

BOARD of SELECTMEN MEETING – JULY 12, 2006

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING – 7:30 P.M.

TOWN HALL/LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM

REVISED/APPROVED 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
D. Masters left the BOS meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Special Town Meeting Agenda (Minutes under separate cover)

1. Consider and authorize the Town of Ridgefield to increase the appropriation for the 2007 funding for the “Kids-in-Crisis” by \$35,000 from general contingency and fund balance funds.
2. Consider and act upon the following resolution 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.

Board of Selectmen Meeting Agenda (immediately following Town Meeting)

1. Possible Executive Session- Pending Claim
2. Transfer of Funds – Jay Wahlberg
3. Branchville Civic Association Tax Abatement
4. HVCEO Mutual Aid Agreement for Public Health Emergencies
5. Code of Ordinances Discussion
6. Tentative – Charter Revision Commission Discussion (pending 7/10/06 CRC vote)
7. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 6/7/06, 6/28/06
8. Selectman’s Report

R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to add to the top of the agenda discussion of the Connecticut Department of Public Health grant application relative to pandemic influenza preparedness. Motion passed 5-0.

D. Masters moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to recess into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss pending claim and invite Laurie Scholl, Director of Human Resources to participate in the Executive Session. Motion passed 5-0.

1. Connecticut Department of Public Health Grant Application - Ed Briggs, Director of Health for the Town of Ridgefield requested the BOS approval of this \$9,000 grant application. This is a

bio-terrorism initiative to provide pandemic influenza preparedness similar to the previous smallpox preparedness initiative.

J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to authorize First Selectman Rudy Marconi, as representative of the Town of Ridgefield, to execute the Connecticut Department of Public Health grant application relative to pandemic influenza preparedness. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Transfer of Funds – Jay Wahlberg

These two Finance Memorandums are for the purpose of closing out the capital projects for the 2005/2006 fiscal year, bonded and non-bonded. This is an annual process.

J. Plock moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to approve Department of Finance Memorandum #200607 relative to Capital Non-Bond Projects Close-Out and Transfer of Funds, to increase Capital Reserve Fund #31095-44826 in the amount of \$6,030 and increase Various Capital Project Funds (as listed) in the amount of \$6,030. (This closes out these capital non-bond projects.) Motion passed 5-0.

J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to send BOS approval of Department of Finance Memorandum #200607 to the Board of Finance for their consideration and possible approval at their July 18, 2006 meeting and then to a Town Meeting on 7/26/06. Motion passed 5-0.

J. Plock moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to approve Department of Finance Memorandum #200606 relative to Capital Bond Projects Close-Out and Transfer of Funds, to increase Debt Service Reduction #10907-44900 in the amount of \$108,387 and increase Various Capital Project Funds (as listed) in the amount of \$108,387. (This closes out these capital bond projects.) Motion passed 5-0.

J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to send BOS approval of Department of Finance Memorandum #200606 to the Board of Finance for their consideration and possible approval at their July 18, 2006 meeting and then to a Town Meeting on 7/26/06. Motion passed 5-0.

J. Wahlberg reported that the preliminary budget forecast indicates a tentative surplus of \$1,500,000 surplus. Most of this is from an increase in revenue over what forecasted and includes increased revenue from general property taxes, Town Clerk charges, police special services, ambulance charges, increase in interest rate, and \$85,000 snow removal reimbursement from FEMA. The two areas experiencing shortfalls from budget estimates were utilities and fuel oil charges and Fire Department overtime.

R. Marconi inquired if the Board of Education has the authority to encumber after the referendum. J. Wahlberg responded that the BOE can encumber this fiscal year to receive goods next year. R. Marconi indicated that he does not approve the process to increase allocation of funds after the referendum passes. He does not think this is right.

3. Branchville Civic Association Tax Abatement – R. Marconi read the July 5, 2006 memorandum received from Paul Roche, Director of Parks & Recreation requesting this tax abatement. This is an annual process.

J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to approve abatement of the tax bill for the October 2005 Grand List for parcels listed in the name of Branchville Civic Association Athletic Field in exchange for use of the field for baseball by the Branchville Civic Association. Motion passed 5-0.

4. HVCEO Mutual Aid Agreement for Public Health Emergencies – This is a mutual aid agreement between the towns of Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield and Sherman, all municipalities in the Housatonic Valley Region, in the event of bio-terrorism and other terrorism events, outbreaks of dangerous communicable diseases, releases of chemical or radiological agents, natural or man-made disasters, and other forms of public health emergencies. R. Marconi read the paragraph of the agreement detailing the “Role of the Housatonic Valley Regional Public Health Emergency Planning Committee.”

J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to approve the June 16, 2006 Regional Public Health Mutual Aid Agreement for the Housatonic Valley Region. Motion passed 5-0.

5. Code of Ordinances Discussion – A draft of the revised Code of Ordinances will be distributed for review by the Board of Selectmen once the red-lined copy is received. Assignments were made for review of the various parts: Part 1 – R. Marconi, Part 2 split between A. Bodner and J. Plock (A. Bodner to start with “Fees Fine”), Part 3 – D. Masters, and Part 4 – B. Manners. An editorial analysis was distributed.
6. Charter Revision Commission Discussion – The Charter Revision Commission voted on July 10, 2006 to accept the proposed Charter as revised and thus disband the Charter Revision Commission as the charge has been completed. The draft distributed to the BOS provides a sample of what the finished product might well be. There may still be a few changes in the exact wording, but the concepts will remain. Examples of changes made include:
 - Four year terms of office for BOS, Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Town Treasurer. The one remaining office continuing as a two year term is the Registrar of Voters position. This is because this two year term is stated as such by statute.
 - Town meeting petition procedure remains as re-written.
 - Section 3-5 changed as re-written by J. Plock.
 - Section 3-15 changed as deleted in entirety
 - Section 4-5 regarding eligibility for election to a Town office has been re-written.
 - Section 4-7 – new paragraph added
 - Section 4-8 – Some items changed and added the terms of office to four years and changed the first sentence to prevent voting every two years for a four year term of office. They are waiting for Town Counsel’s opinion on this as the change in wording was requested following the cut-off date for possible changes.
 - Section 4-12 regarding zoning. This is just technical in nature.
 - Section 4-18 is new regarding the inability to hold more than one office at a time.
 - Section 10-3 provides for the Board of Education to submit their budget to the Board of Selectmen. The BOS is to approve/disapprove the total amount of the BOE budget, not individual line items. This Section needs to have language consistency with Section 10-2.
 - Section 10-7 regarding long-range financial planning. The BOS and the BOE are to work together on long-range planning.

The Board of Selectmen need to approve the newly written Charter at the August 9, 2006 BOS meeting. The BOS can reject or approve the newly written Charter as recommended by the Charter Revision Commission (CRC) in its entirety or in pieces. There needs to be discussion as to how to add the Charter approval to the referendum in November.- David Grogins and Bond Counsel are working on what questions should be combined and what items should stand alone.

Dom D'Addario, Tanton Hill Rd., inquired if the new four year terms will be staggered? The answer is no. The First Selectman and the four BOS members will all be up for re-election at the same time. The Zoning Board of Appeals is left as is – a five-year term.

7. Approval; of Meeting Minutes: 6/7/06, 6/28/06

**A. Bodner moved and J. Plock seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the June 7, 2006 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting & Public Hearing. Motion passed 3-0-1.
B. Manners abstained as she was not present at the June 7, 2006 meeting.**

J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the June 28, 2006 Board of Selectmen Meeting & Economic Development Commission Meeting. Motion passed 4-0.

8. Selectman's Report –

- Mr. Belote is on the Agenda for the August 9 BOS Meeting.
- Tax Credit for Seniors – R. Marconi read the January 9, 2001 letter from Marty Carr seeking a “modest increase” in the tax credit for seniors for the next ten years. This is the letter which triggered the tax credit for seniors program. R. Marconi will research the BOS minutes from January 2001. If the tax credit is to be increased each year for ten years, the total credit may well amount to more than \$1,000 per household.

J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 9:00 p.m. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Johnson