



**Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectman Budget Meeting Minutes
UNAPPROVED**

January 31, 2022 at 7.00pm

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

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

1. Budget Presentation (Selectman Marconi)

K. Redmond gave an overview on various budget items. Some of the items discussed were the ZEO, GIS, health insurance, pension contributions, new hires and outsourcing possibilities, snow removal, the increase in salt costs and other options, and paving the roads.

K. Redmond went on to provide an overview for operating expenses. Some of the operating items discussed were the increase in PD support, the mechanic for fire, additional fire inspection, an increase in highway for full time office management, and the increase in part time salaries.

The Board asked a few questions for clarifications. B. Hebert asked about the revaluation project that the assessor's department is conducting, which prompted a discussion about taxes. B. Manners asked about the large increase for the IT Department. The Board discussed the pros and cons of hiring another full time IT employee.

K. Redmond next presented the Capitol Budget items to the Board. There was a discussion about requested repairs for the Parks and Rec tennis courts, basketball courts and pool at Barlow. R. Marconi talked about the architectural fees for the new PD/FD facility. M. Kozlark commented that she thinks the Town should start making more of an effort to be greener. R. Marconi commented that the problem that has been discussed is that going green does not necessarily present a return on investment.

2. Ridgefield Police Department Budget

K. Redmond provided an overview of the proposed budget for the Police Department. Police Chief Kreitz talked about some of the items with increases, which included random drug testing and mental wellness checks, and anticipated retirements. There was a discussion about how the body cameras that were budgeted for last year have been

working out.

Chief Kreitz also discussed the need for new cruisers, the different options that are being considered, and the increase in traffic control services and computer supplies. The Police Department is requesting an additional work day for their accounting clerk, who does an amazing job and is consistently working more hours than in the job description. S.

Connelly commented that it could be beneficial from a community education perspective to provide a quarterly or yearly statistics report from the Police Department. There was a discussion about that statistics for domestic violence, car accidents and other crimes during the pandemic.

S. Dornfield, who is a member of the Board of Police Commissioners, provided an overview of the process of the Juvenile review board, which she is also a member of. Chief Kreitz went over the details of the request for the firearm replacement line item in the capital section of the budget. M. Kozlark asked how often firearms expire and how often they are used.

3. General Budget Discussion

There was a brief discussion about workers comp and health insurance and how they are determined in the budget.

M. Kozlark asked about the increase for the Cemetery Restoration budget. R. Marconi commented that the increase is due to trees that need to be taken down.

The Board debated asking Glori Norwitt from the ECDC to meet with them to discuss the proposed budget for the Committee.

4. Possible Capital/Operating Budget Vote

No vote was taken.

M. Kozlark motioned to adjourn the BOS Budget Meeting at 9:04pm. S. Connelly second the motion. Motion carries 5-0.