



Town of Ridgefield Board of Finance

Approved Special Meeting Minutes

Wednesday September 8, 2021

I. Call to order

Dave Ulmer called to order the Special Board of Finance meeting at 12:00 PM September 8, 2021 via Zoom. Board Members Dave Ulmer, Greg Kabasakalian, Mike Rettger, Karen Ogden and Andrew Okrongly present.

Others Present:

Town Officials: First Selectman Rudy Marconi: BOS Members Maureen Kozlark, Bob Heber: WPCA Board Members & Staff Jon Pearson, Ron Hill, Diana Van Ness, Gary Zawacki, Matt Formica: Controller Kevin Redmond.

II. Special meeting of the BOF and BOS to discuss the needs of WPCA and use of ARPA funds. Rudy Marconi provided an overview. There is a shortfall of funds for the Route 7 treatment facility project. The BOS is asking the BOF to support a request for funding for the pipeline project which came in about \$3.5 million over expected estimate. There have been rounds of negotiating and some reductions have been agreed upon. The current total in need is \$3.4 million. The BOS is not happy with the numbers but time is of the essence as the vendor has indicated the bid can be held open for a limited time. At a recent BOS meeting, the BOS voted 3-1 for the proposed use of \$3.4 million of ARPA funds to be used for sewer project. The project is required to follow the normal budgetary process for supplemental appropriations including a town meeting and possible referendum given the amount involved.

The members asked a number of questions of the Selectmen and the representatives of the WPCA. In response to questions, Mr. Redmond indicated that his department maintains the accounting records of the WPCA, and that the ARPA funds were being received in two payments, one already in for 2021 and the second due in early calendar year 2022, both for approximately \$3.7M. The second payment has been authorized by federal statute and there was no reason to think it would not be received as expected. Other questions and discussion included whether the BOS and WPCA had considered asking for additional borrowing to cover the cost as an alternative to ARPA funds, the estimated additional costs for the project that could be incurred if action was

not taken fairly quickly, and the estimated costs for debt service if the costs were done through borrowing.

After discussion and questions, the following motion was made by M. Rettger, seconded by K. Ogden:

Resolved: That the Board of Finance support the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen from its meeting of September 1, 2021, that up to \$3.4 million of the funds received or scheduled to be received under the American Recovery Plan Act ("ARPA") be used to cover the additional costs of the Wastewater Facilities Project being done by the Ridgefield Water Pollution Control Authority, subject to the understanding that any grants, offsets, recoveries, or other revenues that are received associated with the Phase 2/Route 7 portion of the project, as well as all savings from the project contingency amounts for both portions of the project are to be applied to the additional costs and thereby be used to reduce the total draw of ARPA funds that are ultimately required.

Further, it is agreed that this proposed use of the ARPA funds is to be considered an additional appropriation under Section 10-2 of the Town Charter and thereby to trigger the further approval processes defined in that section, as a condition of this motion of support.

Motion was approved 4-1 with G. Kabasakalian, voting no.

III. Adjournment-motion to adjourn at 12:50 p.m. by Mike Rettger, seconded by Karen Ogden.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Mia Belanger