

## Parking Authority– Minutes -1-12-17

Meeting called to order @ approx 0842 by Chairman Fusaro

Present- Members: Christopher Fusaro (Chairman) Richard Moccia, Robert Murphy, Mark Seavy (by phone)

Agents: James and Katie, Laurie Fernandez (HR)

Guests: Craig Jensen (Village Liquors) William Craig (Craig Jewelers) John Devine(EDC)

Absent- Jessica Wilmot (Co-Chairman)

Budget discussions with Ms. Fernandez and Mr. Moccia regarding capital and operating categorizing for coming years. Mr. Devine related the EDC study recommends implementation of license plate readers and suggests making a budget request for approximate costs to the town to purchase license plate readers since EDC study recommends them and budget windows are closing. Mr. Moccia made further inquiries as to costs for license plate readers.

Discussion over cost factors for license plate readers as suggested by the recent study conducted by the EDC and their implementation and the effects they would have on cost, productivity and current town budget situation. No current information is available for the exact cost of license plate readers as suggested by EDC sponsored study since that study provided no such information.

Chairman Fusaro discussed current Town technology with Ms. Fernandez and related the following:

The license plate scanners that the EDC study is suggesting can only be used by sworn law enforcement officers due to information accessibility and security requirements. The current town PA structure does not afford us the legal parameters to use such a system that is implemented in larger cities and towns that have larger parking authorities that are operated by sworn law enforcement officials who can legally access plate scanning technology databases. Additionally, the PA operated by the Town of Ridgefield has no need for advanced plate scanning technology since our agents do not engage in criminal law enforcement. Alternate plate scanning technology that implements GPS technology which is in use in larger cities has been proven to have flaws in the technology that makes vehicle recording difficult during inclement weather (which is a time frame such technology would be most beneficial) and is currently very expensive to purchase or lease and would be inappropriate for a smaller community with minimal parking violation revenues such as Ridgefield.

Chairman Fusaro asked Ms. Fernandez if the current PA technology could be updated and expanded to serve the PA with newer programs at a lower and more manageable cost to the town. Ms. Fernandez confirmed that the current system could be reprogrammed and updated to serve the Town's upcoming needs at such a minimal cost that it would not even require a budget request or special appropriation and could be managed within the upcoming budget. All members of the PA present concurred that this course of action would best serve the PA, help the community with the current budget considerations and help the Town.

Mr. Devine had to excuse himself to attend another meeting.

Discussion regarding clarification on old business of private signage in Town patrolled lots was reviewed to accommodate our guest Mr. Jensen regarding business concerns going forward in 2017.

Discussions with Mr. Craig regarding the PA position of NOT supporting that the Town hire a person for the position of "parking manager". Mr. Craig related that the majority of Downtown Business members do not favor enforcement of parking time limits.

Discussion as to the need for the Town to hire a new employee to be an advocate for businesses was brought up by Mr. Craig.

A brief review of the scope of capabilities that the PA has to address concerns of merchants and be in compliance with statutes and be impartial in enforcement was reviewed with Mr. Craig.

Mr. Craig had to excuse himself to attend another meeting.

Welcoming of new Enforcement Agent Katie Knoche.

Mr. Moccia made a motion that was Seconded by Mr. Murphy, Mr. Fusaro and Mr. Seavy which passed a decision to request that the BOS take the necessary action to request that funding be appropriated to the PA to convert One of the two part time PA enforcement agent positions into a full time position. By doing so, this would best serve the Town of Ridgefield parking management needs moving forward with the increased concerns and requests for additional parking control for the numerous events that take place in town on weekends and evenings. A full time enforcement officer would allow for the staffing of selective enforcement that has been shown to be requested, needed and effective on evenings and weekends by many downtown merchants who suffer financial loss during various events being held in town that negatively affect the ability of their patrons to obtain parking and access to many businesses.

The exact figures for this increase would be available from HR based upon current labor requirements that their division is better versed in addressing.

The PA is further opposed to the Town hiring a “parking manager” since the size and scope of the Town’s parking operations only currently employs two part time agents, who’s functions have been adequately managed by HR and the existing volunteer PA. The town would be better served both economically and service related by expanding the hours of at least One of the current Two enforcement agents. This would allow additional coverage that has been demonstrated to be needed. By increasing One of our agents to a full time status, that individual would be able to build further expertise and relations with the community and business members and offer more community based service based on a growing knowledge base of the population of the town.

By having at least One full time enforcement agent, it will most likely be an incentive for that employee to be a more long term position and help reduce the attrition and employee turnover rate. By having less of an employee turnover rate the community and a full time agent become more attuned to each other’s positions as well as the town not having gaps and fluctuations in enforcement and revenue during position vacancies and learning curves of new hires.

Motion to adjourn made by Chairman Fusaro @ approx 0942hrs, Seconded by Mr. Moccia.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Fusaro  
Chairman  
Ridgfield Parking Authority