

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – MARCH 5, 2008**

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

### **UNREVISED/UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

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

In attendance: R. Marconi, A. Bodner, B. Manners, D. Masters and J. Plock

Notice is hereby given that a **Public Hearing** will be held on Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 7:30 PM, Town Hall Large Conference Room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut, to consider:

- 1--the authorization of the Town of Ridgefield to appropriate (\$111,000) from the capital reserve fund to finance the remaining costs for the Community Golf Course Bridge Replacement;
- 2--the proposed amendment to the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association (RVNA) lease at the Town of Ridgefield-owned Richard E. Venus building. Copies of the proposed lease amendment can be found in the office of the First Selectman;
- 3--the proposed amendment to the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra at the Town of Ridgefield-owned Richard E. Venus building. Copies of the proposed lease amendment can be found in the office of the First Selectman.

Notice is hereby given that a **Special Town Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 7:30 PM, Town Hall Large Conference Room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut, to act on:

- 1--the authorization of the Town of Ridgefield to appropriate (\$111,000) from the capital reserve fund to finance the remaining costs for the Community Golf Course Bridge Replacement;
- 2--the proposed amendment to the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association (RVNA) lease at the Town of Ridgefield-owned Richard E. Venus building. Copies of the proposed lease amendment can be found in the office of the First Selectman;
- 3--the proposed amendment to the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra at the Town of Ridgefield-owned Richard E. Venus building. Copies of the proposed lease amendment can be found in the office of the First Selectman.

#### **Board of Selectmen Meeting Agenda (immediately following Town Meeting)**

1. Youth Service Bureau Medical Insurance Coverage Discussion
2. Turner Hill Discussion
3. Ridgefield Playhouse Lease Revision
4. Proposed Zoning Citation Ordinance
5. Refunding Bonds Resolution
6. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 2/13/08, 2/14/08, 2/19/08
7. Selectman's Report

R. Marconi called the Public Hearing to order at 7:30 pm. There was no discussion regarding the appropriation of \$111,000 from the capital reserve fund to finance the remaining costs for the Community Golf Course Bridge replacement. The two additional items, the RVNA and the Ridgefield Symphony leases, had been removed from the agenda by the Board of Selectmen at their March 3 meeting. Sal Monti was elected moderator for the Special Town Meeting. The minutes to the Special Town Meeting can be found in the Town Clerk's office.

## Agenda

### 1. Youth Service Bureau Medical Insurance Coverage

Laurie Scholl, Human Resource Director and Steve Rinaldi, the Town's Insurance Representative met with the Board of Selectmen to discuss adding the Ridgefield Youth Service Bureau to the Town's medical plan. L. Scholl had been asked to find out how other municipalities handle similar situations. L. Scholl said she found no consistency among area towns. Ridgefield's medical plan is experience rated and any additional individual or group could impact the Town's experience and hence premiums.

It was argued that there is only one eligible employee at the YSB so the impact to the claim pool would be slight. It was noted that the employee's family would be eligible to join the plan also.

L. Scholl recommended against allowing any more non-municipal employees into the medical plan.

D. Masters said the Town has already opened the pool to other non-municipal groups and the YSB should not be excluded.

R. Marconi said if the plan is opened to the YSB the Town will have to open it to all other Town related groups and their families.

A. Bodner said it is the Board of Selectmen's job to control the Town budget and they are responsible for controlling insurance costs.

L. Scholl stated there are 25 non-municipal individuals or families currently on the Town medical policy.

J. Plock recommended adding YSB on the medical plan and making a policy of closing the plan to any other groups.

D. Masters recommended sun setting allowing non-municipal employees on the Town's medical plan. A date should be set to eliminate covering these groups.

L. Scholl was asked to write up a policy to sunset non-municipal employees from the Town medical plan.

**D. Masters made a motion to include an employee from the Youth Service Bureau in the Town of Ridgefield's medical coverage. B. Manners seconded the motion with the**

**understanding there will be a discussion about sun setting this policy. The motion passed 4-1 with A. Bodner voting against.**

A. Bodner questioned S. Rinaldi about renewing Town coverage earlier in the year and proposed this change to make the budgeting process easier.

S. Rinaldi said this change would be neutral from an insurance standpoint. The Board of Education would have to be included in this change. L. Scholl was asked to contact the BOE to see if their contracts dictate when insurance adjustments can be made and if the BOE payroll dept. would be willing to do this.

## 2. Turner Hill Discussion

Ben Oko reported that Turner Hill homeowners have been mowing into open space for years and the Conservation Commission has been trying to get the property line set at the open space line which is 12' from the buildings, not including decks. They have contacted the homeowners and 98% have complied.

R. Marconi said there is an adjacent 1.6 undeveloped acres owned by Sawmill Properties, LLC. Rudy asked if the Conservation Commission would be interested in seeing if it could be purchased.

Ben Oko said the interim solution is enforcement of the boundaries and wants some sense that enforcement will go forward with the September 14<sup>th</sup> proposal.

B. Masters wants the Town to put up markers – check in 30 days.

## 3. Ridgefield Playhouse Lease Revision

Allison Stockel requested that all the Ridgefield Playhouse space be billed at the non-profit rate because it is a non-profit agency. If they have to book events based on the ability to cover costs they will not be able to fulfill their mission. The 1,000 feet added to the Ridgefield Playhouse's existing 631 square feet is being billed at the for-profit rate. The extra 1,000 feet became available to the Playhouse when Air Age left.

A. Bodner said it is explicit to keep the Town whole and to the extent that rents are reduced it costs the Town money.

Allison Stockel also said the Ridgefield Playhouse should be given the same consideration as Dairyland by deducting the improvements they have made to the space from the rent.

B. Manners said the Playhouse gave up approximately 300- 400 sq. ft. of storage space in the basement and they should get credit for that. There should be a review of the dollars spent by the Playhouse for improvements on the new space. There will be a review for credit.

#### 4. Zoning Citation Ordinance

Rich Baldelli, Ridgefield Zoning Officer asked the BOS to go forward on a public hearing on the Zoning Citation Ordinance. It would give the Town the ability to withhold permits, issue citations and sue violators \$150/ day.

Betty Brosius said many towns in Connecticut are successfully using this ordinance. It gives violators motivation to comply and protects neighbors.

**D. Masters made a motion to bring the Zoning Citation Ordinance to a public hearing on March 19, 2008. The motion was seconded by B. Manners and passed 5-0.**

#### 5. Refunding Bonds Resolution

R. Marconi wants to establish a formal policy for restructuring bonds.

A. Bodner wants to make a change to the 3<sup>rd</sup> line on the Resolution. The wording "First Selectman and Town Treasurer in consultation with the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen" should be inserted.

**A. Bodner made a motion to approve the Resolution as modified and to develop a policy that would involve the Board of Finance in any type of debt issuance by the Town. The motion was seconded by D. Masters and approved 5-0.**

#### 6. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 2/13/08, 2/14/08, 2/19/08

**J. Plock motioned to table approval of the above minutes until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by B. Manners and approved 5-0.**

#### 7. Selectman' Report

R. Marconi reported that Robert Moriarty resigned from the Ridgefield Pension Commission effective immediately.

**J. Plock made a motion to adjourn at 10:15 p.m., seconded by D. Masters and approved 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Wolnick – Secretary