

**TOWN of RIDGEFIELD - BOARD of SELECTMEN MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 22, 2017 – 7:30 P.M.**

TOWN HALL/LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM

REVISED/APPROVED MINUTES

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These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.

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

Absent: B. Manners

R. Marconi called the meeting to order at 7:30. First on the evening was a Special Town Meeting to act on the following three items – A proposed lease known as “The Schlumberger Auditorium” and a portion of the basement on 36 Old Quarry Rd, Ridgefield, Connecticut, between the Town of Ridgefield as lessor and ACT, Inc. as lessee;

A proposed lease known as the “Philip Johnson Building” and a portion of the basement on 36 Old Quarry Road, Ridgefield, Connecticut between the town of Ridgefield as lessor and Bassam Fellows, Inc. as lessee;

And a proposed donation of land at 41 Lakeside Drive, Ridgefield, CT to the Town of Ridgefield.

(Minutes of the Special Town Meeting are under separate cover).

**AGENDA** *(immediately following Special Town Meeting)*

1. Public Comment
2. Ridgefield Arts Council Interview: Wendy Ann Mitchell
3. Pension Commission Interview: Christopher John Sierakowski
4. Ms. President US – Liz Fleurette
5. Ordinance Change Request
6. Ramapoo Rifle & Revolver Lease Renewal Request
7. Selectman’s Report
8. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 12/22/16 Special, 1/18/17, 1/27/17 Special, 2/6/17 Special

1. Public Comment – There were no comments from the public.

- 2) Ridgefield Arts Council Interview: Wendy Ann Mitchell

Wendy Ann Mitchell came forward to support her candidacy to serve on the Ridgefield Arts Council. She has always been involved with music – played the violin and the clarinet and sang in the choir. Music has helped her through tough times. She was the Founder/Director of the Sandy Hook Arts Center for Kids and stated how music had helped the kids work through their problems after Sandy Hook. She introduced programs in music therapy and art and brought in therapy dogs to work with the children. The students put on original plays and musicals. She has always been involved with her love for music and youth. She is interested in serving on both the Ridgefield Arts Council and the Ridgefield Youth Commission. The Ridgefield Arts Council supports her membership.

**S. Zemo moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to appoint Wendy Ann Mitchell to fill one of the vacancies on the Ridgefield Arts Council for a four-year term, following the BOS. Motion passed 4-0.**

3) Pension Commission Interview: Christopher J. Sierakowski

Chris Sierakowski came forward to introduce himself to the Board of Selectmen and to express his interest in serving on the Pension Commission. He stated he has served as a Portfolio Manager and an Equity Analyst. There is one vacancy on the Pension Commission to replace Dave Campbell, a long-time member of the Commission.

Chris Sierakowski responded to M. Kozlark's question and stated how he had been to one meeting of the Commission last month and understands their new policy of working with Vanguard. He feels his background ties in very well with the Pension Commission's needs. He stated to S. Zemo he is willing to stay with Vanguard or return to some of the old ways. He feels he can be very helpful either way. He told Bob Hebert he would feel comfortable coming back to the Pension Board with his ideas. He feels good about the investment process with Vanguard on his initial view and will see how he wants to make any changes. R. Marconi stated the Pension Commission is very well-funded and we have one of the highest attendance records at our meetings of any municipality.

**R. Hebert moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to appoint Christopher Sierakowski to fill the vacancy on the Pension Commission for a three-year term. Motion passed 4-0.**

4. Ms President US – Liz Fleurette

Ms. Fleurette came forward to meet the BOS and state how her organization would find it very helpful to become a member of Friends of Ridgefield as it allows opportunities for donations. She understands how it works and that Kevin Redmond, Director of Finance, oversees the process. The young girls as members of Ms President US learn how they as females can participate in public service on the local, state and federal levels and the leadership opportunities that are available to them.

**R. Hebert moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to approve Ms President US, a 501c3, as a member of Friends of Ridgefield. Motion passed 4-0.**

5. Ordinance Change Request

Tom Pesce, who lives on the corner of Manor Rd. and Lewis Drive, came forward to discuss the need for an ordinance change relative to the Keeping of Livestock on Residential Property. His neighbors have brought in two horses on a one acre lot with no accommodation for run-off nor is there any stall or lean-to for the horses. The animals are out in all kinds of weather. The smell is awful. The neighbors cannot keep their windows open. Ridgefield has no horse or animal clean-up laws. The amount of land is not adequate for these animals. One neighbor, Leigh Diffey, was present to also talk about the situation. R. Marconi stated there is a process for making an ordinance change. They will first do research on the situation and then do a Public Hearing and hold a Town Meeting. Ed Briggs, Director of Health, also would get involved.

6. Ramapoo Rifle & Revolver Lease Renewal Request

A couple of representatives came forward to discuss their club's desire for a new lease. The club has been in existence since 1953 and has leased their property from the Town of Ridgefield for fifteen years. Present for the discussion was Ted Richards and Robert A. Power, President. They have about 400 members and these individuals are allowed to use firearms. They work with the Ridgefield Police Department and their Junior program is very active. They also have an active program for licensing. The lease was sent to David Grogins, Town Counsel, for his review. Are there any other improvements to the property that they have in mind? They need a new roof on the building.

**R. Hebert moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to renew the lease between the Town of Ridgefield and The Ramapoo Rifle and Revolver Club, Inc. for the property located on 60 South St., Ridgefield, CT for a further term of 10 years from March 23, 2017. Motion passed 4-0.**

7. Selectman's Report

- A program sponsored by the League of Women Voters is taking place at the Ridgefield Library – 'Civility in Politics'.
- Proposed bill in the legislature to add trains on the Danbury line between S. Norwalk and Danbury. This train line has received quite a bit of support as of late. The thought is to put extra cars on the siding during the day and put them into action during the busy train times. They have electrified the switches which is a big improvement.
- The BOS will meet with John Frey and Toni Boucher on March 4 at 10 a.m. regarding the proposed budget cut from Hartford. This meeting has been moved from February 25.
- Route 35 bridge – nearby merchants are starting to complain as they experience a marked decrease in their sales. People don't want to go near there and get involved with the traffic. How do we get a more normal flow in the traffic? They send in trained flaggers who are not very attentive. They use these people instead of flaggers from the Police Department. The estimated completion is for April 2018. They hope to have the bridge open in the summer.
- The budget cuts are affecting our small towns. We do belong to COST – the Council of Small Towns. The impact is on small municipalities like ourselves. Perhaps the legislature will solve this deficit problem. We are at \$4.4 million owed if we are to fund the teacher pension. This amount is staggering. We are right behind Greenwich in our cut and we are a very different community from Greenwich.
- We did receive a bid from Malone & McBroom for engineering services at Schlumberger, but their bid was very high. It shows that it is worthwhile to go out for bids.
- We have about \$49,000 in our Contingency Fund. We are in good shape. We have all our salt and it is all paid for.
- We are moving ahead with our parking lot and driveway project at the Schlumberger property with a targeted date of September 1<sup>st</sup>. We are using contingency and it is not a budgetary process. We want to get the project done. \$15,000 is allocated for this project. \$45,000 is given as tentative number. This includes land survey and topographical surveys. S. Zemo stated all are in agreement that this needs to get done. They say it will take four months. How about three months? Planning & Zoning will need to be involved with this site development.

- Battle of Ridgefield Re-enactment is planned for April 29<sup>th</sup>. Ridgefield is the one place where a ground fight took place. A reception event will take place in Westport on April 4.
- There are lots of debates about what might happen on June 8<sup>th</sup>. This is going to have to be a community effort. Plan to rebuild fund balance. Once the BOE budget is passed, we cannot go back and make changes
- M. Kozlark reported rocks on the street which are bad for the plow. R. Hebert reported a tree on the road near Spectacle Lane which he heard is causing accidents. He will look further into this.

8. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 12/22/16 Special, 1/18/17, 1/22/17 Special, 2/6/17 Special

**M. Kozlark moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to approve as written the minutes of the December 22, 2016, Joint Board of Selectmen/Fire Commission Special Meeting. Motion passed 4-0.**

**M. Kozlark moved and R. Hebert seconded a motion to approve as written the minutes of the January 18, 2017, Board of Selectmen Meeting. Motion passed 4-0.**

**R. Hebert moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to approve as written the minutes of January 27, 2017 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting. Motion passed 3-0. B. Manners was absent from the meeting and S. Zemo was traveling.**

**M. Kozlark moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to approve as written the minutes of the February 6, 2017, Board of Selectmen Special Meeting. Motion passed 4-0.**

**R. Marconi moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 9:55 p.m. Motion passed 4-0.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet L. Johnson