



## **Town of Ridgefield**

### **Board of Finance**

#### **Approved Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday January 21, 2020

#### **I. Call to order**

D. Ulmer called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Finance at 7:30 PM on January 21, 2020 at Ridgefield Town Hall Meeting Room 400 Main St. Ridgefield, CT.

Board Members D. Ulmer, G. Kabasakalian, M. Rettger A. Freidenrich, K. Ogden present.

#### **II. Comments from the Public- None**

**III. Election of Officers-** A. Freidenrich motioned to open the nomination, seconded by M. Rettger. Chair-D. Ulmer elect. A. Freidenrich motioned to approve, seconded by M. Rettger. All in favor.

Vice Chair- D. Ulmer motioned to open the nomination, seconded by K. Ogden. A. Freidenrich elect. Motion to approve by D. Ulmer, seconded by K. Ogden. All in favor.

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes:**

Special meeting minutes December 10, 2019 approved with changes. D. Ulmer motioned to approve; seconded by G. Kabasakalian. M. Rettger abstained.

Regular meeting minutes December 18, 2019 approved with changes. D. Ulmer motioned to approve; seconded by M. Rettger. A. Freidenrich abstained.

**V. Parks & Rec-**Dennis DiPinto and Phil Kearns represented Parks & Rec. The commission is made up of 7 members with 6 sub committees. Their overall maintenance of town assets includes community outreach, and wellness and recreation. They maintain park, municipal and school ground inventory as well as daily and seasonal routine of outdoor maintenance. Their community outreach consists of community partnership and parks and rec community events. The rec center includes 6000 members, over 150 programs for all ages, outdoor campus facilities and state of the art wellness/aquatic facilities. Their future challenges include aging courts, accessibility issues, old playgrounds, Martin Park infrastructure, keeping current with wellness center/equipment, Greenway project with Conservation Commission plan and replacing/reinvesting in town assets. 2018/2019 expenditures include administration 7.2%, athletic fields 11.1%, parks & muni

buildings 10.3%, schools' grounds 9.9%, rec programs 61.5%. While the parks and rec department is a net cost to the town of (\$1,368,434) the majority of costs (87% or \$1,195,909) are in town asset maintenance.

**VI. Insurance Risk Committee**-Paul Hallahan represented the insurance risk committee. He has been the Chair for 2 weeks, and has been on the committee for 1 year. The committee is growing. Premiums are increasing. Trying to run communications in regards to Risk Management. Travelers is the insurance company and they're working to keeping costs down and minimize risk. Worker's Comp is the biggest contributor. The mod master is a full analysis as what to expect in July. The state sets the rates. When payroll goes up, premiums go up. The Risk Management Committee is approved and appointed by the Board of Selectman. The total increase last year was largely due to an increase in properties; increase of 8.29%. The market is difficult, rates are going up and umbrella policies are increasing. Cyber liabilities are increasing in rates. The committee has 4 open candidate vacancies. They meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

**VII. Treasurer's Report**-Molly McGeehin stated that in the December report, rates are going down monthly. She generally exceeds budget and not sure if that will happen this year. CD rates are low for 12-18-month terms. STIF (Short Term Investment Fund) account is for back-up if she needs to get her hands-on funds. \$3 million is in sewer projects. Expecting a state reimbursement in July/August and monthly afterwards. This is between the loan and grant combined. Ban is 1 year; renewable twice.

**VIII. Tax Collector Report**-Jane Berendsen Hill not in attendance. Current percent vs. post percent report provided didn't match. D. Ulmer to discuss with Jane; requesting a revised report.

**IX. Controllor's Report**-Kevin Redmond-doing fine on revenue, short on building permits. Revenue for parking is located on page 3 of report. Parking lottery is a permitting revenue. On expense side, tree warden is already close to exceeding budget. Hoping to find money in the budget to free up for spring tree expenses. The highway maintenance OT is snow/weather related.

**X. Old Business**- None.

**XI. New Business**- R. Marconi talking about capitalizing on roads. More of a capital issue which will increase the capital request. 192 miles of roads are in Ridgefield. This will be a large point of discussion in this year's budget. Discussion on having other guest speakers at BOF meetings; i.e.: cyber security, pension.

**XII. Adjournment**-motion to adjourn at 9:30 by M. Rettger, seconded by A. Freidenrich. All in favor.

Next meeting February 18, 2020

Respectfully Submitted by,

Mia Belanger