

TOWN of RIDGEFIELD – BOARD of SELECTMEN MEETING

SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

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, R. Hebert, M. Kozlark, S. Zemo

Absent: B. Manners

Agenda

1. Public Comment
2. Interviews:
 - a. Ridgefield Arts Council: Joshua Fischer
 - b. Architectural Advisory Committee: Jan M. Goldfluss
3. End of Year Transfers: Kevin Redmond
4. Lyme Connection – BLAST Program Report
5. WREF Lease Amendment
6. Peter Parley Painting – Set Special Town Meeting Date
7. Vendor Ordinance; Set Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting Dates
8. Family Dinner Proclamation
9. Selectman's Report
10. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 9/7/16
11. Executive Session: Future Lese of Town-Owned Property

R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Public Comment – There were no comments from the public.
2. Interviews: a. Ridgefield Arts Council: Joshua Fischer

Mr. Fischer approached the table; R. Marconi read Mr. Fischer's letter of interest to fill the Arts Council vacancy. M. Kozlark asked about how Mr. Fischer would interact with students, as stated in his letter—Mr. Fischer doesn't have a specific plan as yet; he stated he wishes he knew more about the industrial arts when he was a student. He has attended meetings of the RAC. Mr. Fischer started his career in furniture design and has moved more toward graphic and interior design. He grew up here and is a second generation Ridgefielder; he has moved back into the cottage he rented he when he lived her previously.

M. Kozlark moved and R. Hebert seconded a motion to appoint Joshua Fischer to fill one of the vacancies on the Ridgefield Arts Council for the remainder of the four-year term (until 12/5/19). Motion passed 4-0.

- b. Architectural Advisory Committee: Jan M. Goldfluss

Mr. Goldfluss is a licensed landscape architect and has attended an AAC meeting. R. Marconi read Mr. Goldfluss' letter expressing interest in joining the AAC as an Alternate member. Mr. Goldfluss worked for a large landscape architect firm in CA on very large urban-type projects. He

moved back east in 2000 and into Ridgefield 1 ½ years ago. He currently works for a landscape firm in New Canaan that does mostly urban work in Norwalk, Stamford and other larger communities. Mr. Goldfluss wants to contribute to the community and stated he loves the mix of housing types and loves the Town. He thinks his expertise can be of help to the Town. Currently there are no landscape architects on the AAC. The Board agreed Mr. Goldfluss' expertise would be of benefit to the AAC.

M. Kozlark moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to appoint Jan M. Goldfluss to fill one of the Alternate vacancies on the Architectural Advisory Committee for the remainder of the four-year term (until 12/5/19). Motion passed 4-0.

3. End of Year Transfers: Kevin Redmond

Kevin Redmond, Town Controller stated the Town finished the year very well—we will not use the \$1.8M of fund balance to balance the budget and we ended with \$400,000 extra. This is driven by favorability in taxes, Parks & Recreation and Golf had a very good year, and we were under in some expenses due to unfilled vacancies. The Board of Finance estimated a surplus back in March, but did not know it would be at this level. The Board of Education returned a surplus of \$250,000.

B. Hebert moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to approve Department of Finance Memorandum, #2016-1, Transfer – Parks & Recreation Program, providing for an Increase in #10356-52317, Program Costs, in the amount of \$65,000; an Increase in #10356-51012, Seasonal Day Camp, in the amount of \$40,000; and an Increase in #10903-44260, Recreation Center Revenues, in the amount of \$105,000 all within the Parks & Recreation Program lines. Motion passed 4-0. These increases are due to increased revenues coming in higher than budget. Overall Parks & Recreation revenues will exceed budget by over \$250,000. This transfer has no net impact on Fund Balance.

M. Kozlark moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to approve Department of Finance Memorandum, #2016-2, Police Special Services Transfer, providing for an Increase in #10401-51021, Police – Special Services Expense, in the amount of \$100,000, and a corresponding Increase in #10903-44230, Police – Special Services Revenue, in the amount of \$100,000. Motion passed 4-0. Police Special Services Revenue is budgeted at \$125,000 and Special Duty Expense is budgeted at \$100. The \$125,000 represents an estimate of the annual net “profit” related to this activity. This year, Special Services Revenue was \$530,000 and the Special Services Expense was \$335,000 for a net “profit” of \$195,000. Kevin Redmond will contact the Chief to determine the source of this additional Police Special Services work.

M. Kozlark moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to approve Department of Finance Memorandum, #2016-3, Transfer—Building Maintenance, providing for Increases in the following lines: #10680-52012, Building Maintenance - General, in the amount of \$5,000; #10680-53071, Building Maintenance – Schlumberger, in the amount of \$30,000; #10682-52012, Building Maintenance – Venus, in the amount of \$7,000; #10691-52013, Building Maintenance – Schools, in the amount of \$10,000; and a Decrease in #10501-51001, Fire – FT Salaries, in the amount of \$52,000. Motion passed 4-0. The Building Maintenance line is higher than budget due to higher than anticipated repairs across numerous Town and school buildings. The transfer has no net impact on Fund Balance. Kevin Redmond suggested increasing this budget line when budget discussions take place.

M. Kozlark moved and B. Hebert seconded a motion to approve Department of Finance Memorandum, #2016-4, Transfer – Golf, providing for an Increase in #10281-51010, Seasonal Salaries, in the amount of \$25,000; and an Increase in #10903-44250, Golf Course Revenues, in the amount of \$25,000. Motion passed 4-0. These increases are due to increased revenues coming in higher than budget. Overall Golf Revenues will exceed budget by more than approximately \$130,000. This transfer has no net impact on Fund Balance. This year has been the highest revenue we have ever seen from the Golf Course. According to Frank Sergiovanni, the course has not taken a beating from the increased number of rounds played—thanks to Tony Steger and his crew.

M. Kozlark moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to approve Department of Finance Memorandum, #2016-5, Transfer – Probate, providing for an Increase in #10160-53001, Probate – Operating Supplies, in the amount of \$300; and a Decrease in #10030-52400, Legal – Professional Services, in the amount of \$300. Motion passed 4-0. Probate budget costs are based on estimates. Our share of the actual costs was higher than estimated. The following transfer is necessary so that the Probate cost center does not close this year over budget. This transfer has no net impact on Fund Balance.

There are no snow-related transfers due to last year's mild winter. We are starting off this year with 1,000 tons of salt.

4. Lyme Connection – BLAST Program Report

Karen Gaudian and Jennifer Reid stepped forward to discuss the transition from Lyme Disease Task Force (LDTF) to Lyme Connection. Two years ago, the LDTF initiated a change to their name and since then have been using Lyme Connection/LDTF. At this time, they would like to simplify their name to more accurately reflect what they do. Currently they run two support groups/month; organize and run a patient conference once/year at WCSU; and occasional educational programs for clinicians at the Leir Retreat Center. The top three diseases are Lyme disease, anaplasmosis and babesiosis. Jennifer Reid runs the BLAST prevention program, which is funded through the Health Department. When the state cut funding to this program earlier this year, Western CT Council of Governments stepped up to continue funding. Lyme Connection is the patient support program. Discussion ensued about whether pharmacies can release the number of people being treated for Lyme? Prevention education in the schools also was discussed. This is difficult because there are so many mandatory science programs. The Board thanked Karen and Jennifer for all they do for the Town.

5. WREF Lease Amendment

The original lease is from 1992. The \$1/per year lease for the past 25 years was unchanged. The lease has come up for renewal and therefore we have an opportunity to increase the rent, if we so choose. B. Hebert stated if this is a for-profit organization and are not engaged in community service, we should look at the possibility of increasing the rent. The radio station is owned by WLAD in Danbury. R. Marconi will ask Kevin Redmond to run the numbers and bring it back to the next BOS meeting.

6. Peter Parley Painting – Set Special Town Meeting Date

M. Kozlark moved and B. Hebert seconded a motion to set a Special Town Meeting date of October 6 at 7:30 pm to consider and vote on the transfer of funds of \$8,800 for exterior and some interior painting of the Peter Parley Schoolhouse. Motion passed 4-0.

7. Vendor Ordinance; Set Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting Dates

B. Hebert moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to set a Public Hearing Date of October 6, 2016 at 7:30 pm to receive comments and a Special Town Meeting date of October 19, 2016 at 7:30 pm in the Town Hall large conference room to vote on the proposed revised Vendor Ordinance. Motion passed 4-0.

8. Family Dinner Proclamation

R. Marconi discussed the family dinner night scheduled for Monday night at the RBGC.

R. Marconi read the Proclamation for September 26, 2016, to be designated as “Family Day” in Ridgefield. Eighteen years of surveys conducted by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University have consistently found that the more often children and teenagers eat dinner with their families, the less likely they are to smoke, drink, and use illegal drugs. Teens who have frequent family dinners are more likely to report having excellent relationships with their parents. Monday, September 26, 2016 is designated by The Town of Ridgefield as “A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children”.

S. Zemo moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to Proclaim Monday, September 26, 2016 as “A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children.” Motion passed 4-0.

9. Selectman’s Report

- The new schedule for RCCASA programs was distributed. Laura Cleary has been doing a great job as the RCCASA administrator.
- Branchville TOD—copies will be distributed to BOS. Biggest problem faced down there is what to do about sewer? Redding is currently looking at taking the Gilbert & Bennett wire mill property for back taxes. When this is done, the previous owner is held liable for environmental contamination. The IHZ (Incentive Housing Zone) is an overlay that can be used—can you get credit for this? If you don’t meet the requirements of 8-30g, you don’t. It creates a dialogue between the P&Z Commission and the applicant and removes the ‘wild card’ component. We continue to apply for grants for the Branchville area—applied for and were denied a grant for pedestrian sidewalks there (\$2M grant). Other grants are being considered—to rebuild the Portland Avenue bridge.
- Route 7 Mobilitie pole update: the proposed location is about 4-5’ off the road. R. Marconi called the letter writer and was told that the company is not applying for the cell tower yet. Willing to do a propagation study to determine other locations to keep it off the road. A meeting between PURA and CSC is to take place this week. This pole would handle all data transmissions.
- October 5 is the roast for Chris Nolan; the BOS members received a copy of the ad that will run in the program.
- Chef’s Warehouse sent a letter with their intention to renew their lease at the Richard Venus building. This is the third and final five-year renewal.

- Fitch Ratings—called the Town to review the rating. That meeting will take place next Friday. There is no dollar cost to the Town for this meeting.
- Main Street Improvements—another meeting took place last night to review the proposed plans with local stakeholders. Another meeting will take place with the State within the next 30 days or so.
- Walpole Property on Route 7—there was a question of who owns a sliver of land off Simpaug Turnpike—when the road was relocated, a sliver of land was determined to be located on the new ballfield. The Town owns the land—STM will be necessary to approve Little

10. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 9/7/16

M. Kozlark moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the September 7, 2016, Board of Selectmen. Motion passed 4-0.

M. Kozlark moved and s. Zemo seconded a motion to recess the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 8:07 p.m. and go into Executive Session to discuss Future Lease of Town-Owned Property—Venus building and Schlumberger property, inviting Dick Larson to discuss SLG only. Motion passed 4-0.

The Board of Selectmen came back to public session at 10:26 p.m. No vote was taken.

M. Kozlark moved and B. Hebert seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 10:26 pm. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Gannon Lionetti