

TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD  
PUBLIC HEARING  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING  
April 6, 2009 7:30 pm – Town Hall Large Conference Room

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, B. Manners, J. Plock  
Absent: D. Masters

*Notice is hereby given that a **Public Hearing** will be held on April 6, 2009, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Large Conference Room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut to receive comments on the proposal to receive an easement from Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. for highway purposes on property consisting of approximately 3,900 sq. ft. along 801 Ridgebury Road on the west side of Ridgebury Road. A copy of the easement is available for public inspection in the office of the First Selectman and the Town Clerk.*

**Board of Selectmen Special Meeting Agenda** (immediately following Public Hearing)

1. Ridgefield Arts Council Interview: Paul Gervais
2. Charter Revision Commission Interviews: Andrew H. Berger, Avery Costigan, Tiffany Lenz
3. ICLEI Resolution
4. Solid Waste Bid Decision
6. Set Special Town Meeting Date for Revocation of Bennetts Pond Project Plan
7. Reappointments Discussion
8. Budget Referendum—Single Polling Location
9. Discussion of Placement of Capital Items for Annual Town Meeting Agenda
10. Selectman’s Report—Schlumberger (Charlie Fisher)
11. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 2/10/09, 2/23/09, 3/3/09, 3/5/09, 3/18/09
12. Executive Session: SEIU & IAFF Contract Discussion & Possible Vote

**Public Hearing**

R. Marconi called the Public Hearing to order at 7:30 pm. This easement agreement is being requested by Boehringer Ingelheim for the purpose of straightening out a curve located at approximately 801 Ridgebury Road, Ridgefield. Mr. Marconi asked for public comments.

Mike Kroposki, Woodland Way, questioned the realignment location. Mr. Kroposki is concerned that this may be an alternate entrance for trucks. Is the purpose of the realignment to facilitate traffic to go out to Ridgebury Road? R. Marconi stated that he met with John Hardiman of Boehringer Ingelheim. Mr. Marconi sent an email to concerned residents after his

meeting and read it. There currently is no plan to use this entrance for additional traffic or a new entrance. In addition, there is currently a "No Truck Traffic" sign located at this entrance. Employees state that this curve is dangerous.

John Katz of Ridgebury Road stated that there is no evidence that that turn is a safety hazard. Boehringer Ingelheim is a remarkably good citizen in the Town of Ridgefield. This is a particularly graceful part of Town, there is no question that this easement foresees a request to widen and greaten the road. A straightened road will increase the traffic. I would be opposed as a citizen to alter that curve.

Jim Bucher, 7 Schoolhouse Place, agrees with Mr. Katz. He is concerned straightening the curve will increase the speed of the cars.

Todd Rockefeller, 786 Ridgebury Road, stated that Boehringer Ingelheim's dreams have more clarity than they care to share.

Dennis Peters, 910 Ridgebury Road, agrees with Mr. Katz. If there is a desire to straighten the curve, it will make it more of a safety concern due to increased speed. He is also concerned about an unknown agenda for the future; it is part of a slow process of reconfiguring the intersection.

Mike Kroposki thinks traffic studies have been done for Planning & Zoning that will show what will be happening there. Traffic will be diverted from the alternate entrance from Briar Ridge Road as they re-do that road. These are things that must be thought about.

John Katz stated he does not believe there is a plan to widen the road.

J. Plock asked about whether an accident report is available from the Police Department? A. Bodner asked if whether the purpose of this easement is to ease the truck access to Boehringer Ingelheim, maybe they could limit the amount of truck traffic.

Lisa Rockefeller, 786 Ridgebury Road stated that the curve tends to slow people down and if it would be taken out, people will speed up just to get to the stop sign. It is essentially a safety curve. R. Marconi brought that up to Mr. Hardiman stated that it was possible but nothing is on the drawing board right now.

The Board would like to keep the Public Hearing open and get more information from the Police Department, canceling the Special Town Meeting for the April 22. The Public Hearing will be continued to April 22.

The Public Hearing is continued to April 22 at 7:30 pm.

R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order at 7:53 pm.

1. Ridgefield Arts Council Interview: Paul Gervais—owns Building Blocks Arts Supplies & Gallery. Has met many people in the arts. Parents that come to his store are looking to strike a balance between arts and sports in the town. Sat in on a few Arts Council meetings. Does not have an arts background; corporate and management. Would like to marry sports and the arts so that schedules & such can help create a better rounded community.

**J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded the motion to appoint Paul Gervais to the Ridgefield Arts Council. Motion passed 4-0.**

2. Charter Revision Commission Interviews—Avery Costigan, Andrew H. Berger  
Avery Costigan is a newcomer to Town (moved here last July), is interested in getting involved in the community, and as a stay-at-home mother, feels she has the time to devote to this Commission. Moved here from Ridgewood, NJ and was actively involved in a Town project there and would like to apply her skills and abilities to help the Town. Ms. Costigan was asked if she would be open to working on other committees if there are vacancies and she responded yes, she would.

Andrew H. Berger came forward to be interviewed. He has lived here for six years, has not been active in the town at all and his wife is active in the schools with Avery, and feels that the budget process is constrained. It's time to dig into the charter and see if it can be improved. Mr. Berger would consider other commissions, such as the Board of Finance, Insurance Risk Management, Pension Commission, if vacancies exist.

3. ICLEI Resolution

J. Plock researched this and had trouble getting answers to her questions, such as what are the policies that we are endorsing as stated in the first paragraph of the resolution. Four towns in Connecticut out of the 546 members in the United States belong to ICLEI. John Papa came forward to discuss the issue. He is present on behalf of Patrice Gillespie who has a conflict tonight. The idea is to start the process now to determine a benchmark of where we are in greenhouse gases. Dwayne Escola was also present and explained we need to determine what our Town's carbon footprint currently is. In joining, we get the research and the software to determine this, and then we can set general target goal. A. Bodner supports the initiatives but does not support the policies. The potential consequence of this resolution is an unfunded mandate. It doesn't make clear what the cost will be. Dwayne stated we could set forth some goals for the commercial district and residential buildings. John Papa stated that RACE is working on this project and would be the volunteers to help capture this information. This could be done in tandem with the Plan of Conservation and Development as part of intelligent, forward planning for the Town. R. Marconi stated we are being given the \$600 for the first year which covers the research and software. We are not required to sign up for another year. A.

Bodner questioned whether a resolution is necessary to join or can we simply pay the \$600. B. Manners would like to include the U.S. Conference of Mayor's Climate Protection Program as part of the resolution and recommends bringing this up again when Di Masters is present. Patrice Gillespie came to the table and explained that ICLEI allows each municipality to set their own target goals. The organization is funded by the EPA and the Conference of Mayors and they are of these mindsets. J. Plock would like the date to be specified in the resolution. R. Marconi will work with Patrice on making the changes suggested and bring it back to the April 22 meeting.

4. Solid Waste Bid Decision

Jerry Gay, Purchasing Director, explained that Mr. Cerreta's bid was based on his relationship with Bria Carting. Bria Carting has partial ownership in Cerreta Carting. Town Counsel has reviewed the contract and R. Marconi requested that he also review the information that was supplied to the Board of Selectmen tonight. Mr. Marconi also had questions about the agreement—it seems to be a document that is a work in progress. Sections have been highlighted. Mr. Cerreta stated that highlights were made to bring the information to the parties' attention. A. Bodner stated that the Board of Selectmen was looking for some background information about the ownership of the trucks and what was given to the BOARD OF SELECTMEN tonight is information about the LLC. R. Marconi would like to know that Bria is committed themselves. The agreement should be Cerreta Waste Systems/Bria Carting and the Town—it will be re-drafted to reflect this and bring it back to the Board for approval. Jerry Gay will ask for one month extension on the current contract. Cerreta's bid is \$8,000/year less than other bidders.

5. Set Special Town Meeting Date for Revocation of Bennetts Pond Project Plan

**J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to hold a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 9:30 am in the Town Hall Large Conference Room to approve the revocation of the Bennetts Pond Corporate Park Plan. Motion carried 4-0.**

6. Reappointment Discussion

R. Marconi read an email from Chris Robertson, Chairperson of the Commission on Aging. "Dear Rudy--I am still trying to figure out what happened when The Selectwomen and the Selectmen turned down the application of four of the Commissioners for another three years on the COA. I am sure Town Hall is aware that since we are all volunteers it is sometimes a problem to get anyone to apply. We are very lucky that we have four Registered Nurses who are all experienced with seniors and we use their expertise when we have a question. Of the four people who want to renew, three are highly qualified RN's; the other is Mary Morrisroe who is a very active member with "Are you OK" among other things. I hope you Select People have second thoughts,

if not the Commission on Aging will be no more and that is a shame. --Chris H Robertson, Chair.

B. Manners stated that the Board of Selectmen make it clear that they are trying to seek new members to boards and commissions. A. Bodner stated a policy is needed— attendance records must be kept, etc. R. Marconi read the notice that was drafted for the paper. It is very vague. B. Manners agrees with A. Bodner that the need for a policy suggestion is good. R. Marconi disagrees in changing the policy; it is a slap in the face. Do the same people stay on the same committee forever? If so, do we still want them to? There may be someone else who wants a chance at working on a committee. A. Bodner expressed if there is a problem, it is difficult to address. R. Marconi will contact CCM about existing policies in other towns regarding volunteers, and he will get records for the three committees that are being discussed. B. Manners stated she does not want to lose good people in any committee; feels that we haven't been doing our due diligence and getting attendance records of committee members.

7. Budget Referendum—Single Polling Location

The Registrars are requesting a vote from the Board of Selectmen to give them the authority to hold the budget referendum in a single location. J. Plock expressed concern for parking at one location. R. Marconi stated the turnout is expected to be 20-22%. This will be coordinated with the Board of Education and other offices near Yanity Gym. Ed Tyrrell remembered the Board of Selectmen concern with last year's referendum re-vote. It was clarified that the concern was about the fact that the re-vote was a Town Meeting. J. Plock expressed concern about the parking situation.

**A. Bodner moved, B. Manners seconded the motion to hold the budget referendum in one location this year—Yanity Gym. Motion passed 4-0.**

8. Discussion of Placement of Capital Items for Annual Town Meeting Agenda

A. Bodner questioned whether anything could be done about items eliminated from the capital budget, such as the replacement of the lawn mower for the golf course. There is nothing to be done about those items. Of the remaining capital items, the ones that are over \$50,000 will go to referendum, such as the \$100k for police cruisers. This will appear on Ballot Question #3. Items that are \$100,000 or less can be sent to the Annual Town Meeting Agenda. After some discussion it was decided that the Playhouse ceiling, Town Hall generator, the Plan of Conservation and Development, the server for information technology, the firefighter air packs and EMS cardiac monitor, and the Purchase Order software for the Finance Department would all be brought to the Annual Town Meeting as they all require more explanation than can be provided on the ballot questions. The following changes were made to the ballot questions: the Highway Department service truck should be included on Question #5; the Tiger Hollow Stadium grant should be included with the education questions (Question #8). In addition, Question #8 includes the federal stimulus grant money and the LOCIP grant money—

this info should be reflected in the question and the revenue component should be shown clearly. J. Plock mentioned the explanation that had been provided for questions in the past. People did look at that before voting.

**J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded the motion to bring the Playhouse ceiling, Town Hall generator, the Plan of Conservation and Development, the server for information technology, the firefighter air packs and EMS cardiac monitor, and the Purchase Order software for the Finance Department to the Annual Town Meeting. Motion passed 4-0.**

The Budget Summary was reviewed. The Board of Finance approved the use of \$1M of fund balance, bringing the mill rate to 0.47%.

9. Selectman's Report

a. Schlumberger—R. Marconi stated it is premature to report about this. This will be covered at a later date in executive session.

b. Conservation Commission Annual Meeting—the Board each received a notice of this annual meeting to be held on April 23 at 7pm in the Charter Oak Room of Parks & Recreation. A. Bodner asked about Turner Hill and R. Marconi responded that residents that were encroaching were given a springtime deadline to remove items from Open Space. Aimee Pardee is working on this with the Conservation Commission.

10. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The 2/10/09 meeting minutes were not available for the Board of Selectmen to approve; they will be covered at the 4/22/09 meeting.

**J. Plock moved and A. Bodner seconded the motion to approve the 2/23/09 meeting minutes as written. Motion passed 4-0.**

**J. Plock moved and A. Bodner seconded the motion to approve the 3/3/09 meeting minutes as amended. Motion passed 4-0.**

**J. Plock moved and A. Bodner seconded the motion to approve the 3/5/09 meeting minutes as amended. Motion passed 4-0.**

**J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded the motion to table the approval of the 3/18/09 meeting minutes. Motion passed 4-0.**

11. Executive Session: SEIU & IAFF Contract Discussion & Possible Vote

**J. Plock moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to recess the public portion of the meeting and to go into executive session, inviting Laurie Scholl, Director of Human Resources, and Fire Chief Heather Burford to join them at 9:48 pm. Motion passed 4-0.**

Chief Heather Burford left the executive session at approximately 10:08 pm.

The Board of Selectmen returned to public session at 10:14pm.

**J. Plock motioned and B. Manners seconded a motion to approve the IAFF Concession Agreement and Contract Extension as discussed in executive session pending the Union Vote. Motion passed 4-0.**

**J. Plock motioned and A. Bodner seconded a motion to approve the SEIU Concession Agreement and Contract Extension as discussed in executive session. Motion passed 4-0.**

**J. Plock motioned and A. Bodner seconded a motion to adjourn at 10:15 pm. Motion passed 4-0.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Gannon Lionetti