

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING – BOARD of SELECTMEN MEETING**  
**APRIL 25, 2007**

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

**Board of Selectmen Special Meeting Agenda – 7:00 P.M.**

- 1) Turner Hill Discussion (Possible Executive Session)
- 2) Police Chief Contract (Possible Executive Session)

Minutes of the BOS Special Meeting under separate cover.

**Special Town Meeting – 7:30 P.M.**

*Notice is hereby given that a **Special Town Meeting** will be held on April 25, 2007, 7:30 P.M., Town Hall Large Conference Room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut to act on a proposed tax abatement agreement between the Town of Ridgefield and Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*

Minutes of the Special Town Meeting under separate cover.

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

- 1) Recognition of Athletes: Heather Stephens, RHS Boys Hockey Team
- 2) Youth Commission Interview: Connie Johnson
- 3) Vendor Permit Application: Richard Papenfuss
- 4) Transfers: Jay Wahlberg
- 5) Chamber of Commerce Parking Committee: Bill Wyman
- 6) Police Commission: Police Transport for Zeus
- 7) Livestock Ordinance
- 8) Golf Course – Increase in Golf Cart Rates
- 9) Founders Hall Agreement
- 10) Review of Budget – Town Meeting and Referendum
- 11) Approval of Meeting Minutes: 4/9/07, 4/11/07, 4/12/07
- 12) Selectman's Report

R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen Meeting to order immediately following the Special Town Meeting at 7:45 p.m.

**B. Manners moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to add to the end of the BOS Meeting agenda the following items:**

- 1) **Assistant Fire Chief's Position Discussion**
- 2) **New Boehringer Ingelheim Application – Al Garzi**
- 3) **Executive Session – Litigation with Ridgefield Academy**

**Motion passed 5-0.**

1) Recognition of Athletes: Heather Stephens, RHS Boys Hockey Team

Brian Craig, one of the captains of the RHS Boys Hockey Team, and Charlie Bliss, Assistant Coach, came forward to represent the Ridgefield High School Boys Hockey Team and receive recognition for their team record of 19-4-1; FCIAC Champions, #5 seed in State Division 1 Boys Ice Hockey Tournament – Lost in 1<sup>st</sup> round to Avon/St. Paul. R. Marconi presented the team with a framed proclamation and expressed the Town of Ridgefield’s congratulations for their winning season.

Heather Stephens and her father came forward to receive the Town of Ridgefield’s congratulations on her indoor track accomplishments as 4<sup>th</sup> in the 5000 meters at Nationals, becoming Ridgefield’s first individual All-American in track. Previously All-FCIAC, All-State and All-New England for the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive season, Heather was the FCIAC, Class LL, State Open and New England champion in the 3200/2mile; as well as FCIAC champion at the 1000 and 1600, and class LL champion in the 1000. Her time of 17:54:68 also set a new state record, breaking the old record of 19:13:0 by over a minute. R. Marconi presented Heather a proclamation from the Town and congratulated Heather in “putting Ridgefield on the map” with her new state record.

2) Youth Commission Interview: Connie Johnson

Connie Johnson came forward to introduce herself to the BOS and express her interest in serving on the Youth Commission. R. Marconi read the April 13 letter received from Ms. Johnson. For the past two months she has been attending the meetings of the Youth Commission and responded to J. Plock that she feels she has the time to give to the Commission. D. Masters inquired as to how she intends to contribute. Ms. Johnson thinks it would be beneficial to brainstorm and come up with new ideas for youth activities. B. Manners asked what do bigger cities have that Ridgefield doesn’t provide? Ms. Johnson would like to see a bowling alley in Ridgefield. The sports programs are great but there are kids still hanging out by CVS and Ballard Park. The Rec Center is a great facility. There are three vacancies on the Youth Commission.

**B. Manners moved and J. Plock seconded a motion to appoint Connie Johnson to fill one of the vacancies on the Youth Commission. Motion passed 5-0.**

3) Vendor Permit Application: Richard Papenfuss

Mr. Papenfuss came forward to again present his application for renewal of his vendor permit for another year – this will be the 32<sup>nd</sup> year. He has previously completed the full police, safety and health reports. He locates his business “The Chuck Wagon” adjacent to the athletic fields at the high school. He has had roadside locations along Route 7 in past years, but has decided to not do so this year; instead he will concentrate on children’s sports and play areas.

**B. Manners moved and J. Plock seconded a motion to approve the renewal of the Vendor Permit Application for Richard Papenfuss for one additional year. Motion passed 5-0.**

4) Transfers: Jay Wahlberg

Jay Wahlberg, Director of Finance for the Town of Ridgefield, presented several transfer requests. Also present was John Pinchbeck, Tree Warden for Ridgefield. The question raised was why is this request for additional funds to cover the cost of the auditing firm to review the encumbrances in more detail coming out of the contingency fund rather than out of the fund balance? Also, this expenditure was not requested prior to incurring the expense. R. Marconi inquired as to whether or not any other demands on the contingency fund are anticipated in the

next couple of months. The answer is no. The Miscellaneous Revenue Fund received the rebate dollars from Northeast Utilities and the bus settlement. John Pinchbeck presented his request for \$16,000 of additional funding to cover unanticipated emergency tree removals.

**B. Manners moved and J. Plock seconded a motion to return to the Board of Finance Department of Finance Memorandum #200706 and approve said memorandum request for an Intra-Agency Transfer of \$6,558 from Miscellaneous Revenues (and not \$5,000 from General Contingency and \$1,558 from Printing as requested) to Professional Services, #10020-52406 to cover the fee for the auditing firm to review the encumbrances in more detail; and approve Department of Finance Memorandum #200708 providing for an increase in #10370-52130 Tree Care for \$16,000 to cover additional funding for unanticipated emergency tree removals, with a corresponding increase in #10907-44900, Miscellaneous Revenue. Motion passed 5-0.**

**B. Manners moved and J. Plock seconded a motion to approve Department of Finance Memorandum #200707 requesting an Inter-Departmental Transfer to cover the Social Services Department over-budget on their office supply account from unusual expenses with an increase of \$450 in #10210-53001, Office Supplies, and a corresponding decrease in #10210-52320, Auto. Motion passed 5-0.**

5) Chamber of Commerce Parking Committee: Bill Wyman

Bill Wyman came forward to discuss the role of the Chamber's Parking Committee and how to make Ridgefield a healthier community business-wise. The Chamber of Commerce has spearheaded the effort to address parking in Ridgefield. It is difficult for businesses in town to compete with the malls and online shopping, etc. Sales tax revenues in Ridgefield are down. A business community group (not just a Chamber of Commerce group) has been formed to address how to improve the business climate in Ridgefield. This group has focused on three areas:

- 1) Signage – needs to be promoted
- 2) Marketing – stress an appreciation for the value of shopping locally. Local businesses are asked to support many local activities.  
(There is no Little League team called Home Depot.)
- 3) Parking – Many studies have been done and nothing gets resolved. They have looked at Ridgefield's Parking Authority and Ridgefield's parking regulations compared to those of other towns. The Parking Authority has very "narrow" authority. Anything different has to be approved by the Board of Selectmen. They can establish rates and regulations and levy fines, but they cannot put up parking meters. New Canaan has a Parking Commission with three year membership terms. Mr. Wyman reviewed the powers and duties of New Canaan's Commission – recommend the requisition of land for parking, solicit and accept gifts, recommend fees, recommend meters, development of an overall long range parking plan/design. They act as a "strategic planning" commission. He suggests such a proactive commission for Ridgefield. R. Marconi suggested that the Parking Authority's scope include management of the parking lots; perhaps a portion of certain parking lots could have a permit system.

Andy Bodner indicated that Ridgefield already has a Parking Authority. Can we not send the Parking Authority a letter restating their scope and responsibility?

B. Manners stated that our charge to the Parking Authority is very specific. The BOS should review the language and make the desired revisions.

It was agreed to put this issue on the agenda for the May 9 BOS Meeting.

6) Police Commission: Police Transport for Zeus

R. Marconi requested that this agenda item be tabled to May 9 as Chief Ligi was unable to be present this evening.

7) Livestock Ordinance – The draft of the proposed ordinance was reviewed with additional changes agreed upon. D. Masters suggests that the Board of Selectmen complete the reviewing the existing ordinances to make them read more easily and that this proposed livestock ordinance be added to the list of ordinances being reviewed. A Public Hearing could then be held relative to the redo of ordinances.

It was agreed that the livestock ordinance will apply only to Ridgefield zones R10, R20 and R7.5, and will stipulate one animal per one-half acre of property. Setback stipulations are out, the term “animal” is to be used and not “unit”, poultry should be included.

J. Plock requested that the ordinance be re-written to read more smoothly – simplification is needed.

Andy Bodner feels that there should be existing animals allowed if written permission is obtained from an abutting neighbor. He also commented on Objective D requesting that livestock and livestock waste be kept in a sanitary manner and that waste be kept out of the setback area.

R. Marconi will research the subject of land use enforcement. Ed Briggs had stated at the last meeting that he can only enforce the health code in his position as Director of Health for the Town of Ridgefield, not land use. An appeal process also needs to be outlined in the ordinance.

John Katz, Ridgebury Rd., suggested the use of the word “may” in Section 1-B.

Jan Rifkinson, New Rd., suggested that rather than listing names of animals, the wording “any animals that are not domesticated” be used.

R. Marconi will work on the wording of the proposed ordinance and bring it back to the Board members for further review.

8) Golf Course – Increase in Golf Cart Rates

There is no change in golf rates. The proposed change is for cart rates to go up \$2, with a new charge of \$14 for a single in the cart with others walking. Ed Tyrrell, member of the Golf Committee, explained the rationale for the increase and how the fee structure will hopefully encourage increased use of the carts. The menu in the restaurant is similar to last year. The suggestion was made for the BOS to have lunch at the restaurant.

**J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to approve as requested the increase in golf cart rates as presented on the chart submitted by the Golf Committee. Motion passed 5-0.**

- 9) Founders Hall Agreement – The agreement was reviewed with a few changes made to the wording. Grace Webber, Director of Founders Hall, asked for clarification as to the procedure for seeking funds as part of the budget process.

**J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to approve as modified the agreement between the Town of Ridgefield and Founder’s Hall Foundation, Inc. Motion passed 5-0.**

10) Review of Budget – Town Meeting and Referendum

The following resolutions were read by R. Marconi relative to the Town of Ridgefield Budget for 2007-2008 in preparation for the Town Meeting and Referendum and approved by members of the Board of Selectmen.

- 1) **B. Manners moved and J. Plock seconded the resolution that the recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to the appropriation of \$43,122,559 for Town expenditures (excluding Board of Education and Capital and Non-Recurring Fund Expenditures) for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town. Resolution passed 5-0.**
- 2) **D. Masters moved and J. Plock seconded the resolution that the recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to the appropriation of \$72,683,233 for Board of Education expenditures for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town. Resolution passed 5-0.**
- 3) **A. Bodner moved and D. Masters seconded a resolution that the recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to the appropriation of \$334,150 for Capital and Non-Recurring Fund Expenditures for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town. Resolution passed 5-0.**
- 4) **J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded a resolution entitled “Resolution Making Appropriations Aggregating \$346,650 for various improvement projects and equipment and authorizing the issuance of \$346,650 Bonds of the Town to meet said appropriations and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose”, a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town. Resolution passed 5-0.**
- 5) **B. Masters moved and D. Manners seconded a resolution entitled “Resolution Making Appropriations Aggregating \$540,000 for various town building and improvement projects and equipment and authorizing the issuance of \$540,000 Bonds of the Town to meet said appropriations and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose”, a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town. Resolution passed 5-0.**

- 6) **B. Manners moved and J. Plock seconded a resolution entitled “Resolution Making Appropriations aggregating \$1,484,352 for various Town road and infrastructure improvements and authorizing the issuance of \$1,484,352 Bonds of the Town to meet said appropriations and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose”, a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adopting by the legal voters of the Town. Resolution passed 5-0.**
  
- 7) **A. Bodner moved and D. Masters seconded a resolution entitled “Resolution Making Appropriations Aggregating \$214,900 for vehicles and equipment and authorizing the issuance of \$214,900 Bonds of the Town to meet said appropriations and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose”, a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town. Resolution passed 5-0.**
  
- 8) **D. Masters moved and A. Bodner seconded a resolution entitled “Resolution Appropriating \$1,475,900 for Onalfo Athletic Field and authorizing the issuance of \$1,475,900 Bonds of the Town to meet said appropriations and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose”, a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town. Resolution passed 5-0.**
  
- 9) **D. Masters moved and J. Plock seconded a resolution entitled” Resolution appropriating \$420,000 for Police Architectural Plans and authorizing the issuance of \$420,000 Bonds of the Town to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose”, a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town. Resolution passed 5-0.**

**D. Masters moved and J. Plock seconded a motion that the First Selectman be authorized and directed to call an Annual Town Meeting to be held at Ridgefield Playhouse, 80 East Ridge, on Monday, May 7, 2007 at 7:30 P.M., for the following purposes: . . . . . and to submit the aforesaid resolutions in (A) above to a referendum vote, the date and time of said referendum to be determined by the Town Meeting in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, and pursuant to Section 10-3 of the Town Charter, and that the questions to be voted upon and the ballot labels at said referendum shall read as follows: Motion passed 5-0.**

**J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded a motion that the Board of Selectmen recommend the referendum vote for May 15, 2007 from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M., at three designated voting locations: East Ridge Middle School, Scotts Ridge Middle School, and Yanity Gym. Motion passed 5-0.**

D. Masters pointed out that the Board of Selectmen is responsible for the Town Meeting. She volunteered to work with R. Marconi on this. “Can we not make it cordial – refreshments?”

- 10) Approval of Meeting Minutes: 4/9/07, 4/11/07, 4/12/07

**J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to table Agenda Item #11, Approval of Meeting Minutes: 4/9/07, 4/11/07, 4/12/07 to the next Board of Selectmen meeting. Motion passed 5-0.**

11) Selectman's Report -

- Ridgefield Guild of Artists New Exhibitions – April 28 – May 20
- Chief Burford reported on the calls for assistance during the recent flooding – 110 calls. 76 calls were for flooding; 42 homes were pumped out. A lot of volunteers assisted with these calls. There were no equipment losses or injuries. FEMA has visited Ridgefield and gathered the needed data. It is now the waiting stage to see if Federal relief will be made available. It is important to keep receipts of any repairs.
- The new unfunded mandates relative to Workers' Compensation are out of committee and being sent to the floor for a vote in Hartford. The effects of such legislation would be devastating and very costly to the local communities.
- Brookfield and Danbury are now charging permit hauling fees - \$100/truck.

12) Assistant Fire Chief's Position Discussion – Chief Burford came forward to discuss this issue with the Board of Selectmen. R. Marconi reported on the preceding day's lunch meeting with candidate Kevin Tappe (R. Marconi, A. Bodner and Chief Burford present). The purpose was to get to know Mr. Tappe better. Chief Burford indicated that there are no other candidates that she would like to bring forward to the Board of Selectmen at this time. Mr. Tappe's strong suit is his training ability. R. Marconi read the offer letter prepared which indicates that the Assistant Fire Chief is not guaranteed to be an automatic successor to the Fire Chief. Should the Fire Chief position become available, the Assistant Fire Chief is welcome to apply for the position and be considered with the other applicants. It was agreed to have Mr. Tappe attend the Fire Commission Meeting on May 9 and come before the Board of Selectmen at an Executive Session also on May 9.

13) New Boehringer Ingelheim Application – Al Garzi

Mr. Garzi reported that an application has been received from Boehringer Ingelheim for tax abatement of real estate and personal property tax relative to construction of Phase 2 - Building 10. This \$35 million project does meet the abatement requirements. \$368,000 of \$433,000 will be abated, but Ridgefield will collect \$65,000 from the State on the personal property abatement portion. It was suggested to inform the Board of Finance of this upcoming abatement/tax revenue scenario. A. Bodner asked for an overall summary of the abatement/tax situation. A chart was suggested to depict such. Significant building permit fees will also continue to come in for the Boehringer building projects.

**D. Masters moved and J. Plock seconded a motion to accept the application for tax abatement for Phase Two of Boehringer Ingelheim's construction project as presented by Al Garzi, Tax Assessor, and set a Public Hearing for May 9, 2007 and a Town Meeting for May 23, 2007. Motion passed 5-0.**

**J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to recess the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 10:50 p.m. and go into Executive Session to discuss Litigation with Ridgefield Academy, with Al Garzi, Tax Assessor present. Motion passed 5-0.**

The Executive Session was closed at 11:05 p.m. R. Marconi called the public meeting of the Board of Selectmen Meeting back to order. **J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 11:07 p.m. Motion passed 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Johnson