

# **TOWN of RIDGEFIELD – BOARD of SELECTMEN MEETING**

**AUGUST 3, 2016**

TOWN HALL/LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM – 7:30 P.M.

## **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, B. Manners

Absent: S. Zemo

### **Agenda**

1. Public Comment
2. Insurance & Risk Management Committee Interview: Joseph Loonan
3. Pension Commission Member Reappointments: David Campbell, Christofer Christiansen, Joseph Connors
4. Vendor Permit Renewals: Arantes Coffee & Lunch Truck, Gigi's Family Ice Cream, Tivoli's Pizza
5. Jesse Lee United Methodist Church Tax Abatement Request
6. Selectman's Report
7. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 7/20/16

R. Marconi called the BOS Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

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

2. Insurance & Risk Management Committee Interview: Joseph Loonan

Joseph Loonan came forward to express his interest in serving on the Insurance & Risk Management Committee. R. Marconi read parts of the letter received from Mr. Loonan detailing his background. He bought land in Ridgefield six years ago and completed construction of his new home in January 2013. He continued to live in North Stamford while commuting and used Ridgefield as his weekend home. He became a full-time resident of Ridgefield in January 2016.

Mr. Loonan is currently General Counsel of KPMG, a professional services firm (one of the Big Four accounting firms). He plans to retire at the end of this calendar year. At KPMG he has dealt with risk management and insurance issues on a regular basis, including advising their Board of Directors and management committee on these issues. He is a member of the firm's Risk Management Committee and is on the Board of Directors of KPMG's captive insurance company.

R. Hebert asked Mr. Loonan why does he want to do this? Mr. Loonan responded he is not interested in commercial ventures. He wants to serve his community and do something connected with his background.

M. Kozlark commented on Mr. Loonan's wonderful resume and thanked him for coming forward to volunteer. B. Manners stated she is very impressed with his resume and delighted that he has moved to Ridgefield and how "we can always use another talented resident". Mr. Loonan is also a ROAR volunteer and commented on the previous evening's meeting when all the Board members held puppies. R. Marconi stated the BOS really appreciates his application. There are two

vacancies and Mr. Loonan will fill one. Chris Murray hopes to interview at the next BOS Meeting.

**M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to appoint Joseph I. Loonan to fill one of the vacancies on the Insurance & Risk Management Committee for a four-year term. Motion passed 4-0.**

3. Pension Commission Member Reappointments: David Campbell, Christofer Christiansen, Joseph Connors

All three individuals have submitted letters requesting reappointment. Joseph Connors is out of town and unable to attend this evening's meeting.

**M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to reappoint David Campbell, Christofer Christiansen, and Joseph M. Connors for an additional three-year term on the Pension Commission. Motion passed 4-0.**

4. Vendor Permit Renewals: Arantes Coffee & Lunch Truck, Gigi's Family Ice Cream, Tivoli's Pizza

Arantes Coffee & Lunch Truck – Jaques D. Arantes came forward to express his interest in securing a renewal of his vendor permit for his Coffee & Lunch Truck which serves breakfast and lunch for Ridgefield construction sites. He secured his original permit four years ago. He covers construction sites on Sunset Lane and Main Street and visits new construction as well as remodeling sites. He names the various projects he is currently visiting with his truck. He travels from project to project. Jacques indicated last year was a good year for his business. People in town know him and what he does. M. Kozlark stated we will soon be requiring new permits to be displaced on the trucks. We will let Jacques know when this requirement goes into effect.

**B. Manners moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to renew the vendor permit for Jaques D. Arantes for an additional year to sell breakfast and lunch at Ridgefield construction sites. Motion passed 4-0.**

Gigi's Family Ice Cream – Suzanne and David McCue of Lakeside Drive in Ridgefield, came forward with their daughter Angelina to request renewal of their vendor permit for Gigi's Family Ice Cream. Suzanne and David feel this is a way to teach their daughter how to run a small business. They are restricted to certain areas in Ridgefield and not thru the center of town. They do use connecting roads to return home as they also serve Wilton. This is the start of their second year. They feel they are instilling in their daughter a good work ethic and how to relate to people.

M. Kozlark asked for any comments regarding their competition. She stated the BOS is currently reviewing the language of the ordinance and may require the display of their current vendor permit on their vehicle. D. McCue stated even a sticker displayed would be good and welcome. Wilton gives each individual who has received a permit a pendant to wear. This could be an idea that Ridgefield could adopt as well. Angelina stated last year she worked the sales window, got people their change and especially liked selling ice cream on the roads where her friends lived.

**M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to renew the vendor permit for an additional year for Suzanne E. McCue and David D. McCue for Gigi's Family Ice Cream to sell packaged ice cream novelties and bottled beverages.**

Tivoli's Pizza (vendor of wood-fired pizza) – was not present this evening

5. Jesse Lee United Methodist Church Tax Abatement Request

Virginia Konopka, Treasurer of Jesse Lee Memorial United Methodist Church, came forward to request an abatement of \$1,122.36, which represents their Real Property Tax Bill, which is attributable to the lease of 50 parking spaces to HART Transit for use by commuters (previous lease was with Connecticut Department of Transportation).

Ms. Konopka stated the State of Connecticut never paid the amount owed to the Church. The contract is now with the Department of Transportation for an annual fee of \$15,000. Does that cover their costs? Not really! They repaved the parking lot which cost a great deal. They did get an increase but it was not what they had expected. They plow the parking area several times/day in the winter. Their snow removal costs can add up to as much as \$10,000/year. There are also insurance costs incurred. There are not only many residents who park there, but there are also many drop-off's. R. Marconi stated there has been a little bit of a decline in the number of parkers every year, but the lot is still full.

A July 27, 2016 memo from Al Garzi, Assessor, for the Town of Ridgefield, was also shared with the BOS. This memo reviewed the Jesse Lee Abatement request and the Connecticut General Statute 12-124 which covers the "abatement of taxes and interest."

**M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to approve the 2016-2017 fiscal year property tax abatement request in the amount of \$1,122.36 for Jesse Lee United Methodist Church attributable to the lease of 50 parking spaces to the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation. Motion passed 4-0.**

6. Selectman's Report

- Approval by the Conservation Commission, Flood & Erosion Control Board, of the request to graze up to 14 sheep and two llamas on the properties on the McKeon farm parcel from June through November, 2016 – approved by Kitsey Snow, Chair of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission
- Thank you note has been received from Founders Hall for the \$105,000 received from the Town of Ridgefield as support for the work Founders Hall does for Ridgefield's 2700 seniors.
- A complaint has been received regarding the lack of handicapped access to the Ridgefield Golf Course. A complaint such as this has to be addressed. It was filed with the Town Clerk. The thought is to purchase a Paragon, a three-wheel golf cart designed for the handicapped. Tony has looked at it and Frank has approved the purchase of such a vehicle. The cost for this particular one is \$25,000. They have asked for support of this purchase thru Parks & Rec, but Parks & Rec does not think they have the need for such a vehicle. The Golf Committee has expressed approval for the purchase. They are hoping that Parks & Rec will contribute in some way to this expenditure. Should they lease it or buy it? There is \$75,000 currently budgeted for ADA compliance. What about a down payment of \$7500 and a lease to handle the balance
- R. Hebert inquired if there are any grant dollars available or possible foundation money. R. Marconi and K. Redmond have met to discuss this issue. There may well be young disabled residents who might be interested in this purchase by the Town. R. Hebert suggested that we find some dollars somewhere R. Marconi stated the Town is anxious to do some paving at

Tiger Hollow. We need to run a path over to where there is visitor handicapped parking where the fireworks are.

B. Manners suggested an article in the press about this need. Maybe this could be part of a larger article about ADA compliance. Maybe someone will come forward and make a donation if the need is known. We can take money out of the Town's contingency fund but it is too early in this new fiscal year to do so yet.

M. Kozlark expressed agreement to not finance the cost of the handicapped cart. Financing results in an additional cost. Perhaps we can take dollars out of our contingency fund at a later date in the fiscal year.

R. Hebert asked how is the Golf Course doing? This is one of the best years they have had. They are up to a little over \$1.4 million in revenue. Golf cart revenue is the highest ever. More people than ever are riding the carts.

R. Hebert suggested that we go to the Board of Finance based on how well the Golf Course is doing this year. We can show how we do not have the funds right now for this purchase but we do have this complaint which we need to address. Could we take the funds for this purchase out of our Contingency Fund? If we get the \$25,000 from the Contingency Fund, then we do not incur leasing charges. This expense has already been approved by ADA and a motion as such is not needed. There are cheaper carts for the handicapped but they are not as capable nor as well built. Stability of the cart is very important.

R. Hebert asked if we are obligated to have more than one such cart". The cart would be available seven days/week. No one plays all seven days. An individual will have to sign up to use this "special" cart. One cart should be adequate for right now.

R. Hebert asked as to how is the maintenance handled on this cart. Frank said that maintenance is not a problem. What will be needed is the same type of maintenance as is needed for our other carts as well. Maybe we could set up a special account to receive the income generated from the use of this cart. This year we have already had over 40,000 rounds of golf at the Ridgefield Golf Course. Our usual total is 35,000 rounds. People come from everywhere to play this course.

- Harbor Watch has been conducting water quality research on 11 waterways in Fairfield County during the summer of 2016. In Ridgefield, they have been monitoring the Norwalk River. Ridgefield gives Harbor Watch \$500/year. Ridgefield's test for E coli bacteria came back fine. One suggestion is to run ultraviolet lights in the water. This is done from April through October. The wastewater treatment plant has UV lights on to sanitize the effluent which results in no bacteria entering the Norwalk River from the treatment plant. Bacteria doesn't thrive when the water is cold. Wilton High School science students are doing some of the testing. At Branchville Road, the water flows south. This is the breaking point for the water to flow north. At this location they found a high chloroform count. At one point a telephone pole was put thru a sewer pipe. This created a bacteria problem when it rained.
- Bond Counsel (Robinson & Cole) has closed action suit against quite a few of the transactions – Underwriters gave out information so people could bid accordingly. There is a derivatives settlement. We do not know the amount. We could get a reimbursement. We are on the receiving end. The State is overseeing the settlement.

7. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 7/20/16

**M. Kozlark moved and R. Hebert seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the July 20, 2016, Board of Selectmen Meeting. Motion passed 3-0. B. Manners abstained as she was not present at the July 20, 2016, BOS Meeting.**

**M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 8:45 p.m. Motion passed 4-0.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet L. Johnson