

BOARD of SELECTMEN MEETING – AUGUST 19, 2009

TOWN HALL/LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM – 7:30 P.M.

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 (arrived at 8:20 p.m.), J. Plock

Absent: D. Masters

Board of Selectmen Meeting Agenda

1. National Weather Service Storm-Ready Certification
2. Vendor Permit Application – Robert Correa, The Roadside Grill
3. Vendor Permit Application – Mike Principi, Chez Lenard
4. Amendment of Tax Deferment Ordinance: Set PH & STM Dates – Al Garzi
5. Verizon Police Station Cell Tower Lease Agreement
6. Health Department Grant Resolution
7. Virginia Roebuck Lease Renewal
8. Potential Land Donation – Seymour Lane
9. Selectman's Report
10. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 4/20/09, 7/29/09, 8/12/09
11. Executive Session: Retirement Agreement; Possible Vote

R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. He commented on how D. Masters was absent (taking her daughter to college) and B. Manners would arrive late as she was attending the Rotary Meeting first.

R. Marconi stated that he would like an addition to the evening's agenda, discussion and approval of the proposed agreement with Yankee Gas to extend the gas line up to the Municipal Building. **J. Plock moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to add to the Agenda as Item #8B, Agreement with Yankee Gas. Motion passed 3-0.**

1. National Weather Service Storm-Ready Certification
Fire Chief Burford came forward to introduce Ridgefield's receipt of "Storm-Ready Certification" by the National Weather Service and The Department of Emergency Management of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. She expressed appreciation to Dick Aarons who helped Chief Burford qualify Ridgefield as a "Storm-Ready Community". Ross Dickman and Jerry Conte of the National Weather Service came forward as well as Doug Glowacki of Emergency Management and Bob Kenny.

Storm-Ready was a volunteer program which started in the 1990's. 1498 communities across the country now qualify for Storm-Ready status; 4 in Connecticut – Norwich, Glastonbury, Westport, and now Ridgefield. Ross Dickman, the meteorologist responsible for Connecticut, stressed the importance of communication and the need to get messages out effectively in case of a serious storm situation. Doug Glowacki of Emergency Management talked about the technology and how the State of Connecticut is divided up three ways. Ridgefield is in Region 5 which consists of 43 towns in Connecticut between Litchfield County and the northern half of Fairfield County, with the Regional Coordination office in Southbury. The goal is to assist towns in improving their

weather-warning reception capability. Connecticut averages about one tornado every ten years. A tornado has a “very short fuse”.

Mr. Glowacki came to recognize Ridgefield for their storm preparedness efforts. He expressed appreciation to Chief Burford and Dick Aarons for their dedication to this effort, and Rudy Marconi as the Chairman of Emergency Preparedness for Region 5. There is a lot of information sharing all the time as the different regions pull their resources together. Ridgefield has set up a 24-hour warning system, established methods for receiving and disseminating communications, trained storm spotters, sponsored educational outreach programs, and has established a tone-activated weather receiving system in municipal buildings. Mr. Glowacki presented a certificate to Mr. Marconi and Chief Burford stating Ridgefield’s certification as a National Weather Service Storm-Ready Community and congratulated the town on an excellent job in their storm-ready preparedness efforts.

2. Vendor Permit Application – Robert Correa, The Roadside Grill

Bob Correa came forward to support his application for a vendor permit for his “Roadside Grill”. All items are cooked to order. He likes the location on Route 7 near Walpole just past the Ridgefield line. He parks at least 12 feet back from the road and has applied to the State of CT for permission to park at this location. He has been approved by the Police Department, etc and has a certificate from the Food Safety class.

J. Plock moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to approve the Vendor Permit for Robert J. Correa, The Roadside Grill for one year. Motion passed 3-0.

3. Vendor Permit Application – Mike Principi, Chez Lenard

Mike Principi came forward to support his application for a renewal of his vendor permit for the Chez Lenard hot dog stand located on Main Street. A. Bodner inquired about his relationship with his storefront neighbors. Mike responded that he gets along well with his neighbors. He feels he promotes Ridgefield thru his “friendly” business.

J. Plock moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to approve the renewal of the Vendor Permit for Michael Principi, Jr., Chez Lenard for an additional year. Motion passed 3-0.

4. Amendment of Tax Deferment Ordinance: Set PH & STM Dates – Al Garzi

The Commission on Aging voted unanimously at their June 15, 2009 meeting to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that Tax Deferment Ordinance 13Y 2-20 be amended to allow six (6) months after the death of the taxpayer before the 4% simple interest on the deferred taxes is increased. The current ordinance allows only 60 days, which they feel is unreasonable due to the amount of time it often takes to process an estate. Once a resident dies, their taxes are due.

R. Marconi read the revised ordinance – Sec 13 Y 2-20 (changed wording in bold print).

- a. Interest at a rate which is approximately the borrowing cost to the Town, will be charged as simple interest (not compounded) on the total accumulated tax due each year.
- b. The total accumulated tax and interest will be due to the Town at a change of ownership or when the property is no longer the principal residence of the applicant. However, a surviving spouse, over the age of sixty (60), having taken over the ownership of the property, and meeting the other qualifications, may continue the deferment. **In the event of the death of the applicant where the tax and interest is due, payment of the tax and accrued interest may be deferred up to six months at the request of the estate**

representative. Until payment is made, the interest will continue to accrue at the interest rate stated in Paragraph 4-a. above.

Andy Bodner moved and J. Plock seconded a motion to set a Public Hearing and a Town Meeting for July 16, 2009, Town Hall Large Conference Room, 400 Main St., Ridgefield, CT, regarding the proposed Tax Deferment Ordinance 13Y 2029. Motion passed 3-0.

5. Verizon Police Station Cell Tower Lease Agreement

A memo was received from Jerry Gay, Purchasing Director for the Town of Ridgefield, dated 7/28/09, summarizing the main points of the proposed addendum to the original lease of April 1989. The current lease concludes September 30, 2009. A request was sent to neighboring communities for info regarding their income received from cell tower leases. Only 2 out of 25 responded and Ridgefield is on the "high side" for income received. A. Bodner inquired if there is a "tickler file" which states when various leases become due? It would be helpful to have the dates for upcoming lease renewals posted on a calendar.

J. Plock moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to approve the proposed Verizon Police Station Cell Tower Addendum Lease Agreement, which is an addendum to the original lease of April 1989. Motion passed 4-0.

6. Health Department Grant Resolution

J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to approve the Resolution authorizing: "That the First Selectman, Rudy Marconi, be and hereby is authorized to sign contracts and any of its amendments hereto, on behalf of the Town of Ridgefield, between the Town of Ridgefield and the Department of Public Health or its successor agency". Motion passed 4-0. This grant will provide for a \$3,000 Diabetes Self-Care educational program.

7. Virginia Roebuck Lease Renewal

The lease between the Town of Ridgefield and Virginia Roebuck is a five year lease that needs to be renewed each year within the five years for Rooms #222A and #222C on the second floor of the Richard E. Venus Building, located at 90 East Ridge.

J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to approve renewal until September 2010 the Town of Ridgefield's current lease with Virginia Roebuck, which expires September 2009. Motion passed 4-0.

8. Potential Land Donation – Seymour Lane

A July 8, 2009 letter was received from Rex E. Gustafson, Esq. indicating that Sandra M. Maino, owner of the property on Seymour Lane (Map E17 Lot 39), would like to deed her property to the Town of Ridgefield in full payment of her property tax debt to the Town of Ridgefield for this property on Seymour Lane in the amount of \$33,949.71. Betty Brosius, Director of Planning, has looked at the property and is in agreement with the town accepting the property. The town can take over the property and then resell it. Perhaps the neighbors on each side would like to split the property.

B. Manners moved and J. Plock seconded a motion to approve acceptance of the donation of the property on Seymour Lane, (Map E17 Lot 39) in exchange for forgiveness of delinquent real estate taxes owed on the property in the amount of \$33,949.71. Motion passed 4-0.

8b. Proposed Agreement with Yankee Gas

The gas line which ends on Bailey Avenue would be run up to the Municipal Building by Yankee Gas. This would enable the possible conversion of the oil burners to natural gas at the old High School, East Ridge Middle School, Veteran's Park Elementary School, and the Town Hall. Charlie Fisher estimates the cost to the town of \$150,000 but such conversions to natural gas would qualify for energy efficiency grant programs. This would result in a significant savings in energy dollars. A. Bodner emphasized the need to accelerate this program as quickly as possible. He also suggested the conversion to street gas lights once the gas line is run.

J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to authorize the First Selectman, Rudy Marconi, to sign the proposed gas line agreement with Yankee Gas for the extension of the Bailey Avenue gas line to the Municipal Building. Motion passed 4-0.

9. Selectman's Report

- American Legion baseball team did very well this season – 4th place.
- New community garden at the Farmingville School barn area – there has been a waiting list for garden plots.
- Residents of Lewis Drive, Ridgefield Manor have requested replacement of the yellow brick road moldings. Peter Hill has reported back that it would cost \$1/4 million to replace and redo the curbing. R. Marconi wrote a letter to the residents indicating that the Town cannot afford to do this project.
- Proposed greenway along Super 7 – how can we make this happen? Redding, Ridgefield and Wilton would all work together for a proposed bike/walking trail in this land still owned by the State.
- Fred Dorsey of the Connecticut Supreme Court has indicated that sometime between September 8 and September 25, the Appellate Court will review a summary of the Gaeta case.
- Attorney Patrick Walsh has resubmitted a proposed lease for the Community Center. Copies are available for review prior to the September 2nd BOS Meeting.
- A message has been received from the State Dept. of Health regarding the proposed swine flu vaccine. The vaccine for seniors and young people will not have mercury present.
- The Wilton Police Department have identified a battery which lets the Police car idle off the battery and thus saves fuel.
- September 16 BOS Meeting will include a report on the parking lot study to eliminate every other light to save energy; also use of the new energy-saving bulb.
- Outstanding Citizen Award – A. Bodner asked if this could be an annual award? R. Marconi indicated that an annual award is possible, no time table has been set.
- R. Marconi expressed a thank you to Blake Joblin and his Dad, Brad, for all their efforts in providing the TV coverage of the BOS Meetings.
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10. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 4/20/09, 7/29/09, 8/12/09

J. Plock moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to approve as written the minutes of the April 20, 2009 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting. Motion passed 4-0.

J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the July 29, 2009 Board of Selectmen Meeting. Motion passed 3-0-1. A. Bodner abstained as he was not present at the July 29 BOS Meeting.

J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to approve as written the minutes of the August 12, 2009 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting. Motion passed 4-0.

11. Executive Session: Retirement Agreement; Possible Vote
The Retirement Agreement is not ready to be discussed.

J. Plock moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to recess the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 8:55 p.m. and go into Executive Session for a property discussion with Rick O'Brien of the Economic Development Commission. Motion passed 4-0.

J. Plock moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to close the Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. and reopen the Board of Selectmen Meeting with no vote to be taken. Motion passed 4-0.

J. Plock moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 9:30 p.m. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Johnson