

**BOARD of SELECTMEN MEETING – JUNE 28, 2006**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING**

TOWN HALL/LOWER LEVEL 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

**Special Town Meeting – 7:30 p.m.**

Notice is hereby given that a **Special Town Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, June 28, 2006 at 7:30 PM, Town Hall Large Conference Room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT, for the purpose of waiving all tax bills on the 2005 Grand List that are less than \$10 each.

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

1. Economic Development Commission Interview (2): Penny Hoffman & Steve Scala
2. Vendor Permit Application Interview– Maya Curto, Redding Creamery
3. Board of Education Lease Purchase Approval—set town meeting date
4. Kids in Crisis Outreach Counselor—set town meeting date
5. Special Duty Police & Fire Department Billing Policy Change
6. Conservation Commission Land Purchase
7. Review Controlled Hunt Plan from Deer Mgmt. Committee
8. Sunrise Cottage Tax Abatement
9. Increase Senior Tax Credit by \$37.00 on Grand List of 10/1/05
10. Memo of Understanding—FY 2004 Homeland Security Grant
11. Review Proposed Ordinance: Horses on Residential Property
12. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 5/31 (regular), 5/31 (executive session), 6/14
13. Selectman’s Report

**Economic Development Commission Meeting Agenda**

1. Economic Development Commission Structure

R. Marconi called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. **J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to add the Zoning Regulations Capital Funding Request to the agenda and to remove Item #6 and Item #9 from the agenda. Motion passed 5-0.**

B. Mucchetti explained that additional funds are needed to complete the Zoning Regulations update with Planimetrics. She then added if her request could be amended from \$7,000 to \$7,500. R. Marconi explained that her request could be amended and that a town meeting is not necessary. **J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to transfer \$7,500 out of the recording line and salary line and put it into the Planimetrics account. Motion passed 5-0.**

1. Economic Development Commission Interview: Penny Hoffman –

R. Marconi read the letter from the Chamber of Commerce’s Board of Directors requesting Penny Hoffman’s appointment to the Economic Development Commission, and then read Ms. Hoffman’s resume. As President of the Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Hoffman explained that she, although a resident of Ridgefield, would represent the Chamber if she were appointed to the Economic Development Commission. Ms. Hoffman discussed her broad vision of economic development for Ridgefield; we must have balanced growth and think outside the box and not focus solely on corporate development. Companies want better roadway access. R. Marconi asked whether a budget will be necessary? Ms. Hoffman replied yes and perhaps the state has economic development money.

Economic Development Commission Interview: Steve Scala –

R. Marconi read Steve Scala’s email. Mr. Scala discussed his thoughts on the focus of the Economic Development Commission: an inventory of Ridgefield’s space would be necessary and discussion of what we have and how diverse do we want it to be? Mr. Scala discussed Wilton’s large corporate tax base and our other neighbors to the south, such as Norwalk and New Canaan. Mr. Scala stressed the need to market the location (proximity to New York City) and the charm of Main Street.

2. Vendor Permit Application Interview– Maya Curto, Redding Creamery -

Ms. Curto explained she is a mother and thought this would be a fun thing to do for her children this summer. She would be going to parties and special events only, such as the fireworks or concerts in the park. J. Plock asked how do we handle coordinating the two trucks? B. Manners answered that the Board of Selectmen told them to coordinate with each other; with the concerts in the park, all parties must have Parks & Recreation approval. B. Manners questioned Ms. Curto’s speeding ticket. Ms. Curto is contesting ticket and is awaiting a reply from the court. **B. Manners moved and A. Bodner seconded the motion to approve the vendor permit for special events and parties. J. Plock and D. Masters abstained. Motion carried 3-0-2.**

3. Board of Education Lease Purchase Approval—set town meeting date -

R. Marconi read the resolution which was approved by the Board of Finance. **J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to send to a Town Meeting on July 12 at 7:30 p.m. to consider and act upon the following resolution relative to a Board of Education's budgeted expense, as approved by the Board of Finance:**

Resolution approving a tax-exempt equipment lease/purchase agreement for computer equipment and related infrastructure for the Board of Education.

RESOLVED: The Town of Ridgefield is hereby authorized to enter into a tax-exempt lease/purchase agreement with a lease provider to be approved by the First Selectman and the Town Treasurer, for computer equipment and related infrastructure, with total lease payments not to exceed \$600,000 and containing such terms and conditions as shall be approved by the First Selectman. The First Selectman is hereby authorized to execute and deliver such lease agreement and any and all other agreements, instruments and documents associated therewith.

**Motion passed 5-0.**

4. Kids in Crisis Outreach Counselor—set town meeting date -

**D. Masters moved and J. Plock seconded a motion to send to a Town Meeting on July 12 at 7:30 p.m. to consider and authorize the Town of Ridgefield to increase the appropriation for the 2007 funding of the “Kids in Crisis” program by \$35,000 from general contingency and fund balance funds. Motion passed 5-0.**

5. Special Duty Police & Fire Department Billing Policy Change –

J. Mannuzza was present to explain the proposed change. The proposed practice would guarantee the town full recovery of our direct costs, which we do not always have the ability to do under the current approach. B. Manners required explanation and questioned if the Ridgefield Playhouse as a non-profit would be eligible for the waiver? R. Marconi questioned who would be affected by this? J. Mannuzza explained the current administrative fee (25%) is waived for the Board of Education, Volunteer Fire Department, Town Departments, July 4 Fireworks Committee, and the Chamber of Commerce. Under the proposed practice, the administrative fee would be reduced to 14% and all users of Special Duty Fire and Police would be charged. **J. Plock moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to accept the new special duty billing practice as proposed. Motion carried 4-0-1 (B. Manners abstained).**

7. Review Controlled Hunt Plan from Deer Mgmt. Committee -

Tom Belote, Chairman of the Deer Management Implementation Committee, came forward to discuss the plan and give an update of the situation. Deer Management Implementation Committee (DMIC) presented the rules of the hunt to the Conservation Commission two weeks ago. Mr. Belote explained they are following Wilton’s plan for this hunt, but are a bit more stringent. The Ridgefield DMIC will allow muzzle loaders and shotguns in the hunt, but not rifles. They came to the decision against having bow hunting in the plan. Additionally, the parks would have been closed for two more weeks. Mr. Belote stated the proposal is still not finalized and the Conservation Commission has not approved it yet. B. Manners commented that Windwing, the proposed location, is very frequently used park. Mr. Belote explained further that hunting at Windwing would not occur on weekends or school holidays. When questioned by B. Manners about the length of time of hunt period (she thought it would be shorter—3 or 4 days), Mr. Belote replied that when you look at the calendar and specify the days between 11/15 and 12/19, it is a very limited time. Mr. Belote explained that the huntmaster will keep schedules of the hunters.

D. Masters questioned the potential for sign disturbance and notification of residents and visitors especially because this will occur during the Thanksgiving holiday. Mr. Belote stated that money would be needed for signage into and out of the park, notification would also occur in door to door campaigns, radio and print advertising. A. Bodner suggested that the hunters sign a liability waiver; Mr. Belote concurred this would be a good idea. Mr. Belote further stated that yield numbers are not the focus right now; concentration is on safety and letting the town know that this can be done. When questioned about the hunters' distance from residential property lines, Mr. Belote replied that the state law requires hunters stay 500 feet from residential property lines. The Board of Selectmen will review the proposal after final approval by the Conservation Commission.

8. Sunrise Cottage Tax Abatement -

John Loehr, President of and fundraiser for Sunrise Cottage, a home for the mentally challenged, came forward. Mr. Loehr explained Sunrise Cottage is in its second year and that it is time to build another home. Ten to 12 additional residents have expressed an interest. **D. Masters moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to abate taxes for Sunrise Cottage for the 10/1/04 and 10/01/05 Grand List years as well as any interest that might have accrued. Motion carried 5-0.**

10. Memo of Understanding—FY 2004 Homeland Security Grant -

R. Marconi read the resolution: "That the First Selectman, Rudy Marconi, be and hereby is authorized to act on behalf of the Ridgefield Board of Selectmen in executing a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, for participation in the FY 2004 State Homeland Security Grant Program." **D. Masters moved that said resolution be adopted as introduced and read and the motion was seconded by J. Plock. Motion carried 5-0.**

11. Review Proposed Ordinance: Horses on Residential Property -

Ed Briggs, Director of Health, came forward stating that we have regulations to enforce manure and flies, but distance to property lines is unenforceable. John Katz provided information on area town horse regulations. B. Manners stated that we should use the term "livestock" and provide a definition of this term. R. Marconi pointed out that a new ordinance cannot include "grandfathering", whereas a new zoning regulation can have "grandfathering". Becky Mucchetti, Chairman of Planning & Zoning, indicated that P&Z had a "casual discussion" on the subject of Horses on Residential Property, but no decisions had been made. R. Marconi indicated that further research would be done on this subject, and he would speak with concerned individuals regarding this issue.

12. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 5/31 (regular), 5/31 (executive session), 6/14 -

**J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the May 31, 2006 Executive Session Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Motion passed 5-0.**

**J. Plock moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the May 31, 2006 Board of Selectmen Meeting. Motion passed 5-0.**

**J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the June 14, 2006 Board of Selectmen Meeting. Motion passed 5-0.**

13. First Selectman's Report –

Insurance Update – Memo was received on 6/28/06 from Jerry Gay, Purchasing/Safety Director regarding 2007 Insurance Renewals, indicating that the costs for the entire Town without regard to Board of Education and Town split all within the Town budget and very close on the BOE side. It has also been decided to change Workers Compensation to MIRMA. Prior year carrier has decided not to continue municipal workers compensation business in Connecticut. It is the recommendation of the Town's Agent, Scott Sundburg of H.D. Segur, that the Town accept the Metrogard quote for the LAP policies and accept the MIRMA quote for the Workers Compensation. The Insurance Risk Management Committee voted unanimously in favor of that recommendation and both Dr. Keating and Jay Wahlberg give their approval. The new policies would start Saturday, July 1, 2006.

Charter Revision Committee – Next meeting is July 10<sup>th</sup>. The Committee has agreed with all the requests sent to them by the Board of Selectmen with some minor changes in language. They also accepted the change to four year terms for the Board of Selectmen.

"March to Victory" Weekend – Friday, June 30 thru Sunday, July 2, 2006. The festivities will begin with the presentation by the national Rochambeau historian, Dr. Robert Selig, "The French Army in Connecticut" at the Ridgefield Library at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. The BOS are invited to wine and cheese around 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, the "March to Victory" Ball at the Community Center Saturday evening, and dinner at 4:30 on Sunday, July 2 at the Community Center prior to the United Air Force Band of Liberty – Americana Concert at Veteran's Park Field at 6:30 Sunday evening.

Fire Commission Special Meeting - Reminder Wednesday evening, July 6, Town Hall Lower Level Conference Room – 6:30 p.m.

Turner Hill Survey – Memo received from Jerry Gay, Purchasing/Safety Director, dated 6/20/06, regarding Turner Hill Surveying – Bid -6-28. He indicated that he sent out 10 packages and had only one response. He has forwarded this bid on to the Conservation Commission for their review. If the decision is made to proceed with a survey, the BOS will have to find the funds to pay for such as the Conservation Commission does not have the monies to do so. R. Marconi indicated that he has already met with some Turner Hill residents. They are very concerned and the BOS will be hearing a lot from them. The bid included two sets of prices, one for a complete survey and one for individual areas of concern: Area 1 - \$1100, Area 2 - \$1100, and Area 3 - \$2200

for a total of \$4400, which would be the minimum. The Conservation Commission and the Board of Selectmen will review the bid received.

Acre Lane – Upcoming meeting next Saturday. Still waiting for word on grant dollars and bill from Aquarian. The hope is to get a lower bid.

Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA) – A letter from Mr. Kirk, President of CRRA sent to Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRRA) was shared with the BOS. R. Marconi is no longer the Chairman, now Vice-Chairman. HRRRA seems to be running fine.

John Pinchbeck – had a heart attack and follow-up surgery at Danbury Hospital. He will be doing some tests with Yale.

**J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 9:45 p.m. Motion passed 5-0.**

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING**

R. Marconi called the Economic Development Commission Meeting to order at 9:45 p.m.

The focus is to continue to interview and then appoint new members to the Commission. The ordinance allows for five members of the Commission.

R. Marconi indicated that he is still waiting for a call back from Michael Katz, representing Slumberger, and thus will no longer wait but will initiate a call to Mr. Katz.

A. Bodner inquired as any word on possible commercial development at Bennett's Pond? R. Marconi indicated that nothing is "in the works".

J. Plock inquired as to the status of the Belzoni property? What will be the impact on the schools? R. Marconi responded that 50 units are being proposed with 30% affordable restricted. He does not predict many school children in these units.

**J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to adjourn the Economic Development Commission Meeting at 9:50 p.m. Motion passed 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Johnson