

BOARD of SELECTMEN MEETING – DECEMBER 14, 2011

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

APPROVED MINUTES

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. Public Comment
2. Peter Parley Schoolhouse Lease: Historical Society
3. Police & Fire Second in Command Employment Contracts
4. Design Council Discussion: Roger Guilfoyle, Edith Meffley
5. Reappointments: HDC Enforcement Officer, Carole Konner, John Pinchbeck, Al Garzi, Ed Briggs
6. Schlumberger Update; Approval of Ballot Reprint Cost
7. Cerreta Contract – Winters Brothers
8. Municipal Solid Waste Collector Registration Fees
9. BOS 2012 Meeting Schedule – 3/10/12 Meeting Date Change to 3/9/12 at Noon
10. Selectman's Report
11. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 11/26/11 Special Mtg., 11/30/11 Regular Mtg., 11/30/11 Special Mtg., 12/3/11 Special Mtg.

R. Marconi called the BOS Meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

B. Manners moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to move Agenda Item #3 to Item #10A as Executive Session to discuss Police & Fire Second in Command Employment Contracts with Laurie Scholl, Director of Human Resources, Police Chief John Roche, and Carl Lecher, Police Commission Chairman, invited to attend. Motion passed 5-0.

1. Public Comment – Edith Meffley expressed a thank you to R. Marconi for his leadership during the recent storm week. She expressed appreciation for all that he did and the support of the town employees.
2. Peter Parley Schoolhouse Lease: Historical Society
The following members of the Historical Society came forward to discuss the proposed lease for the Peter Parley Schoolhouse: Nancy McDaniel, Donna Warren, and Nancy Selander. The Historical Society will be assuming responsibility for the Schoolhouse from the Ridgefield Garden Club. The previous issue under question was the status of the oil burner and who would pay for its replacement. A Ridgefield resident read about this issue in the press and contributed a new oil burner. The building has been rarely heated in the past. The interior of the building has been replastered and repainted. It is felt that it will help to preserve the interior if the building is slightly heated. The heating oil and maintenance contract will come out of Charlie Fischer's budget – probably about 600 to 700 gallons of oil annually. Because the schoolhouse is a Town of Ridgefield building, there needs to be a public hearing and a town meeting to approve a lease.
B. Manners moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to set a Public Hearing on January 4, 2012, and a Town Meeting on January 18, 2012, both at 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Large Conference Room, 400 Main St., Ridgefield, CT, relative to the Peter Parley Schoolhouse Lease to the Historical Society. Motion passed 5-0.

Note – D. Masters stated that a young man in the community died early today. E.J. McCarthy was a freshman at Ridgefield High School and demonstrated tremendous courage in fighting his illness and continuing his schooling whenever possible.

3. Police & Fire Second in Command Employment Contracts – moved to Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

4. Design Council Discussion: Roger Guilfoyle, Edith Meffley

R. Marconi stated that he had read the letter received from Roger and Edith regarding the role of the Design Council at the last BOS Meeting. Roger stated how the Design Council had lost members and has not had a lot of activity. Should they continue to operate and if so, what does the BOS want them to do? Roger and Edith are currently their only members. Roger stated how they feel their mission is maintenance of the character of the town. He shared reports that the Design Council had previously prepared, “Guidelines for Community Design.”, as a result of their studies of other towns. Ridgefield has a viable downtown. People walk here. We already have what other towns want to have. The Design Council is the steward of this “character”. The Design Council needs to have a task and then attract other members. The goal would be to seek a wider age-range of members. A number of residents have expressed interest in serving on the Design Council. R. Marconi stated how there is “stuff brewing” such as a movie theatre, a new library, the retail center along Bailey Avenue. He feels it is important to have an active Design Council.

D. Masters stated how there is currently village district and historic district committees, which over-ride what the Design Council has been doing. Each of these organizations should have different tasks. Roger stated how the Design Council should develop an advisory guide. What about the idea of “street furniture?” Elements of design need to be compatible with the “look” of the Town.

Andy Bodner stated that we have many committees – Economic Development Commission (EDC), Planning & Zoning, the Village and Historic Committees. Is there any way to combine these groups? Edith pointed out how the Design Council was an outgrowth from the Garden Club. M. Kozlark inquired if Roger and Edith have any specific ideas of what they want to do?

Roger stated how the Design Council is strictly an advisory group. They should make recommendations, do walking tours, sponsor speakers – awaken our community into ownership of our town. He sees an educational role for the Council – appreciation for our landscape, our stone walls, our ridges, the value of our trees, etc. The question is do you want the Design Council to stay on board? B. Manners indicated that the Design Council is useful to call upon if needed; consult with them if an issue needs to be reviewed.

D. Masters expressed appreciation for the Design Council’s talent, wisdom and wealth of information. It would be a shame to disband their membership. She suggests that we help them find new members. Roger indicated that he could see the Council helping to co-sponsor a project like the new library. Their goal can be to help extend the “Main Street feeling” throughout the town to the various neighborhoods.

John Katz, Old Ridgebury Rd., stated how the Design Council oversaw the redo of the signs and permits in the downtown area. It would be important for someone from the Design Council attend AAC meetings, be involved with the village and historic district committees, and report back to the BOS. B. Manners and D. Masters suggested that the Design Council be reappointed, tie in

with the AAC and the Village District Committee and report back to the BOS. We should advertise for additional members and reappoint the two existing members.

B. Manners moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to reappoint the Design Council, affirm the two existing members – Roger Guilfoyle and Edith Meffley, and advertise for additional members. Motion passed 5-0.

5. Reappointments: HDC Enforcement Officer, Carole Konner, John Pinchbeck, Al Garzi, Ed Briggs

A. Bodner moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to reappoint the following individuals for the appropriate terms: Richard Baldelli as Zoning Enforcement Officer, Carole Konner as Director of Social Services, John Pinchbeck as Tree Warden, Al Garzi as Assessor, and Edward Briggs as Director of Health. Motion passed 5-0.

6. Schlumberger Update; Approval of Ballot Reprint Cost

This cost was incurred when the referendum was changed from November 8 to December 6, 2011. The BOS previously agreed to a reprint of the ballot, but did not approve the specific costs at that time.

A. Bodner moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to approve payment of \$3,315.20 to LHS Associates, Inc. of Salem, NH, Invoice #35066, for reprinting of the ballot for the referendum vote which was moved to December 6, 2011. Motion passed 5-0.

7. Cerreta Contract – Winters Brothers

Tony Cerreta (previously of Cerreta Waste Systems LLC) came forward to discuss the sale of Cerreta Waste Systems to Somers and then to Winters Brothers. Everything else is the same. They are asking the BOS to renew their contract as previously written for Cerreta, (effective May 1, 2009) as nothing is changed. They are active with recycling and have set up a single-stream facility. The current contract goes thru April 30, 2012. The price is fixed for two years with up to a five-year option. They are in agreement to a 2% cap for each five-year increment. R. Marconi will ask Town Counsel David Grogins to draft the revised contract and bring it back to the BOS for approval on January 4, 2012. Mr. Cerreta indicated that he is not available on the 4th, but it was felt that his absence would not be a problem.

8. Municipal Solid Waste Collector Registration Fees

R. Marconi reviewed the November 21, 2011 letter received from HRRRA. For the past few years, HRRRA has been collecting the annual hauler registration fee on behalf of Ridgefield and nine other HRRRA municipalities and remitting it to the town in its entirety. Ridgefield recently reauthorized HRRRA to act on its behalf with regard to hauler registrations. The fee set by the Ridgefield BOS is \$100 per hauling company. To date in 2011, there are 23 haulers registered to collect solid waste in Ridgefield, resulting in registration revenue to the towns of \$2,300. Since doubling the fee after the due date works for haulers who are renewing an HRRRA permit, they want to do the same for municipal registrations as well. They are asking for Ridgefield's approval to double the registration fee set by the town after the annual due date (July 31st) and the Town's approval for HRRRA to keep the penalty part of the registration fee to cover the additional staff hours required to gain compliance.

B. Manners moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to approve at \$100 the registration fee set by the town after the annual due date (July 31st) and at \$100 for HRRRA to keep the

penalty part of the registration fee to cover the additional staff hours required to gain compliance. Motion passed 5-0.

9. BOS 2012 Meeting Schedule – 3/10/12 Meeting Date Change to 3/9/12 at Noon
All were in agreement with this proposed meeting date change and time.
10. Selectman's Report –
- Letter received from Chef's Warehouse requesting renewal of their lease for a five-year renewal. This is good news - \$400,000/year income.
 - Sunrise Cottage embarking on Sunrise Cottage #2, currently AHRD (age-restricted). A variance may be needed. They are seeking a 99-year ground lease.
 - Schlumberger negotiations are continuing - working on the environmental issues. Another meeting will be scheduled as soon as a response from is received.
11. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 11/26/11 Special Mtg., 11/30/11 Regular Mtg., 11/30/11 Special Mtg., 12/3/11 Special Mtg.

A. Bodner moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to approve as written the minutes of the BOS Special Meeting on 11/26/11, the minutes of the BOS Meeting on 11/30/11, the minutes of the BOS Special Meeting on 11/30/11, and the minutes of the BOS Special Meeting on 12/3/11. Motion passed 5-0.

R. Marconi moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to recess the Board of Selectmen Meeting and go into Executive Session at 8:32 p.m., to discuss Police & Fire Second in Command Employment Contracts – first with Laurie Scholl, Director of Human Resources, for a ten minute meeting, and then include also Police Chief John Roche and Carl Lecher, Chairman of the Police Commission. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Johnson