

PUBLIC HEARING & BOARD of SELECTMEN MEETING – DECEMBER 10, 2008

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, D. Masters (until 8:15 p.m.), J. Plock

Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that a **Public Hearing** will be held on December 10, 2008, 7:30 p.m., in the Town Hall Large Conference Room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT to consider the following change in Ridgefield Code under Chapter 2 Administration. Changes are indicated as such: underline & bold represents addition to existing language, brackets [] indicate deletion.

Division 7. Economic Development Commission

Section 2-69.1. Membership and term of office

*The Commission shall consist of [five(5)] **seven (7)** members who are electors of the town who shall be appointed by the First Selectman, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen.*

Special Town Meeting was held immediately following the Public Hearing for the purpose of voting on the proposed increase in membership of the Economic Development Commission from five to seven members. Minutes of the Special Town Meeting are under separate cover. There was a unanimous vote to increase the membership of the EDC to seven members.

Board of Selectmen Meeting

1. Possible Appointment & Vote for SAFER Grant Opening
2. Youth Commission Interview: Zach Porterfield
3. EDC Interviews: Dan Baransky, Susan Consentino
4. Ridgefield Prevention Council Interview: Tim Hastings
5. IRMC Interview: Stephen Hackenburg
6. Vehicle Use Policy
7. BLAST Lyme Disease Program Overview
8. Appointment of Zoning Citation Hearing Officer
9. Request for Approval of “Gino Way” as Town Road
10. Ed Briggs’ Reappointment as Director of Health; Health Department Grant Resolution
11. 2009 Ambulance Rate Approval
12. Sex Offender Ordinance
13. 2009 Meeting Calendar
14. Set Date for Special Town Meeting for 1) Fund Transfer of Approximately \$196,000 from Building Roof Replacement Capital Account (#30551-56107) to the Capital Reserve Fund; and 2) Transfer from capital Reserve Fund to Venus Building Improvement Account (#30551-568276; all of which is contingent upon Board of Finance approval on 12/16/08.
15. Approval of Tax Refunds
16. Selectman’s Report
17. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 11/18/08 (Special Meeting), 11/19/08
18. Executive Session: 24 Old Stagecoach Rd.

R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. It was agreed to set a Town Meeting for December 17, 2008, 9:30 a.m., for the purpose of fund transfers relative to the Venus Building. Refer to Agenda Item #14.

R. Marconi called the **Public Hearing** to order at 7:40 p.m. R. Marconi read the call for the Public Hearing: Notice is hereby given that a **Public Hearing** will be held on December 10, 2008, 7:30 p.m., in the Town Hall Large Conference Room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT to consider the following change in Ridgefield Code under Chapter 2 Administration. Changes are indicated as such: underline & bold represents addition to existing language, brackets [] indicate deletion.

Division 7. Economic Development Commission

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There has been positive response to the advertisements for residents to participate as members of the Economic Development Commission. J. Plock pointed out that the Commission has not been able to function because of the recent resignations of several members making it difficult to secure a quorum. An increase in the membership to seven will help to prevent this problem. R. Marconi closed the Public Hearing at 7:45 p.m., and called the Special Town Meeting to order. Minutes of the Special Town Meeting are under separate cover. There was a unanimous vote to increase the membership of the EDC to seven members.

R. Marconi reopened the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 7:50 p.m.

1. Possible Appointment & Vote for SAFER Grant Opening – \$471,000 has been received from the Federal government SAFER Grant which has enabled the hiring of four additional firefighters. One recent hire left for a position closer to his home – thus creating one opening.

J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to appoint David Lachelier as Firefighter/Paramedic, one of the four positions available with monies from the Federal Government SAFER grant, pending passage of his post-offer physical, drug screen, police background and reference checks. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Youth Commission Interview: Zach Porterfield
Zach Porterfield, a Ridgefield High School senior, came forward to introduce himself to the BOS and express his interest in being appointed to serve on the Youth Commission. Zach has been very active on the Youth Prevention Council and hopes to attend college nearby next year. If so, he could then continue to serve on the Youth Commission during his freshman year of college. D. Masters commented on how Zach will be an outstanding addition to the Youth Commission; she has seen his interaction with his younger siblings, and he is a young man of integrity. B. Manners commented on Zach's six trips to provide Katrina aid.

J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to appoint for a two-year term ending July 1, 2010, Zach Porterfield as a Youth Member of the Youth Commission. Motion passed 5-0.

3. EDC Interviews: Dan Baransky, Susan Consentino
Dan Baransky came forward to present himself to the BOS and express his interest in serving on the Economic Development Commission. Mr. Baransky pointed out how he has attended some of

the meetings of the EDC. He has been a Ridgefield resident since 1991 and expressed his “love for Ridgefield”. He wants to help maintain the character of the town. He is a Vice President, Mergers & Acquisition Services in the insurance industry in NYC. His work situation is very flexible and he can work from home. D. Masters asked Mr. Baransky to comment on his “vision” for Ridgefield. He pointed out the need for a long-term approach to where we want the Town to be – how do we get ourselves there ten years from now? We need to go out and market Ridgefield. We need to address the particular skills a business needs and then respond on how a Ridgefield location can fill these needs. His skill set includes budgeting and interacting with finance boards, working with CEO’s and CFO’s. He once ran a small retail business in Connecticut and can add input from his experience as a small business owner.

Andy Bodner asked Mr. Baransky to speculate on his vision for Ridgefield ten years from now. Mr. Baransky responded that he would like to see the town more commercial, more vibrant, areas for pedestrians to walk. We should identify a specific core competency to address – such as finance, insurance medical, and seek businesses to locate in Ridgefield in this arena. If our objective is to increase tax dollars, what development on Route 7 would bring in revenue in this way? A single decision has an effect on traffic, transportation, etc. We need to look at a zoning map and identify where we can locate businesses new to Ridgefield.

Susan Consentino was not present.

The list of Interviewees was reviewed: Chris Fisher and William Markus were appointed to the EDC at the previous BOS Meeting. Stephen Hackenburg has agreed to seek membership in the Insurance & Risk Management Committee. There remain two openings on the EDC with five applicants: Frank Lowe, Magdalena Fincham, Mark Grindle, Mark Robinson, and Daniel Baransky. It was agreed that the BOS would review the applications of these individuals and make a decision at the next BOS Meeting on January 7, 2009.

4. Ridgefield Prevention Council Interview: Tim Hastings

Tim Hastings came forward to present himself to the BOS and express his interest in serving on the Ridgefield Community Prevention Council. Mr. Hastings grew up in Ridgefield and now lives here as a father with three children. He has attended meetings of the Council and served as a Volunteer with the Council for the past nine months. He states that he is a “firm believer in the message that the RPC is sending out to the community. He is familiar with addiction, its power, the strength it takes to overcome and the need for education and awareness at a young age to avoid it.” Mr. Hastings works for Hamilton Mortgage, a Ridgefield company, and is also a Little League coach.

J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to appoint Timothy Hastings to fill the vacant position on the Ridgefield Community Prevention Council for a two-year term. Motion passed 5-0.

5. IRMC Interview: Stephen Hackenburg

Steve Hackenburg came forward to again say hello to the BOS as he interviewed previously for the EDC. He has been a Ridgefield resident since 2003 and is a senior executive in the global insurance industry. His background will complement the IRMC and he realizes that the Town is most anxious to lower their insurance costs if at all possible.

J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to appoint Stephen Hackenburg to fill the vacant position on the Insurance & Risk Management Committee for a two-year term. Motion passed 5-0.

6. Vehicle Use Policy

The existing policy was revised in December 2004. R. Marconi read Appendix A which is what is currently under consideration. Paul Roche, Director of Parks & Recreation, and Peter Hill, Highway Superintendent, came forward to participate in the discussion. Under consideration in particular are the individuals occupying the following positions that were grandfathered and allowed the use of a Town vehicle for home-to-work and work-to-home transportation, while in these roles. The use of Town vehicle for this type of transportation shall not be considered a taxable fringe benefit and the use will not fall under the established mileage rate the Town charges other Vehicle users. These positions include: Fire Marshall (no longer on the list as the vehicle is kept in Town); Assistant Director, Parks; Parks Operation Supervisor; Highway Foreman (2); and Maintenance Mechanic Supervisor. Are these vehicles needed for emergency use? Paul Roche responded that every weekend someone has to check the playing fields and the irrigation systems. They decide if the fields are to be open for use. They also respond to emergency situations of snow, wind, traffic control management, etc. B. Manners inquired if the grandfathering and not the emergency status is the key criteria? Use of the vehicle is not taxable if used for emergency services. Should the Town be paying for the gas for to and from work on a daily basis? Peter Hill responded that the Highway Foreman respond to calls from the Police Department and the Fire Department. A. Bodner inquired as to the cost to the Town for these vehicles – fuel, insurance, maintenance, etc.?? Would it be cheaper to have the individual drive his own vehicle and receive a stipend for Town mandated use? R. Marconi pointed out that the vehicles are usually pick-up trucks, and the individual may well not own a personal pick-up truck. J. Plock responded that the BOS is not seeking to take the vehicles away but just wants to review carefully all the costs.

7. BLAST Lyme Disease Program Overview

Karen Gaudian, Jennifer Reid and Sue Perlotto came forward to discuss the BLAST Lyme Disease Program. This program was funded by a DPH \$50,000 grant. They developed programs to promote the BLAST, went to the schools, trained teachers, worked with Parks & Recreation, partnered with Danbury Hospital, did a program at Boehringer Ingelheim and developed a program for their website as well, worked with the Ridgefield Rotary, and piloted a program with the local CVS which CVS is now rolling out to fifteen other stores starting March 1st. On November 5th, they participated in the Lyme Symposium on Health Directives in the State. The funding from their original grants ends in December, and they are seeking a way to continue the program into 2009.

The University of New Haven is doing research on tick rates in each Connecticut town. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, the malaria-like illness Babesiosis well as Lyme Disease are all caused by the tick bite. BLAST is working on all these diseases. R. Marconi inquired as to what is the dollar estimate needed to continue the program? - \$100,000 for a dynamite program, \$50,000 to continue on as they have been doing. R. Marconi suggested multi-town funding – hold a meeting and see if we can get the surrounding towns to help support this initiative.

Note - D. Masters left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

8. Appointment of Zoning Citation Hearing Officer

B. Manners moved and J. Plock seconded a motion to appoint Sharon Dornfeld as Zoning Citation Hearing Officer. Motion passed 4-0.

9. Request for Approval of “Gino’s Way” as Town Road

Attorney Bob Jewell came forward to discuss the proposed name for a subdivision road not yet constructed. Per Betty Brosius, the street name must be on the subdivision map for the subdivision to be approved.

J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to approve the name “Gino’s Way” as the street name for a Town road for the 6 lot subdivision of the Polverari property at 213 High Ridge Avenue. Motion passed 4-0.

10. Ed Briggs’ Reappointment as Director of Health; Health Department Grant Resolution

Ed Briggs came forward to explain the role of the Director of Health. He was originally appointed in 2004 for four years. More grants are available to towns that have a full-time Public Health Director. The cost of his vehicle is not a cost to the Town of Ridgefield.

A. Bodner moved and J. Plock seconded a motion to reappoint Ed Briggs as Director of Health for the Town of Ridgefield. Motion passed 4-0.

Ed Briggs requested BOS approval of the following two motions relative to emergency preparedness:

A. Bodner moved and J. Plock seconded a motion to approve the Certification Regarding Anti-Lobbying Activities for DPH Contracts and Subcontracts Exceeding \$100,000 of Federal Funds, with the Town of Ridgefield as the Contractor; August 31, 2007 thru August 9, 2009 as the Contract Period; Anthony Nwankwo, Contracts Management Unit as the DPH Contact Person; and #2008-1152-1 as the DPH Contract Log Number. Motion passed 4-0.

Andy Bodner moved and J. Plock seconded a motion to authorize Rudy Marconi, First Selectman, to make, execute and approve on behalf of the Town of Ridgefield, any and all contracts or amendments thereof with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health to execute a Pandemic Flu Clinic. Motion passed 4-0.

11. 2009 Ambulance Rate Approval

R. Marconi stated that he is withdrawing his request for the 2009 Ambulance Rate Approval because the specific rate request numbers have not yet been received from the State of Connecticut.

12. Sex Offender Ordinance

R. Marconi read the November 17, 2008 letter sent to Chief of Police, John Roche, from Stephen J. Sedensky, III, State’s Attorney, State of Connecticut, Division of Criminal Justice, relative to Ridgefield’s proposed sex offender ordinance.

J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to set a Public Hearing for January 7, 2009, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Large Conference Room, 400 Main St., Ridgefield, CT, to discuss the proposed Sex Offender Ordinance. Motion passed 4-0.

13. 2009 Meeting Calendar

The 2009 BOS Meeting schedule was reviewed and a few changes were made. The January 7 Fire Commission Budget Meeting will start at 5:30 p.m. with BOS Meeting following at 7:30 p.m. The January 28 Fire Commission Quarterly Meeting was cancelled.

The April 29 BOS Meeting at 7:30 p.m. was cancelled and instead there will be an April 22 BOS Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

December 2009 schedule is changed to one meeting on December 9 – Fire Commission at 6:30 p.m. and BOS Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

J. Plock moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to approve as amended the 2009 Board of Selectmen Meetings Schedule for 2009. Motion passed 4-0.

14. Set Date for Special Town Meeting for 1) Fund Transfer of Approximately \$196,000 from Building Roof Replacement Capital Account (#30551-56107) to the Capital Reserve Fund; and 2) Transfer from Capital Reserve Fund to Venus Building Improvement Account (#30551-568276); all of which is contingent upon Board of Finance Approval on 12/16/08.

J. Plock moved and B. Manners moved to set a Special Town Meeting for December 17, 2008, 9:30 a.m., Town Hall Large Conference Room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT, for 1) (a) Fund Transfer of Approximately \$196,000 from Building Roof Replacement Capital Account (30551-56107) to the Capital Reserve Fund, and (b) Transfer from Capital Reserve Fund to Venus Building Improvement Account (#30551-568276); all of which is contingent upon Board of Finance Approval on 12/16/08, and 2) To approve and modify the lease to abate four additional months of Chef's Warehouse rent, totaling approximately \$120,000, which will address the total of our obligation. Motion passed 4-0.

15. Approval of Tax Refunds

J. Plock moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to approve the tax refund applications as requested by Jane Berendsen-Hill, Tax Collector in her memo dated December 4, 2008, totaling \$7,378.26. Motion passed 4-0.

16. Selectman's Report

- Chef's Warehouse Tour – December 16, 6:30 p.m. The Board of Finance is invited also. Let R. Marconi know if you do not plan to attend.
- Water rate increase hearing – December 15, 7:00 p.m., Danbury City Hall – Notice of this hearing will be put on the Ridgefield website.
- Insurance Risk Management Committee has \$322,000 in excess funds; perhaps about \$100,000 could be released for use elsewhere. Do we want to use this money now or help to keep the mill rate down?
- Cell Tower Update
- Turner Hill – Conservation Commission wants to move into Phase 2 – R. Marconi read letter from Dr. Ben Oko, Chairman of the Conservation Commission. The letter would be sent for specific violations and would come from the Conservation Commission and the BOS. The letter requests a correction of the violation by January 15, 2009 and if a mowing issue, by May 15, 2009. The original violations numbered 50 in 2005; present number of violations is 32. Mowing violations total 26; the other 18 violations are for structures. There are a total of 74 homes in the Turner Hill Subdivision. J. Plock asked if there is any way for the resident to appeal? R. Marconi will ask the Town Counsel regarding the

possible appeal process. J. Plock indicated that she thought there was going to be flexibility about mowing violations. R. Marconi responded that one cannot be selective about who is in violation. J. Katz, Ridgebury Rd. indicated that if an ordinance is in effect, then it has to be enforced. R. Marconi indicated that it would be appropriate to send letters to structure violators first; the mowing issue is irrelevant at this time of the year. J. Plock asked about the previously discussed desire to allow a consideration of ten feet from the house – is this being taken into consideration currently? R. Marconi will check on this as well. The Conservation Commission is seeking BOS assistance in maintaining Ridgefield's open space. The citations are issued by whom? The offense is "as documented by the Conservation Commission."

- Budget Process Questions raised by A. Bodner – Ambulance rates pay for a third party? – What about the fees collected by Parks & Rec? – The budget should not separate the tools one needs to do their job; the Police Department need Police vehicles; The Highway Department needs plow trucks. Is there any way to group these items on the budget vote? We need to look at how the budget is presented to the voters.

17. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 11/18/08 (Special Meeting); 11/19/08

J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the November 18, 2008, Board of Finance, Board of Education, and Board of Selectmen Budget Review Meeting. Motion passed 4-0.

J. Plock moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the November 19, 2008, Board of Selectmen Meeting. Motion passed 3-0-1. B. Manners abstained as she was not present at the November 19 BOS Meeting.

18. Executive Session: 24 Old Stagecoach Rd.

J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to recess the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 9:46 p.m. and go into Executive Session relative to a discussion of restrictions on 24 Old Stagecoach Road. Motion passed 4-0. The Executive Session closed at 10:11 p.m. and R. Marconi reopened the BOS Meeting.

J. Plock moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 10:15 p.m. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Johnson