

## BOARD of SELECTMEN MEETING – APRIL 27, 2011

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

### 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, A. Bodner, M. Kozlark, B. Manners, D. Masters

#### **Agenda**

1. Graveyard Committee Interview: Jeff Lundberg
2. Vendor Permit Interview: Joe Esposito, J&E Ice Cream & More
3. Vendor Permit Renewal: Gamze & Enver Ceylan, Circusman
4. Cell Tower Land Purchase and Sunset Lane Land Sale Special Town Meeting Date Change from May 18 to May 25
5. 729 North Salem Road Rent Increase
6. Approval of Tax Refunds
7. CLG Grant Contract Resolution (75 Olmstead Lane, Kitty Rosa House)
8. Renaming of South Street Bypass Road
9. Selectman's Report
10. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 3/9/11 reg, 3/9/11 special, 3/23/11 special, 3/23/11 reg, 4/6/11 reg., 4/6/11 special, 4/13/11 special

R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen Meeting to order at 7:50 p.m. He announced that the meeting was running late due to the preceding Executive Session regarding an Update on Schlumberger with no vote.

1. Graveyard Committee Interview: Jeff Lundberg

Jeff Lundberg came forward to express his interest in serving on the Graveyard Committee. He has been attending meetings of the Committee for the last year. R. Marconi read the letter received from Mr. Lundberg. He has received support from the Committee. He stated how he has a profound interest in history and finds graveyards fascinating. He is interested in doing something with the history of the Keeler family. B. Manners asked Mr. Lundberg if he had a pair of "dirty jeans"? Yes, he helped this year with the Graveyard Clean-up. M. Kozlark inquired as to what is the level of preservation used in the graveyard that interests him? Mr. Lundberg stated how many of the gravestones are in need of repair. There is a new polyurethane coating that can be used to restore some of the old stones, but many of the old ones from the Civil War are too frail to repair. A new marker can be created and placed next to the old one. D. Masters expressed appreciation for Mr. Lundberg's interest in serving on the Graveyard Committee. She knows how he has also worked closely with the Historical Society.

**B. Manners moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to appoint Jeff Lundberg to fill the vacancy position on the Graveyard Committee. Motion passed 5-0.**

2. Vendor Permit Interview: Joe Esposito, J&E Ice Cream & More

Mr. Esposito called and requested postponement until the next BOS Meeting.

3. Vendor Permit Renewal: Gamze & Enver Ceylan, Circusman

Gamze and Enver came forward to express interest in renewal of their vendor permit for an additional year. This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> year for their business. They had no problems last year other than a territorial issue with other vendors. They indicated that this situation has been worked out for this coming summer thru Parks & Rec. They have received approval by the Police Department but have yet to receive this year's approval from the Health Department.

**A. Bodner moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to approve for an additional year, contingent upon Health Department approval, the renewal vendor permit for Gamze and Enver Ceylan, Circusman, to sell packaged ice cream bars, bottled water and soda. Motion passed 5-0.**

4. Cell Tower Lane Purchase and Sunset Lane Land Sale Special Town Meeting Date Change from May 18 to May 25

R. Marconi reported on the two recent info meetings (one at Barlow and one at Ridgebury) regarding the proposed cell tower placement. Residents expressing concern asked that the decision not be rushed. A decision needs to be made by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Some of the residents are doing their own research. R. Marconi indicated that there are two issues – value of the property and health concerns. This coming Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, a large balloon will be floated at the proposed cell tower site. Residents will then be able to get a feeling as to the visibility of the proposed cell tower. A. Bodner asked for clarification of the approval process. The Public Hearing is scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup>. The Town Meeting will follow the Public Hearing at a later date and is really dependent upon what is discussed at the Public Hearing.

Dom d'Addario, Taunton Hill Rd., inquired as to the construction of the proposed cell tower. It will be a steel tower and it will be camouflaged with branches. Will it hold up to strong winds? Yes, the cell tower will have a larger foundation and depth of the foundation is dependent on the height of the tower. Yes, the branches will be artificial. There will be additional information available at the Public Hearing on May 4<sup>th</sup>, with experts on the subject available for questions.

R. Marconi indicated that the Town first needs to purchase the property for the cell tower. There is agreement between the Conservation Commission and the Town with the Conservation Commission paying \$650,000 and the Town will be paying \$350,000 toward the project. The Board of Finance will want to get a return on the investment. The Town will then have the right to sell building lots to get the cost back. If the Town does not get involved with this project, the property owner could do a cell tower or sell the property to someone else who will erect the tower and get a return on their investment. If the Town erects the cell tower, we would have a revenue stream with the income going into the General Fund. The Town would also have control over the lease.

Jan Rifkinson inquired as to the \$1 million price tag on the property. R. Marconi responded that the Conservation Commission negotiated the price and did an appraisal of the property as well. The balloon will be floated at 150 feet from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Another idea is to erect three separate shorter towers and not one tall tower.

**B. Manners moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to change the Special Town Meeting Date from May 18 to May 25, 2011, relative to the proposed Cell Tower Land Purchase and the Sunset Lane Land Sale. Motion passed 5-0.**

5. 729 North Salem Road Rent Increase

This proposed rent increase is for an additional \$25/month on Director of Parks & Recreation's Department, Paul Roche's rental house. M. Kozlark stated that this seems like a "fair adjustment". J. Rifkinson stated how he had previously requested info as to the fair market value of the house. M. Kozlark indicated that in her opinion the fair market value for a two bedroom rental in Ridgefield is in the \$1500/month range based on info from the multiple-listing service. The BOS does not want to incur the cost of a formal appraisal. D. d'Addario inquired if utilities are included in the rental? R. Marconi responded that the renter is responsible for utilities and interior maintenance.

**Andy Bodner moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to approve the proposed rent increase for 729 North Salem Road to \$1534.50/month. Motion passed 5-0.**

6. Approval of Tax Refunds

**B. Manners moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to approve as requested by the 4/19/11 memo from Jane Berendsen-Hill, Tax Collector, refunds totaling \$10,333.26. Motion passed 5-0.**

7. CLG Grant Contract Resolution (75 Olmstead Lane, Kitty Rosa House)

CLG stands for "Certified Local Government". If the grant is awarded, it is awarded to the town. The grant obligates us to hire someone from the State approved list. R. Marconi read the proposed resolution.

**B. Manners moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to approve the resolution stating "That the First Selectman, Rudy Marconi, be authorized to make, execute and approve, on behalf of the Town of Ridgefield, any and all contracts or amendments thereof with the State of Connecticut commission on Culture and Tourism in reference to the Certified Local Governments Enhancement Grant". This grant is relative to 75 Olmstead Lane, Kitty Rosa House. Motion passed 5-0.**

8. Renaming of South Street Bypass Road

An April 6, 2011 letter was received from John McAllister requesting that the BOS consider re-naming Bypass Road in memory of Richard Ligi, former Chief of the Ridgefield Police Department. Chief Ligi lived in Ridgefield all of his life and dedicated over 40 years of service to the town.

M. Kozlark asked if there are any criteria in place for naming of roads? R. Marconi responded that usually a builder or developer recommends a name for a new road. Is there anyone located on Bypass Road that a name change will affect? Is there any other new road in town that needs to be named? Bypass Road is unusual in that there are no residents located on it. Mr. McQuilkin asked about naming the new ballfield after Chief Ligi instead. Naming the new ballfield won't work as the naming of the ballfields comes under the jurisdiction of the Parks & Recreation Department. R. Marconi indicated how there is consideration of a long time plan of continuing the rail trail along the side of Bypass Road, coming out on Route 35 and connecting up with the Parks & Rec facility.

**B. Manners moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to approve the renaming of South Street Bypass Road to "Ligi's Way", in memory of Richard Ligi, former Chief of the Ridgefield Police Department. Motion passed 5-0.**

Marty Heiser appeared at the Conference Room to congratulate Maureen Kozlark as winner in the election for Selectman to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Joan Plock.

9. Selectman's Report

- The Police Department has announced three promotions: Daniel Ryan, Sean Platt, and Jeffrey Kreitz. R. Marconi expressed a thank you to the Police Commission for holding off on these promotions until the present time, effective June or July, and all in line with current budget numbers.
- Tax receipt numbers are good, including conveyance tax income.
- MIRMA has not yet received payment from the BOE. R. Marconi will send Superintendent Deborah Low a reminder.
- Monday, May 2, 2011, Annual Budget Meeting at the Ridgefield Playhouse at 7:30 p.m. K. Redmond has prepared a list of Capital Items to be presented at the meeting. The following representatives will be present to explain their requests:
  - Highway Dept. – Peter Hill
  - Parks & Recreation Dept. – Paul Roche
  - Golf Course – Tony Steger, Frank Sergiovanni
  - Town Engineer – Charlie Fisher
  - Tree Warden – John Pinchbeck
  - Police Department – Chief John Roche
  - Fire Department – Chief Heather Burford
  - Information Technology – Andrew Neblett
  - Education – Paul Roche
- Ridgefield “Goes Country” downtown all day Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>
- Proposed regional dispatch system continues under consideration – not sure the Police Department will be supportive of this proposal.
- Awaiting decision regarding the State budget. Expecting restoration of FM&E tax; increase in conveyance tax; sales tax increase to 6.35% with 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a percent to be returned to the municipalities on increase of retail sales tax; hope to be able to bill for FM&E as local option (Boehringer Ingelheim has expressed willingness to pay this tax).
- Single Stream recycling program to be initiated; all items to be recycled will be collected from one container and transferred to Single Stream recycling facility. Ridgefield and Redding are not part of the current HRRRA program. This new program is expected to go into effect in October.

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B. Manners suggested that approval of meeting minutes be postponed until the next BOS Meeting.

**B. Manners moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 8:55 p.m. Motion passed 5-0.**