

BOARD of SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING – APRIL 6, 2010

Town Hall Large Conference Room – 2:30 PM
400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut

UNREVISED/UNAPPROVED 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, B. Manners, D. Masters, J. Plock

Agenda

1. Three-year Budget Forecast for Board of Finance
2. Insurance Risk Management Committee Interview: David Menn
3. Ridgefield Arts Council Interview: Khristee Rich
4. Vendor Permit Application: Cohen & Yolen Families; Enver Ceylon
5. Pension Commission Appointment
6. Reappointment of Parks & Recreation Commissioners
7. Request to Proclaim May “BLAST Lyme Out of Town Month”
8. Selectman’s Report
9. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 2/24/10, 2/25/10, 3/2/10, 3/3/10, 3/17/10
10. Executive Session: Children’s Corner Lease

R. Marconi called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

1. Three-year Budget Forecast for Board of Finance

Kevin Redmond joined the Board of Selectmen to discuss the mill rate—not using any fund balance. The grand list is increasing by .65%. The year before reflected a 1.3% increase. Includes manufacturer’s exemption. R. Marconi mentioned this is the last year we’ll see an increase in the manufacturer’s exemption. It will be pegged in years ahead. A. Bodner questioned should we talk about revenues? The answer is yes—this will impact the bottom line. K. Redmond covered revenues—estimates show many flat areas. Licenses and permits—we think there will be some increase—gave it 10%. Intergovernmental is going to be flat. Town Clerks charges for services—there was a very large sale this past week. Copps Hill Plaza sold and we realized \$86k in conveyance tax. 17 lis pendances have been filed in March—this is a very high number. A normal month is approximately three or four. R. Marconi stated the discussion in Hartford is that Town Aid Road will be eliminated. Approximately \$2.2M comes from the state, \$1.9M of it is the ECS. We are concerned about state reimbursement in years two and three. K. Redmond and R. Marconi will need to devise a Plan B if the state reimbursement falls through. Parks & Recreation shows a flat 1% revenue increase. Rental of Town property shows an increase of 3%. Investment income is at a very low number now. Expecting a 10% increase right now. Went out to bid on electric yesterday.

Expenses—assumptions reflect no change in personnel in any departments; no one will be hired in this forecast. Special appropriations for special projects will come up but this forecast does not reflect them. J. Plock expressed concern about keeping current vacant positions open. D. Masters

stated this is in keeping with the work that the Board of Selectmen has done for the past few years.

J. Plock motioned to approve K. Redmond bringing this estimate forward to the Board of Finance. B. Manners seconded; Motion passed 4-1 (A. Bodner opposed).

A. Bodner stated this is a tool for the Board of Finance to look at the Town going forward and committing to bare bones minimum for the next few years. B. Manners stated that she does not want to have to keep the budget so low and not bring back some social services that have been cut. D. Masters stated this reflects where we are right now. When we are able to add back to our budget, we can sit down and prioritize the items to bring back.

2. Insurance Risk Management Committee Interview: David Menn

Mr. Menn retired in 2007 and moved to Ridgefield in September 2008. His career was in insurance & risk management. He spoke to Bill Jaeger about the items facing the IRMC. **J. Plock moved, D. Masters seconded a motion to approve Mr. Menn's appointment to the Insurance & Risk Management Committee. Motion carried 5-0.**

3. Ridgefield Arts Council Interview: Khristee Rich

Ms. Rich graduated from the University of Michigan and the British American Drama Academy. Wrote childrens stories & plays. Grew up in Ridgefield. **J. Plock moved to approve the appointment of Khristee Rich to the Arts Council, D. Masters seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

4. Vendor Permit Application: Cohen & Yolen Families; Enver Ceylan

The Cohen and Yolen applicants will attend the April 28 Board of Selectmen meeting because they could not come to an afternoon meeting. Enver Ceylan was in attendance. Mr. Ceylan has had a vendor permit for his ice cream truck, Circusman, for several years.

B. Manners moved, J. Plock seconded a motion to approve a vending permit for Mr. Ceylan. Motion passed 5-0. D. Masters mentioned that permits must be worn by those working in the truck.

5. Pension Commission Appointment

D. Masters moved, J. Plock seconded a motion to appoint Kevin Walsh to fill the vacancy on the Pension Commission. Motion carried 5-0. It was suggested that a letter should be sent to the other candidate, Michael Andrews to suggest another vacancy that he might fill. He is well qualified for the Pension Commission; perhaps there is another commission for which he can volunteer.

6. Reappointment of Parks & Recreation Commissioners

Barbara Dobbins, Chair of the Parks & Rec Commission, sent a letter requesting reappointment of the three commissioners whose terms are about to expire: Barbara Dobbins, Phil Kearns, and Jon Chase. Phil Kearns is not available to attend due to work obligations. B. Dobbins, in attendance, discussed Commission initiatives that they are currently working on to increase memberships. She suggested a slight change in the reappointment schedule—3 – 3 – 2 rotation in reappointment. Therefore, both Barbara and Phil are requesting reappointment for three-year terms and Jon Chase is requesting a two-year reappointment. Cary Nadel is interested in appointment to Parks & Recreation and sent the Board a letter in anticipation of meeting with

them. B. Dobbins mentioned there is an unwritten rule that potential commission members not be involved with a sport in any official capacity due to a possible conflict of interest. R. Marconi will contact Cary Nadel to request he attend a Board meeting for an interview.

7. Request to Proclaim May "BLAST Lyme Out of Town Month"

B. Manners moved to waive reading, D. Masters seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

B. Manners moved to approve the proclamation, D. Masters seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

8. Selectmen's Report

A letter of resignation was received from long time Historic District Commission member Kitty Rosa. She is living in California with her daughter Elizabeth. There is discussion of organizing some type of recognition for all her work over the years, using technology (video conference) to allow her to attend. A Historic District Commission meeting is taking place tonight to discuss relocating the Seymour house to the Keeler Tavern parcel. Two members of the HDC are on Keeler Tavern Board of Trustees which raises a potential conflict of interest. Both parties have since resigned from the Keeler Tavern Board.

B. Manners discussed the deer hunt and proposed locations. The Board should review the locations and the residents should have an opportunity to speak about locations and their concerns.

9. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 2/24/10, 2/25/10, 3/2/10, 3/3/10, 3/17/10

J. Plock moved and R. Marconi seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the February 24, 2010, Board of Selectmen Budget Meeting. Motion passed 4-0-1. B. Manners abstained as she was not in attendance at the February 24, 2010 meeting.

D. Masters moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to approve as written the minutes of the February 25, 2010, Board of Selectmen Budget Meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

D. Masters moved and J. Plock seconded a motion to approve as written the minutes of the March 2, 2010, Board of Selectmen Budget Meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

D. Masters moved and J. Plock seconded a motion to table the minutes of the March 3, 2010 and March 17, 2010 Board of Selectmen Meetings. Motion passed 5-0.

10. Executive Session: Children's Corner Lease

D. Masters moved to go into Executive Session at 4:00 p.m. inviting Nan and Stewart Howkins, B. Manners seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Board of Selectmen exited Executive Session at 5:05 p.m.

J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting at 5:06 p.m. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted
Wendy Gannon Lionetti