

**BOARD of SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING – DECEMBER 14, 2009**

TOWN HALL/LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM – 11:00 A.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, D. Masters, J. Plock  
Absent (Illness): B. Manners

**Agenda**

1. Reappointment of Town Constables
2. Assistant Town Treasurer Appointment
3. Ridgefield Arts Council Grant Resolution
4. BLAST Account Approval for Friends of Ridgefield
5. Resolution Establishing OPEB Trust Agreement; Pension Commission as Trustee
6. Selectman's Report
7. Possible Executive Session: Discussion of Schlumberger

R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen Meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

1. Reappointment of Town Constables

The Town currently has six Constables that serve a two-year term, which is up for renewal.

**J. Plock moved and A. Bodner seconded the reappointment of all Constables.** D. Masters inquired whether Jim Sullivan lives here as his letter shows a post office box. Mr. Sullivan was in attendance and responded that he does not live in Ridgefield but is a registered voter, an elector of the Town, and by law is allowed to remain a Constable of the Town. D. Masters wondered if the Town would be better served by all Constables being residents of the Town. The remaining Board members stated their satisfaction with Mr. Sullivan's service as Constable. **J. Plock withdrew her original motion. J. Plock moved to approve the reappointment of the Constables contingent upon approval by David Grogins, Town Counsel. A. Bodner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-1 with D. Masters opposed.**

2. Assistant Town Treasurer Appointment

Maureen Kiernan, Treasurer, joined the Board at the table to discuss the Deputy Treasurer position. She had provided a letter to the Board with additional clarification of the position which addressed their concerns. R. Marconi read Section 4-9 of the Charter: "At each regular town election there shall also be elected a Tax Collector, Treasurer and Town Clerk. The Treasurer shall exercise the functions of the agent of town deposit fund. Within thirty (30) days from taking office, the Town Treasurer shall appoint, subject to approval by a majority vote of the Board of Selectmen, a Deputy who shall, in the temporary absence or disability of the Town Treasurer, perform all his or her duties. These officers shall serve terms of four (4) years and shall have the powers and duties provided by law." M. Kiernan recommends Linda Hannah as Deputy Treasurer for the remaining two years of her term, set to expire in November 2011. M. Kiernan will be going out of town for one month and has been holding off on making arrangements until a Deputy has been approved.

**J. Plock moved to approve the appointment of Linda Hannah, Deputy Treasurer; R. Marconi seconded.**

A. Bodner asked if the Assistant Treasurer would stand in for the Treasurer if disabled? Yes. If the Treasurer resigns, the Republican Town Committee would recommend a candidate to fill the vacancy. This is outlined in the Charter. A. Bodner stated the Asst. Treasurer position is not as defined in the Charter as Linda Hannah would be required to sign checks only.

**J. Plock withdrew her motion; R. Marconi withdrew the second. J. Plock moved to approve Linda Hannah as Assistant Treasurer with the understanding that the duties performed would be limited to signing checks. R. Marconi seconded the motion.**

Maureen Kiernan stated she manages the money online; Linda Hannah would not be managing money. The Treasurer is the “Custodian of Town Funds” as stated in the statutes. Town Clerk Barbara Serfilippi, in attendance, stated that her assistant and the assistant to the Tax Collector have the ability to perform any and all duties of the Town Clerk or Tax Collector in their absence. M. Kiernan stated that if she is incapacitated, she would resign and the Republican Town Committee would make a recommendation to fill the vacancy. John Katz of Ridgebury Road asked how the Board of Selectmen can override the Charter, as stated in the motion?

**J. Plock withdrew her motion; R. Marconi withdrew the second. J. Plock moved to approve Linda Hannah as the Assistant Treasurer as recommended, contingent upon Town Counsel’s opinion on whether the Board of Selectmen and the Treasurer can limit the duties of the Assistant to signing checks only.** A. Bodner would be more comfortable if the Assistant could be appointed for six months and in the meantime work out a long-term solution including an accurate position definition. If Town Counsel advises we cannot make this motion, then we will have no motion. D. Masters would like Kevin Redmond, Controller, to act as Assistant Treasurer, however M. Kiernan stated this is a conflict of interest. **Motion passed 2-1-1 with A. Bodner voting No and D. Masters Abstaining.**

3. Ridgefield Arts Council Grant

Nancy Baldwin Andrews, Chairman of the Ridgefield Arts Council, came forward. This grant is for \$9,175 and would require a matching amount. R. Marconi read a letter from the Arts Council stating they have raised \$3,000 toward the match and that any funds not matched would be returned to the State. Paperwork indicates they have until 9/30/10 to match the full amount, but were given a three-month extension. The Ridgefield Arts Council is ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the State; a great group of people are currently serving on the Council that represent all of the arts in our Town. They have all helped to make Ridgefield a cultural destination, including the Arts Council website, which is considered to be the best in the State.

**J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to approve the following resolution: “That the First Selectman of the Town of Ridgefield, Rudy Marconi, be and hereby is authorized to make, execute, and approve, on behalf of the Town of Ridgefield, a certain Contracts with the State of Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, and to affix the corporate seal, if any.” Motion passed 4-0.**

4. BLAST Account Approval for Friends of Ridgefield

Jennifer Reid, Chairman of the Lyme Disease Task Force, came forward. The action being requested is to formally recognize the BLAST program in order to apply for grants. The grant money would be received through the Friends of Ridgefield. The BLAST program operates through the Health Department. **D. Masters moved and J. Plock seconded the motion to approve the following resolution: “That the town Town of Ridgefield hereby agrees that**

**BLAST is a Town of Ridgefield-approved program and is fully endorsed & recognized as such.” Motion passed 4-0.**

5. Resolution Establishing OPEB Trust Agreement; Pension Commission as Trustee  
Kevin Redmond, Controller, and Dave Campbell, Chairman of the Pension Commission came forward to discuss the Other Post-Employment Benefit (OPEB) agreement. Medical, dental, and all things that retirees are entitled to must be funded separately for the purposes of GASB. The amount is \$420,000 and a percentage will be funded in the next 4 years in the medical benefit category. The schools represent 65% and the Town 35%. The agreement document will be used as an appointment tool to appoint the Pension Commission as Trustee. D. Campbell explained that because this is long-term risk, the Pension Commission was invited to act as Trustee.

**J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to approve the following resolution:**

**“WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Ridgefield (the “Town”) have agreed to adopt a trust to provide for post-employment benefits other than pension benefits but to include healthcare benefits and other post-employment benefits provided separately from a pension plan.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, be it**

**RESOLVED, that, as of December 14, 2009, the Board of Selectmen on behalf of the Town hereby adopts the Town of Ridgefield Other Post Employment Benefits Trust (hereinafter referred to as the “OPEB Trust”), a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof; and it is further**

**RESOLVED, that the Town of Ridgefield Pension Commission shall be responsible for the administration of the OPEB Trust and members of the Pension Commission shall be appointed as the Trustees of the OPEB Trust; and it is further**

**RESOLVED, that the members of the Pension Commission, as Trustees, shall perform the duties set forth in the OPEB Trust Agreement, as amended from time to time, relating to the care and custody of funds held in the OPEB Trust and shall have the power to invest such funds in securities legal for investment for such trust fund; and it is further**

**RESOLVED, that the Trustees of the OPEB Trust and all other persons involved in the administration of the Trust are hereby authorized to do all other things necessary to effectuate the above resolutions.”**

**Motion passed 4-0.**

6. Selectman’s Report
- Holiday Party – R. Marconi reminded the Board about the Town employee holiday party this Thursday night.
  - Alice Paul Day – Alice Paul was a Ridgefield resident and suffragette. It has been suggested to hold Alice Paul Day on January 9.
7. Possible Executive Session: Schlumberger  
R. Marconi stated there will be no Executive Session. He is awaiting communication from Schlumberger.

**J. Plock moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 12:00 p.m. Motion passed 4-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Gannon Lionetti