOE Technology Lease - Dr. Robert Miller, Director of Operations and Technology

Dr. Miller presented technology equipment lease for the BOE.

The BOE leases hardware which covers approximately 50 desktop computers to replace the HS computer lab computers. They will then be recycled within the district. 480 elementary school Chromebooks are being replaced. The computers will be used as part of the 6th grade digital learning one-to-one initiative.

B. Hebert confirms with Dr. Miller that the amount that they are requesting to finance through this years lease is \$311,000. Dr. Miller also confirmed that the leases in previous years are usually in the \$300,000 range.

Dr. Miller explained at the HS level the students are given the option of either taking a Chromebook or bringing their own personal device. The current policy is for the 9th & 10th grade, expanding next year to include the 11th grade.

B. Hebert asked if the students are given the option typically bring their own devices or do they opt to take the Chromebooks. Dr. Miller responded that 75% of the students opt to select a Chromebook while 25% opt to bring their own devices.

M. Kozlark asked if computer labs were being phased out. Dr. Miller responded that for the most part they have specialized labs that require specialized hardware that won't run

on a Chromebook. At the elementary and MS level the computer labs have been completely phased out.

M. Kozlark asked Dr. Miller's opinion that if we had any kind of limitation on funding, what would be more important? The connectivity & servers or the hardware where we are already letting students use their own personal devices at the HS level. Dr. Miller responded that it is really about balance.

This is a three year lease. At the end of the three years we keep the equipment. It remains in operation for anywhere from four to seven years depending on the equipment itself. The BOE has extended warranties on the equipment and for the one-to-one initiative students purchase insurance. Chromebooks are insured, they are covered in case of mechanical breakdown, loss, theft and/or damage.

R. Marconi asked Dr. Miller if this agreement has a non-appropriation clause, if for any reason the budget fails, and we don't have the money, we are able to exit the agreement. Dr. Miller was unable to answer the question but will get back to the BOS regarding the non-appropriation clause. The BOS agreed to approve the lease contingent on the non-appropriation clause being in the agreement.

B. Hebert moved and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to approve the Board of Education 2019-2020 Technology Lease not to exceed \$311,000 contingent on the non-appropriation clause. Motion carried 4-0.

### 3. First Selectman's Office - College Interns Presentations

#### 3b. Ridgefield Sports Code of Conduct - Sieri Fregosi

S. Fregosi explained that the Compassionate Project has been discussing a need for focus a code of conduct for the Town of Ridgefield. This code of conduct would not just be for players, but for parents & coaches. The goal is to have the Ridgefield coaches be responsible for conduct on the field.

A couple of the selectmen inquired if the Compassionate Project was working with the BOE as well. R. Marconi explained that that there is a lot more work to be done. The schools and parks & recreation have to be included in discussions. The goal

is to have a universal code of conduct that would incorporate all sports teams and be applied not only just to school teams, but to all teams playing in Ridgefield as well.

#### 3a. Farmingville Community Garden - Jennifer Kramer

J. Kramer showed the BOS an outline of what the garden would look like. They are planning to have the garden be 37'x46', which allows for 20 different plots and can be expanded to 92'x37', or 40 plots. This would be at Farmingville, adjacent to the barn, and this would not impact the current use of the barn or storage space.

A volunteer has offered to donate the cost of the well need to grow the plants. J. Kramer stated that they are hoping to involve the Eagle Scouts and the Girl Scouts for the construction of the project as well.

M. Kozlark commented that the waiting list at Halpin is very long, so it seems that the need for another community garden is present.

Logistics and fee/space needs to be worked out, the garden would only be open to Ridgefield residents.

#### 4. Itinerant Vendor Permit

##### 4a. Only the Hungry - Mark McManus (Renewal)

Mr. McManus asked for renewal of his vendor permit and gave a brief update on past seasons. He is permanently based at Great Pond.

M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded the motion to approve the Renewal Itinerant Vendor Permit for Only the Hungry (Mark McManus). Motion carried 4-0.

##### 4b. Chill Hawaiian Shave Ice - Stephen Cristoforo (New)

S. Cristoforo applied for a permit for his shaved ice truck. When asked what brought him to Ridgefield, he explained that his daughter recently moved to town, and they are thinking about moving into town as well.

This permit will only be for private events in Ridgefield up until November.

B. Hebert moved and B. Manners seconded the motion to approve the New Itinerant Vendor Permit for Chill Hawaiian Shave Ice (Stephen Cristoforo). Motion carried 4-0.

#### 5. Deer Hunt Update - Possible Vote

J. Coyle & S. Zandri come down to discuss the agreement that both the Conservation Commission and the Deer Committee put together in regards to the Deer Hunt. They went through a variety of concepts and conditions, the following was approved by both:

- A list of 15 properties will be chosen out of the available open space properties owned by the Town of Ridgefield and reviewed/approved by the Conservation Commission as in prior years.
- No more than five of those properties would be hunted each year on a rotating basis. In other words, a given property would be hunted only every three years. This would give the town more time to review the results of each year's hunt to see if additional modifications are needed.
- Each year the Deer Committee would present a list of five properties from the agreed upon list of 15 properties to the Board of Selectmen for concurrence by the Conservation Commission, similar to what is done at present.
- The number of hunters will be determined and approved by the Deer Committee. At no time will any property be hunted with more than two hunters per parcel.
- This process would commence with the 2019-2020 hunt season.
- While the State of Connecticut sets the dates for the hunting season, the hunt in Ridgefield would not begin until roughly mid-October and run to the end of January.
- The Conservation Commission and Deer Committee would continue working together on proper signage, neighbor notification, annual reporting, and other items to help assure a safe controlled hunt.

J. Coyle & S. Zandri think it's a great program, they agreed to run the program under these conditions for a few years and see how it goes. If they see any increase in the deer population, they will report back to J. Coyle and go from there.

B. Manners inquired as to the ramifications this will have on the hunt. The new agreement has brought the hunt down from 15 properties to 5. If the properties are

picked correctly and they get the right hunters, the numbers should be okay. The properties will be rotated, so a given parcel would not be hunted year after year. Properties would be hunted every three years, and the hunt would rotate around town depending on what the committees agree to.

M. Kozlark inquired if the properties would be selected based on the deer population. In S. Zandri's opinion yes, the hunters are going to be scouting the properties. If the following year they also see a lot of deer on the same property they will present this information to J. Coyle and discuss whether or not they should keep that property as one of the five. S. Zandri feels they have done a great job of reducing the deer population. B. Manners would prefer not to hunt, but believes that this agreement looks like a way to maintain the current levels. S. Zandri stated that the goal is to maintain where they are currently.

The next step is to determine the list of properties for this upcoming season. This list would then be submitted to the Conservation Commission for approval, and then back to the BOS for approval.

The BOS thanked both J. Coyle & S. Zandri for all their hard work on this agreement.

#### 6. RIFF (Ridgefield Independent Film Festival) - Funding Request

They have been awarded a grant from the Lewis Fund for \$1,000. The Lewis Fund has asked that RIFF go through another organization because RIFF does not have what they feel is a sufficient number of Board Members. RIFF is asking to be considered under Friends of Ridgefield in order to receive this grant.

B. Hebert moved and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to approve RIFF (Ridgefield Independent Film Festival) staying listed with the Friends of Ridgefield for 1 year. Motion carried 4-0.

#### 7. Tax Collector Refunds

The total for the Tax Collector Refunds as submitted was \$1,991.79, this is for cars that were traded in and/or sold and the taxpayer had paid for the full year of taxes, and they get a refund of what they overpaid.

B. Manners moved and B. Hebert seconded the motion to approve the Tac Collector Refunds in the amount of \$1,991.79. Motion carried 4-0.

#### 8. Approval of Minutes - 5/22, 6/5 & 6/19

The minutes for the Board of Selectmen Meetings on May 22nd, June 5th & June 19th were discussed and reviewed. There were many changes to be made to the minutes and the BOS approved the minutes for the June 19th meeting as modified. The minutes for the May 22nd and the June 5th will be reviewed further at the next meeting.

M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded the motion to approve the Minutes as Modified from the June 19, 2019 Board of Selectmen Meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

#### 9. Selectman's Report

R. Marconi stated that we have hired a new company for HRRA (Housatonic Resource Recovery Authority), our contract with Wheelabrator expired and Oak Ridge has since taken over.

The company that we were using to pick up the home cooking oil that is disposed of in the container behind the MSW has gone out of business and we are using a new company called Take Too, they will also be taking care of electronic waste & recycling for the town.

The State of Connecticut passed an ethics statute requiring all municipalities to have an Ethics Commission, the town already has one. R. Marconi asked Omkar an intern to go through the statute and make sure that our ordinance is in conformity. This law goes into effect as of October 1, 2019, but the towns do not have to be in compliance until January 15, 2021. The town's charter revision committee will continue until the BOS comes up with a draft for an ordinance for a public hearing. This will be put on as an agenda item in September and R. Marconi will also have legal review it as well.

The BOS had a discussion regarding the product being used for de-icing the roads and the effect it is having on the wells, the Highway Department places their order in September, so this will be put on as an agenda item for August. R. Marconi has asked

COG to do the research on this because all of the municipalities are currently looking into this.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Fracking Ordinance and how the State Statute preempts our ordinance we are technically not in violation but the ordinance needs to be modified. There needs to be a public hearing and a town meeting in order to make these changes, putting this on the agenda for August 21st was discussed.

M. Kozlark moved and B. Hebert seconded the motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 9:58pm. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Hollie M. Rapp