



Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes Unapproved
October 25, 2023 at 6:30pm
Please note – these minutes are not verbatim

Present: Rudy Marconi, Bob Hebert, Maureen Kozlark, Barbara Manners

Absent: Sean Connelly

1. Public Comments

There were nine public comments from Ridgefield residents citing concern about the Homeland Cell Tower, its location, any potential health hazards the cell tower poses, property values over time, and the lack of communication and alerts about the Cell Tower project from Homeland and the Town of Ridgefield.

There was an urgent concern about transportation for seniors in Ridgefield as the bus services and availability of drivers have decreased. Rudy Marconi assured residents that he would follow up with Rides for Ridgefield and Human Resources at Townhall to create a solution.

There was a concern about proper flag protocol for the Israel flag and any other country flag for that matter that may be displayed at Townhall which Rudy Marconi agreed to review the flag protocol again and make any adjustments necessary.

There was concern regarding Jonathan Paradiso running for the Board of Ed due to conflicts of interest. Barbara Manners disagreed that there was a conflict of interest. The Board of Ethics issued a ruling of no conflict.

2. Transfers

The Board discussed revenue, expenses, and surplus Kevin Redmond, the Director of Finance. Bob Hebert moved to approve of all 2023 transfers, and Maureen Kozlark seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

3. Grant Allocation Request – Jake Muller, Director of Purchasing

Jake Muller discussed the VW EVSE ZIP Grant, the CT DEEP Urbanized Act Grant, and the CT DOT Community Connectivity Grant. Jake informed the board of the purpose of each grant and the reimbursable amounts for each. Maureen Kozlark moved to approve sending all grants to the Board of Finance for review and approval, and Bob Hebert seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Historic District Commission – Annual Summary Report Review

The Board discussed the commission's yearly activities including hearings, special meetings, site visits, certificates, clearance letters, applicants, updates on projects, and collaborations with the Historical Society with HDC Chairman, Daniel J. O'Brien requested the approval of historic road signage in areas of Ridgefield identifying particular roads as historic. The HDC already had the funds needed for this signage being requested. Bob Hebert moved to approve historic road signage in Ridgefield, and Maureen Kozlark seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

5. Appointments

a. Will Knispel for the Youth Commission

Will Knispel came before the Board of Selectmen to discuss his interest in being a member of the Youth Commission. He informed the Board of his history in Ridgefield, his goals, interests, ideas, and the impacts he wishes to make in the community as a Commission member. Will Knispel also discussed his observations amongst his peers and issues he believes need more advocacy such as substance abuse and the lack of healthy and effective coping strategies among teenagers. Maureen Kozlark moved to approve of Will Knispel for the Youth Commission, and Bob seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

6. Rides for Ridgefield – Town Hall Space

Rides for Ridgefield came before the Board to discuss the opportunity to continue using Town Hall space to operate from for another 5 years. They also discussed increasing service, schedules, demographics, conflicts,

and barriers to recruiting drivers such as the availability of volunteers, and possible solutions to combat conflicts. Bob Hebert moved to approve a 5-year renewal regarding Rides for Ridgefield using office space at Townhall, Maureen Kozlark seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

7. Requested Ordinance Review: Chapter 345 of Article II

TriRidgefield reached out to The Board of Selectmen to amend the town ordinance, Chapter 345 of Article 11 of the Town Code. This ordinance prohibits boats with internal combustion engines on certain town lakes, including Great Pond, the site of the annual town tradition of TriRidgefield. Due to the ordinance, securing a permit to hold the yearly Triathlon was denied for the organization. The Board agreed to amend the language and add this request to the agenda for the Board of Selectmen meeting on November 15, 2023.

8. Tax Collector Refunds

Barbara Manners moved to approve \$9,478.86 in Tax Collector refunds, Bob Hebert seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

9. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The approval of the October 11, 2023, Board of Selectmen meeting minutes was postponed until the next Board of Selectman meeting on November 15, 2023.

10. Selectman's Report

The Board reviewed public comments and concerns regarding the Cell Tower, town alerts, lease renewals for Parks and Recreation, assessments for town projects, and 29 Lakeview Drive, an ongoing Blight case.

Maureen Kozlark moved to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting; Bob Hebert seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
Meeting adjourned at 9:58 PM.