

# **TOWN of RIDGEFIELD – BOARD of SELECTMEN MEETING - MARCH 22, 2017**

TOWN HALL/LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM – 6:30 P.M.

## **REVISED/APPROVED MINUTES**

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

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

## **AGENDA**

1. Public Comment
2. Reappointments: Commission for the Disabled – Donald A. Ciota, Christine Santori,  
Economic & Community Development Committee – Robert A. DeFalco  
Parks & Recreation Commission – Evie Bottali, Gina M. Carey, David Thaxter  
Parking Authority – Christopher Fusaro
3. Parking Authority Proposal
4. Thrift Shop Tax Abatement Request
5. Ridgefield Boys & Girls Club Annual Report
6. Approval of Tax Refunds
7. Selectman's Report
8. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 12/13/16 Special, 3/4/17 Special, 3/6/17 Special

R. Marconi called the BOS Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

R. Marconi read the letters of reappointment received from Donald Ciota and Christine Santori, both of whom are interested in serving for an additional term on the Commission for the Disabled. Don Ciota stated this last year there were complaints about some of the ADA rules. They have not heard from Grace Romero. We will hold on renewing Grace's membership for now.

**B. Manners moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to appoint Donald C. Ciota for an additional two-year term on the Commission for the Disabled. Motion passed 4-0. R. Hebert was absent.**

**M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to appoint Christine Santori for an additional two-year term on the Commission for the Disabled Motion passed 4-0. R. Hebert was absent.**

R. Marconi read the letter sent in by R. DeFalco. Mr. DeFalco has put in a lot of time this year. He worked very hard on the website and there are more visits to our website than before.

**B. Manners moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to appoint Robert DeFalco for an additional one-year term on the RECDC Commission. Motion passed 4-0. R. Hebert was absent.**

Three individuals have expressed an interest in being reappointed to the Parks & Recreation Commission. Evie Bottali is not able to be present this evening. Also interested in reappointment are Gina M. Carey and David Thaxter. R. Marconi read aloud the letters received from the applicants. M. Kozlark talked about the budget regarding the upkeep of the building. Many of the

people who use the building are not from Ridgefield. Our Parks & Recreation provides an asset to the town. They come from all over.

**B. Manners moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to reappoint Evie Botalli, Gina M. Carey, and David Thaxter to the Parks & Recreation Commission for an additional three - year term. Motion passed 4-0. R. Hebert was absent.**

Christopher Fusaro, Chairman, expressed interest in being reappointed for an additional term with The Parking Authority.

**M. Kozlark and B. Manners seconded a motion to reappoint Christopher Fusaro for an additional one-year term on The Parking Authority. Motion passed 4-0. R. Hebert was absent.**

There was much talk about problems with The Parking Authority, and how to work out these problems. Mr. Fusaro had many ideas about how best to manage The Parking Authority. They meet at 8:30 in the morning – the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month.

3. Parking Authority Proposal - This was a discussion about a Parking Authority Policy to Manage Public Parking During Events. There is not any parking for Ballard Park. They have new signage for available parking on nights with heavy traffic and how to best locate it. They plan to have 4 Security people and 1 Policeman on duty when necessary for park events. We need to have a plan in place for an individual to park and walk. How to park for Ballard Park events is an immediate problem. B. Manners stated how CHIRP may have to contribute \$100 for each event and help pay for traffic management.
4. Thrift Shop Tax Abatement Request – Under discussion is when property is rented to a charitable, religious or nonprofit organization. The Thrift Shop is requesting abatement of property taxes but they are not the property owner, but the renter. They are completely staffed by volunteers. They have increased their space and moved to a new location and will be reopening on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The BOS is concerned that they would be opening a Pandora's Box if such an abatement is granted. They may be setting a precedent. Other people may want to do likewise. This topic is up for future discussion.
5. Approval of Tax Refunds

**M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to approve the memo dated March 15, 2017, by Tax Collector, Jane Berendsen-Hill to refund \$7,540.74 in tax refunds. Motion passed 4-0. R. Hebert was absent.**

6. Ridgefield Boys & Girls Club Annual Report – Mike Flynn, Executive Director, came forward to discuss the status of the Ridgefield Boys & Girls Club. They took over the Barn – Teen Center as of 8/1/2016. They have been able to increase their hours up to 4 days/week from 3 and provide dinner every Friday night. They have grown their membership by 15% and now have 86 registered members (up from 66). They are requesting their annual funding of \$65,000 for the fiscal year of 7/1/2017 – 6/30/2018 to be paid out to the Club in Quarter 4 of 2018.

They are doing well. There have not been complaints. The furniture and the place is much cleaner and have converted some of the place into art space. They have not lost old members but have built on the old. They would like to see retention and growth in membership.

**M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to pay the Ridgefield Boys & Girls the tax as requested. Motion passed 4-0. R. Hebert was absent.**

7. Selectman's Report

- R. Marconi reported on the WPCA. He is serving as the Town representative. He provided an overview of the work being done to renew the permit for the South Street plant and discussed the possible decommissioning of Route 7 sewer plant.
- Several teams have won championships – academic and sports: the boys hockey team won Div. 1 States; girls volleyball and boys basketball won FCIAC championship; even the debate team won in recent competition. Should we have a parade? Perhaps the teams can lead the Memorial Day Parade?
- Rudy met with Mr. Tom Pesce about the livestock ordinance. We are still researching how other towns handle this. How can we take the ordinance we have and readjust it with a few words? We need to make rules that will pertain to grazing, guidelines for disposal, fencing rules and set-back rules. We will talk to both the owner and the tenant.
- The Board of Finance Public Hearing on the budget will be held on Monday, March 27 at ERMS. R. Marconi will be present as well as Superintendent Karen Baldwin, and BOF Chairman Dave Ulmer.
- March 28, next Tuesday, the Board of Selectmen budget will be discussed with the Board of Finance.

8. Approval of Meeting Minutes

**M. Kozlark moved and R. Marconi seconded a motion to approve as written the December 13, 2016, Board of Finance Minutes – Tri-Board Meeting. Motion passed 2-0 by Rudy Marconi and Maureen Kozlark.**

**M. Kozlark moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to approve as modified the minutes of the March 4, 2017, Board of Selectmen Special Meeting. Motion passed 3-0-1. B. Manners abstained as she was absent on March 4, 2017.**

**M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the BOS Special Meeting with the Board of Finance and the Police Commission on March 6, 2017. Motion passed 4-0. R. Hebert was absent.**

**R. Marconi moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 9:20 p.m. Motion passed 4-0.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet L. Johnson