

Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, December 13, 2017
Approved Meeting Minutes
Ridgefield Library Lower Level Program Room
472 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut

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

Absent: B. Manners

Agenda (immediately following Special Town Meeting)

1. **Public Comment**
2. **Reappointments:**
Constables: Dick Aarons, Peter Killie, Bob Spielmann
Tree Warden: John Pinchbeck
Director of Social Services: Tony Phillips, LCSW
Town Attorney: David Grogins, Cohen & Wolf
3. **Affordable Housing Commission**
4. **HRRA Leases**
5. **2017 State of CT DEMHS MOA and Resolution**
6. **Selectman's Report**
7. **Approval of Meeting Minutes: 11/29/17**

Call to Order

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 8:48 pm by R. Marconi.

1. Public Comment

No public comment.

2. Reappointments:

Constables: Dick Aarons, Peter Killie, Bob Spielman

Peter Killie and Bob Spielman were in attendance; Dick Aarons was home sick. All three submitted letters requesting reappointment.

S. Zemo moved and B. Hebert seconded the motion to reappoint the Dick Aarons, Peter Killie, and Bob Spielman for another two-year term as constables. Motion carried 4-0.

Tree Warden: John Pinchbeck

M. Kozlark asked if there is a backup for John if he is out and whether the Town is looking at a succession plan for the Tree Warden position. R. Marconi stated Steve Lavatori is available when John is out of the office.

M. Kozlark moved and B. Hebert seconded the motion to reappoint John Pinchbeck for another one-year term as Tree Warden. Motion carried 4-0.

Director of Social Service: Tony Phillips, LCSW

M. Kozlark moved and B. Hebert seconded the motion to reappoint Tony Phillips for another one-year term as Director of Social Services. Motion carried 4-0.

Town Attorney: David Grogins, Cohen & Wolf

B. Hebert moved and M. Kozlark seconded the motion to reappoint Cohen & Wolf for another one-year term as Town Counsel. Motion carried 4-0.

3. Affordable Housing Commission

R. Marconi explained that the Affordable Housing Committee that was established in 1997 and read the mission statement. The Committee was never disbanded; it still exists. We have the ability to re-appoint members.

Dave Goldenberg, former Affordable Housing Committee member, was in attendance to request the Board of Selectmen's approval of an Affordable Housing Commission, which would have more permanence and more independence than it did as the Affordable Housing Committee. R. Marconi stated that Town Counsel informed him there is not much difference in rank between a committee and a commission. If we wanted to proceed this way, it would have to be established by ordinance and then added to the Charter.

S. Zemo thanked D. Goldenberg for his passion for affordable housing. Asked whether the Affordable Housing Commission would be advocating for more affordable housing or bricks and mortar? What are we committing to?

R. Hebert stated he supports an Affordable Housing Committee; much research and work must be done before committing. It's a very complex issue.

D. Goldenberg stated the Commission would represent the community, develop expertise, work with experts to develop a plan to present to the Town. The commission would have to work with other bodies of the Town. It would not be developed or paid for by the Town—it would be taking advantage of financial structures and come up with a plan.

The Affordable Housing Committee will have to be populated first. Therefore, the vacancies will be publicized and candidates will be interviewed by the Board of Selectmen. At that point, the newly appointed Affordable Housing Committee would meet and create a changed mission statement. The request to become a Commission would be suggested to the Charter Revision Commission to review for inclusion in the updated Charter.

4. HRRRA Leases

There are two leases. The current arrangement w/ HRRRA was established in 1991 subsequent to the closing of the landfill. **S. Zemo moved and B. Hebert seconded the motion to schedule a Public Hearing on September 27, 2017 at 7:30 pm regarding possible town ownership of the Ridgebury Cemetery. Motion carried 4-0.**

5. 2017 State of CT DEMHS MOA and Resolution

The Board of Selectmen voted to approve signage to be used for the upcoming controlled deer hunt. The signage will be fabricated by a Ridgefield-based business. The cost does not exceed the total spent last year.

S. Zemo moved and B. Hebert seconded the motion to approve signage not to exceed \$2,900 to be paid from the Town Contingency fund. Motion carried 4-0.

6. Selectman's Report

- R. Marconi received request from Chef's Warehouse to use empty office space.
- Marketing Ridgefield video—Wayne Addressi would like the Marketing Ridgefield account to fall under the Friends of Ridgefield umbrella. This item will be added to the next BOS meeting agenda.
- The audit is getting close to the end and we will be running close to \$2M surplus. R. Marconi states that tax collections have been fantastic, as residents are paying their taxes in full rather than spreading them out over four quarters.
- State report released regarding opiate deaths in 2015, 2016, and part of 2017. Waterbury has asked us to join a lawsuit regarding the unethical marketing practices of drug companies. Although the legal representation will be pro-bono, R. Marconi would like to funnel efforts into the community and substance abuse awareness rather than dedicating 5-7 years to a lawsuit where the settlement will ultimately not make it to the cause.
- Route 35 Bridge is on schedule for completion at the end of November 2017.

7. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 11/29/17

B. Hebert moved and S. Zemo seconded the motion to approve as written the Executive Session Meeting Minutes from 8/23/17 and move the approval for 3/8/17, 4/5/17, and 8/19/17 to the September 27th meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion to Adjourn

M. Kozlark moved and S. Zemo seconded the motion to adjourn the BOS meeting at 10:04 pm. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Freda