

BOARD of SELECTMEN MEETING – SEPTEMBER 7, 2005

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

AGENDA

1. Dian Marandola – Review of volunteers for Emergency Preparedness
2. Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club
3. Peter Hill- Department Overview
4. Review fuel costs for the Town – Jay Wahlberg
5. Resolution for Barbara Serfilippi—to apply for a grant
6. Basha Szymanska tax refund
7. Charter Revision Commission (Remind BOS of 9/12 Public Hearing)
8. Family Day Proclamation
9. approval for First Selectman to commence negotiations with City of Danbury for interlocal agreement
10. Approval of meeting minutes—7/20/05; 8/3/05 (2 mtgs); 8/9/05; 8/11/05; 8/16/05
11. Selectman’s Report

R. Marconi called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. following the Special Town Meeting which acted on the proposed leases between: (1) the Town of Ridgefield and Virginia Roebuck and (2) the Town of Ridgefield and Intellectual Edge. Both leases were approved by unanimous vote.

1. Dian Marandola—Review of Volunteers for Emergency Preparedness
Ed Briggs and Dian Marandola came forward to discuss what has been done and what is going to be done to prepare the Town for an emergency with regard to the enlistment of volunteers. Recruitment and training is ongoing. Their focus has been workforce development. 61 nurses have been signed up. They now need to develop a curriculum to guide the volunteers who have been recruited. They are currently working with an education consultant developing on-line and face-to-face training. They are getting the message out to the Ridgefield community – what the plan for the Town is – an all-hazards kind of response – and that every family should have an emergency plan. Ms. Marandola wrote a guide for the Public Health Corp, an entry-level tool. Everyone is welcome to a copy. She is conducting a day-long training session in November – Emergency Procedures 101.

J. Plock inquired as to the recruitment of doctors as well. The answer is yes, but that has not been the primary focus to date, but will be in the year to come.

D. Masters suggested producing materials such as a refrigerator magnet with emergency evacuation information and inquired as to the marketing materials they are using now. Is there grant money that could be requested for such materials?

J. Plock pointed out that residents want to know “what do they do?” It is important to have the basic information available.

Ed Briggs said that he is currently updating the website, and this is why Ridgefield invested in the Reverse 911 plan. The State Health Department has a number of satellite phones.

Ridgefield is part of Region 6 along with Bethel and Redding. Ms. Marandola is doing a training workshop for Region 6 on September 26. Their focus is three-fold: 1) get the message out; 2) have a family plan; 3) do you want to become a volunteer? Last year Ridgefield received \$72,000 in bio-terrorism funds; this year the amount is \$50,000. The focus with this money is training and running exercises and drills.

R. Marconi inquired as to how long does Ms. Marandola think it will take to get the emergency preparedness program up and running – the Town trained and informed? The answer is two years. She was hired for one year, and she will come back before the BOS to seek approval for the second year.

A question was asked as to why Scotts Ridge has been chosen as the location for the dispensing of vaccines and/or antibiotics? It is so far from the Town Center. Other locations were suggested and researched, but Scotts Ridge has ample parking and in/out access and emergency power is established there.

Grant for Youth Violence & Suicide Prevention – Lynne Jorgensen is working on this. This grant will pay for training regarding youth violence and suicide prevention – 9 two-hour sessions with the youth; a couple of sessions with parents; and a couple of sessions with teachers at the schools. The training with the students and the parents will be held at the Barn or some other designated location. **J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to approve the First Selectman’s signature on an application for a \$3700 grant for education sessions for students, parents and teachers regarding youth violence and suicide prevention. Motion passed 5-0.**

2. Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club – Planning & Zoning met last evening and asked for a slightly different alteration of the plans. R. Marconi read the letter received from P&Z and pointed out changes on the drawings and map, changes to the parking area in particular. The new plans will be presented to P&Z at their next meeting on September 20th for a resolution of approval. A Public Hearing can then be scheduled for September 21. **J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to hold a Public Hearing on September 21 at 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Lower Level Conference Room, relative to the Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club building project, to include but not limited to all items of the revised plans for the building project, which includes use of the Yanity gym facility for the Boys and Girls Club during the 18 months to two years of construction, and the easement for the Fire Department to use the Yanity pool instead of the pond at the current Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club location if need be as a water source. Motion passed 4-0-1. Dr. Yanity excused himself from this vote.**
3. Peter Hill, Director – Highway Department Overview -
The plan is for a report from a different department each BOS meeting – discuss the department’s current situation and where going, concerns and issues. Peter Hill began by commenting on the aggressive paving program which has been the focus for the last eight

years. Since 1997 the department has paved 103 miles of roads and they plan to pave another 13 miles next year. They have cleaned and repaired 37,000 feet of drainage tiles and 533 catch basins. After next year, they will be looking for a small decrease in the overlay and drainage dollars and instead direct the money toward bridge repairs. The original wish list was to do 47 roads; cannot do that with the dollars given, but hoping next year to do 13 miles of repaving again. They have been doing experimental work with a couple of other surface overlays on six different roads. They get approximately 8-12 years of life out of resurfaced roads, depending on the winter weather and thawing and frost situation in the spring. This fall they will be repaving in early November. In December and until heavy snow arrives, they have an aggressive program planned for roadside trimming.

Mr. Hill then commented on experimenting with the new salt and will be trying 20-40 yards of the new product this year. The manufacturer has agreed to let the Town try the product before purchasing. It is used in conjunction with salt and enables the salt to work at a lower temperature. He does not think Ridgefield will be able to completely eliminate the use of sand as there are too many hills in Ridgefield. This new product is expensive, but hopefully will reduce the need for resanding. Road surfaces will not have to be covered again as frequently and less sand will aid with the cleanup in the spring. The new product is environmentally better. Ridgefield needs to try the product in January and February.

R. Marconi asked Mr. Hill to comment on the department's three major concerns for the next five years. He replied: 1) large number of ponds to dredge and re-establish their depths; 2) bridges that need attention; 3) drainage situations under control.

Mr. Hill thanked the BOS for their continued support and they thanked him for an excellent job.

4. Review Fuel Costs for the Town – Jay Wahlberg

J. Wahlberg reported that the Town at this time is not locked into a heating oil price for the upcoming winter season. Usually this is done in August, but the price this August was on a steep climb. Locking in a fixed price was scheduled to be done the first week in September, but with the New Orleans situation, this was not the week to do so. Currently Ridgefield is under the State bid. \$2.00/gallon for fuel oil is the current available price which Ridgefield can lock into. The Town's price is exclusive of taxes. There is no expiration regarding this price. The price is being monitored closely and the Town will lock in a price at the best possible time with Buckley Fuel Oil of New Haven. Mr. Wahlberg indicated that he is checking the fuel oil price situation daily. He reviewed the energy summary he prepared showing both the fuel oil and vehicle gas costs (budgeted and worst case scenario) for both the Town and the Board of Education.

5. Resolution for Barbara Serfilippi—to apply for a grant

Mrs. Serfilippi came forward to express her request for approval of the proposed grant application. R. Marconi read the August 3, 2005 letter received from Ms. Serfilippi, Town Clerk. **B. Manners moved and J. Plock seconded a motion that Rudy Marconi, First Selectman, or the Town Clerk, Barbara Serfilippi, his designee, be empowered to execute and deliver in the name of and on behalf of this municipality, an application and contract with the State Library for an Historic Preservation Grant**

for record preservation in the amount of \$7,000, under the category of Preservation/Conservation. Motion passed 5-0.

6. Basha Szymanska Tax Refund – Al Garzi, Assessor, came forward to request approval of the tax refund for Basha Szymanska of 83 Great Hill Road. This overpayment was caused by the failure to assess the land as forest land, which is a lower assessment. This situation has been corrected with the resultant request for a refund of the overpayment. **B. Manners moved and P. Yanity seconded a motion to approve the refund to Basha Szymanski of 183 Great Hill Road in the amount of \$9,865.69 for overpayment of 2003 real property taxes. Motion passed 5-0.**
7. Charter Revision Commission (remind BOS of 9/12 Public Hearing) - R. Marconi reported that a schedule of the Charter Revision Commission's meetings will be forthcoming. The BOS was reminded of the September 12 Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m. with a work session following. Frank D'Ercole from Robinson & Cole will be present relative to the letter received from him outlining some very technical proposed changes in the charter. An October 17th meeting will be held to discuss feedback received from the various Town government departments. Other meeting dates scheduled are November 14th and December 12th.
8. Family Day Proclamation - **J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to approve the Proclamation of September 26, 2005 as Family Day in the Town of Ridgefield, as read by First Selectman, R. Marconi. Motion passed 5-0.** Dr. Freeston announced this Proclamation at the Board of Education meeting also. This Proclamation will be distributed to all the Town's athletic associations and Scout groups.
9. Approval for First Selectman to Commence Negotiations with City of Danbury for Interlocal Agreement - Planning & Zoning Chairman, Becky Mucchetti reported that Eureka withdrew their pending application prior to the P&Z meeting as agreed upon in the settlement agreement, and then put in a new application. The purpose of the interlocal is to accommodate gallonage for the proposed building project. This is for both water and sewage. WPCA will be responsible for doing the negotiations for the Town of Ridgefield. P. Yanity inquired as to the difference between the Ridgebury interlocal and this proposed interlocal. D. Grogins replied that the amount of gallonage is up to Ridgefield, the cost will be covered by Eureka, and the agreement will be set up according to the rules for interlocals. WPCA is by statute authorized to negotiate with municipalities for sewer service; they are the utility authorized to do this. The interlocal will contain the restrictions Ridgefield wants. The cost of installation, maintenance, and related expenses will be the responsibility of Eureka. **J. Plock moved and P. Yanity seconded a motion to grant the First Selectman approval to commence negotiations with the City of Danbury relative to the Interlocal Agreement as specified in the agreement signed with Eureka. Motion passed 5-0.**
10. Approval of Meeting Minutes – 7/20/05; 8/3/05 (2 mtgs.); 8/9/05, 8/11/05, 8/16/05
J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of July 20, 2005 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, the Fire Commission, and the Economic Development Commission. Motion passed 4-0-1. B. Manners abstained as she was ill and did not attend the July 20th meeting.

P. Yanity moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to approve as written the minutes of Public Hearing and the Board of Selectmen Meeting of August 3, 2005. Motion passed 4-0-1. J. Plock abstained as she did not attend due to illness the August 3rd meeting.

D. Masters moved and P. Yanity seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the August 3, 2005, Special Board of Selectmen Meeting. Motion passed 4-0-1. J. Plock abstained as she joined the discussion via the telephone but did not attend the meeting in person.

J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the August 11, 2005, Special 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 August 16, 2005, Special Board of Selectmen Meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

11. First Selectman's Report –

- Ridgefield's Response to Katrina – D. Masters reported on the Town's interest in targeting their efforts to a small community. A small Mississippi town formerly of 8,000 residents called Pass Christian, MS has been chosen. Not much is left of the town. They are still deep in assessing the devastation and not yet to the part of rebuilding. The need is for immediate humanitarian assistance. Ridgefield civic leaders met recently at the high school to discuss how to best be of assistance to this small community. A truck of donations will leave this Friday for the town and another truck next week. Residents can donate to Ridgefield's Social Services Fund. Kohl's has donated an additional 25% discount on anything purchased for donation to Pass Christian. Ancona's has donated cleaning supplies. The Town has approximately 200 cots and blankets stored at Jesse Lee church. These will be donated and FEMA will replace them for Ridgefield. D. Masters will act as the Town's Ambassador and will meet the first truck when it arrives in Mississippi to interact with Pass Christian town leaders and assess how Ridgefield can be of the greatest assistance. She will bring a note from Ridgefield, Ridgefield T-shirts, and a "Town Hug". Pass Christian's Town Attorney is the Acting Mayor. They are still in a search and recovery mode. "Gently-used" warm weather clothing is needed. The clothing will be boxed and sorted by gender and size.

FEMA recommends that no animals be brought back to Connecticut because of possible contamination.

B. Manners reported the establishment of a web-site called, "Ridgefield Response". Redding and Pound Ridge have expressed interest in locating a designated town for them to support as well.

- September 11 Remembrance – A memorial service will take place at 6:00 p.m. at the Ridgefield Fire House. The service will consist of music, participation by members of the clergy and Police and Fire Honor Guards.

- Sound Alliance Request - Ridgefield has been asked to support the proposal for Sound Alliance, a floating liquefied gas storage area located in Long Island Sound. J. Plock requested more detailed information on this project before a decision is made as to whether or not to support the proposal.
- September 21st BOS Agenda to include Turner Hill request for an additional \$7,000 for surveyors.

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.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Johnson