

BOARD of SELECTMEN MEETING – MAY 26, 2010 – 7:30 P.M.

VETERAN’S PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
EIGHT GOVERNOR STREET, RIDGEFIELD, CONNECTICUT

UNREVISED/UNAPPROVED MINUTES

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

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

Public Hearing (*continuation from April 28, 2010 Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting*)

Notice is hereby given that a **Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting** will be held on April 28, 2010, 7:30 P.M., in the Town Hall Large Conference Room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut to receive comments and to consider and act on the following proposed addition to the Code of the Town of Ridgefield, Connecticut – “Public Safeguards and Traffic Control During Construction Within Public Rights-of-Way”.

Minutes of Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting are under separate cover.

Agenda (*immediately following Special Town Meeting*)

1. Vendor Permit Application: Redding Creamery
2. Ridgefield Prevention Council Interview: Margaret Stamatias
3. Appointment of Director of Social Services: Carole Konner
4. Workers Compensation & Liability Broker Recommendation from IRMC
5. Potential Leash Ordinance Discussion
6. Children’s Corner Lease
7. Electronic Waste Recycling contract
8. Paul Roche Lease
9. Selectman’s Report
10. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 4/28/10, 5/12/10

R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen Meeting to order at 8:50 p.m. immediately following the Special Town Meeting. R. Marconi commented that two items on the evening’s agenda would not be discussed as originally planned:

#6 - Children’s Corner Lease because the latest copy of the proposed lease had been received just prior to the BOS Meeting – too late for the BOS’s review. Nan Hoskins, Director of Children’s Corner, has been invited to be present at the June 9 BOS Meeting. J. Plock expressed the sentiment of the BOS to move ahead on the lease on June 9th and any further negotiations need to be completed prior to that meeting date. R. Marconi will email the BOS copies as well. The current lease expires on 6/30/10. A. Bodner inquired as to the status of reconciliation of the water bill and the \$30,000 previously withheld by Children’s Corner from the rent payment. R. Marconi indicated that he believes that K. Redmond, Director of Finance, received the Crystal Rock payment today at 4:00 p.m.

#7 – Electronic Waste Recycling Contract – The latest contract is not yet ready for the Board’s review. An additional meeting is needed plus input from the scrap metal rep.

1. Vendor Permit Application: Redding Creamery

Maya Curto came forward to express interest in a renewal of her vendor permit for an additional year. This will be her fifth year with a vendor permit from the Town of Ridgefield, with no complaints.

D. Masters moved and J. Plock seconded a motion to approve for an additional year the renewal of the vendor permit for Maya L. Curto of Redding Creamery, LLC to sell pre-packaged ice cream and bottled water. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Ridgefield Prevention Council Interview: Margaret Stamatis

Margaret Stamatis came forward to express her interest in serving on the Ridgefield Prevention Council. Ms. Stamatis has been a Ridgefield resident for eight years and is a mother of four boys ranging from kindergarten to eighth grade. She commented on how her family has participated in many of the events run and sponsored by the RPC including TIPP, Family University and the Kids Who Lead Succeed Conference.

J. Plock moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to appoint Margaret Stamatis to fill one of the vacant positions on the Ridgefield Prevention Council for a four-year term. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Jan Rifkinson, New Rd., asked for a clarification of the function of the Ridgefield Prevention Council. R. Marconi responded that the Ridgefield Prevention Council is focused on anti-alcohol and substance abuse. They receive about \$4200/year to help with speakers, conferences, etc, working with the youth and parents of the community for increased awareness of the substance abuse problem.

3. Appointment of Director of Social Services: Carole Konner

Mary Ann Baldwin is the Director of Social Services for the Town of Ridgefield, appointed to this position with the approval of the Board of Selectmen. She is retiring on June 7th. J. Plock commented on how Carole Konner is a very highly recommended replacement for Ms. Baldwin. R. Marconi pointed out how Ms. Konner has been working for Social Services in a part-time position for the past 14 ½ years. This will be a seamless transition. Ms. Konner expressed her thank you to the BOS for their confidence in her.

J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to appoint with the approval of the Board of Selectmen Carole Konner as Director of Social Services upon the retirement of the current Director, Mary Ann Baldwin on June 7, 2010. Motion passed 5-0.

4. Workers Compensation & Liability Broker Recommendation from IRMC

R. Marconi read the April 30, 2010 letter received from William R. Jaeger, Chairman of the Insurance and Risk Management Committee, regarding the Committee's recommendation of the renewal of H.D. Segur as the liability, property and workers' compensation broker for the Town of Ridgefield. Their current contract expires July 1, 2010. R. Marconi indicated that he would like to schedule an Executive Session as soon as possible relative to this proposed reappointment and to share with the BOS the subject of the meeting he attended earlier today with a law firm in Hartford regarding the solvency of MIRMA, and their lack of capital reserves. He would like K. Redmond to also participate in this Executive Session. It was agreed that an Executive Session will be scheduled prior to the June 9th, 2010 BOS Meeting.

5. Potential Leash Ordinance Discussion

The recent problem with a dog not on a leash at the Parks & Rec facility property has resulted in public requests for a leash ordinance. E-mails and letters have been received from Ridgefield residents, Noelle Carr, Jeff Gewert of Senoka Drive, Barbara Lubrano of Tally Ho Road, and Fleuri MacIntyre of Old Mill Rd.

A possible leash ordinance was discussed by the BOS awhile back. Parks & Rec does have a regulation in effect that requires an individual to have “their pets under control”, but this regulation does not require a leash as such. B. Manners stated how she has six dogs and agrees that it is the responsibility of the owner to have their animals under control at all times. Dogs need to be able to run. A leash ordinance shifts the liability of the Town to enforce. R. Marconi asked if the BOS wants such an ordinance? Do we really need this? He feels that residents in town are respectful of others. The BOS indicated that they are “ordinanced out”! A. Bodner expressed concern over dogs running on the artificial fields. No signs are posted and it is difficult to ticket someone without a sign posted. D. Masters stated how good common sense should prevail, especially in the village areas. Hopefully an incident similar to the one recently at Parks & Rec will not repeat itself. She feels that the Board’s response should be that we will respond further if there is a greater demand. Resident Mark Heminway stated how if your dog bites someone, you are liable to lose your homeowner’s insurance. J. Plock stated how as pet owners, you are responsible and liable. The BOS will request that the general media stress the responsibility of the pet owner.

6. Children’s Corner Lease: Postponed to the BOS Meeting on June 9, 2010.

7. Electronic Waste Recycling Contract: Postponed to a future BOS Meeting. Per R. Marconi, this issue is being worked on and a final meeting is needed including a discussion with the scrap metal rep.

8. Paul Roche Lease: Paul Roche and his wife Debbie were present to discuss the lease on their home from the Town of Ridgefield. They came to Ridgefield thirty-three years ago. An agreement regarding their house was signed in 1995, which superceded everything else. They paid a base of \$150/month for the house plus a cost-of-living charge so there wouldn’t be any tax implications. There is no formal lease for this 1200 sq. ft. house – a “small two-bedroom house in the park”. Should there be a formal document on file? The current process provides for a renewal on an annual basis. This process was started this way in 2004. The BOS agreed to continue this same way until Mr. Roche wants to retire. Jan Rifkinson, New Rd., inquired as to the fair market rental value of this little house. It was suggested that the BOS have the house valued.

B. Manners moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to approve the annual renewal of the lease of the Richardson Park house for an additional \$9 (cost-of-living increase) to Paul Roche, Director of Parks & Recreation for the Town of Ridgefield. Motion passed 5-0.

9. Selectman’s Report

- R. Marconi reported that the Historic District Commission denied the application of the Keeler Tavern to relocate the 1740 Seymour House. Keeler Tavern continues to look for ways to save the Seymour House.
- Gretchen Bishop, Chairman of RACE, and others are involved in an assessment of the carbon footprint of the town. A presentation was prepared and presented illustrating an allocation of GHG’s of 1% in municipal buildings, 40% residential, 2-3% in schools,

and the balance in commercial buildings. The presentation was made at the Leir Retreat Center with about 50 people in attendance.

- Memorial Day Parade – Monday, May 31st starting time of 11:30 a.m. from Jesse Lee Memorial Church. BOS members need to arrive at 10:00 a.m. at the church. The BOS are invited to the Marine Corps breakfast prior to the parade and the Volunteers luncheon following. The ceremony will be at the gazebo at Ballard Park.

10. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 4/28/10, 5/12/10

B. Manners moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to table Agenda Item #10, Approval of Meeting Minutes: 4/28/10, and 5/12/10 until the June 9, 2010 Board of Selectmen Meeting. Motion passed 4-0. (J. Plock left the BOS Meeting at 9:10 p.m.)

B. Manners moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 9:40 p.m. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Johnson