



Town of Ridgefield Board of Finance

Approved Special Meeting Minutes

Tuesday August 24, 2021

I. Call to order

Dave Ulmer called to order the Special Board of Finance meeting at 6:30 PM August 24, 2021 in the Large Conference room at Town Hall. Board Members Dave Ulmer, Greg Kabasakalian, Mike Rettger, Karen Ogden and Andrew Okrongly present.

Others Present:

Town Officials: Rudy Marconi BOS, Kevin Redmond Controller, Jane Berendsen Hill Tax Collector, Molly McGeehin Treasurer

II. Public Comments-Russ Porter from Pilgrim Hill Road noted that past recordings weren't on town website. He will reach out to Andrew in IT.

III. Approval of minutes-

June 14, 2021 motion to approve as amended by Mike Rettger, seconded by Dave Ulmer. All in favor.
June 15, 2021 motion to approve as amended by Karen Ogden, seconded by Dave Ulmer. All in favor.
July 22, 2021 motion to approve as amended by Mike Rettger, seconded by Karen Ogden. All in favor.

IV. Treasurer's Report-Molly McGeehin Town Treasurer- year end and July 31 report provided to BOF members. There is not much promising in interest income right now. Molly to send Janney fund report to BOF members.

V. Tax Collector Report-Jane Berendsen Hill, Tax Collector-things went well in July. People are paying bills in full. \$38.4 million was the highest percentage (28.21%) of budget ever collected in July.

VI. BOE- BOE members not present but report provided to BOF members. Dave Ulmer reviewed. The May 31 and June 30 financial reports were provided. End of year transfers have been completed. \$35,000 budget surplus to be returned to the town. The BOE didn't use COVID account of approximately \$700,000. The BOF to discuss transfers with BOE at next meeting. The BOF would like clarification on BOE Chrome Books and would like to see an exhibit of Chrome Book inventory.

Mike Rettger discussed BOE Building Rental and Athletic Fund accounts per communication with Dr. Susie DaSilva, School Superintendent:

Building Rental: As was approved by the BOE at March 22, 2021 meeting, a check was cut from the Building Rental checking account in the amount of \$60,336.04, given to Kevin Redmond to deposit. This brought the balance in the account to \$50,000.00 as discussed.

Athletic Fund- The Athletic accounts have been created in the Ridgefield Public Schools General Fund account #100. As approved by the BOE at the June 14, 2021 meeting and in agreement from Rudy Marconi, BOS Chair and Dave Ulmer, BOF Chair, a check in the amount of \$115,958 from the Athletic fund balance was cut and sent to the Town in support of the Tiger Hollow project.

VII-Controller's Report- Kevin Redmond, Controller-transfers on the expense side need to be completed. Kevin is working to develop the final numbers and is paying expenses for fiscal 21.

Revenues: Miscellaneous is up \$100,000. Parks & Rec and golf have done better than expected. Revenue is almost \$2 million favorable with expenses favorable of \$272,000. Taxes are stronger than expected and numbers are promising. June was a very strong month. There is unassigned surplus of \$13.1 million in fiscal year 20 and will end fiscal year 21 with \$17.5 million in fund balance with a net of \$14.5 million/9.6%. Auditors were here and will return second week of October.

Fiscal Year 22 Outlook: Currently no forecast for July and will have available after August. The tree budget was over for 2021; may need to increase the line item for the future. For highway, capital item was \$1.2 million for tertiary roads with approximately \$600,000 spent so far and the anticipation of using all funds. Community grants are part of the budget process with checks cut in July. There is usually a one-time payment after grant approval.

VIII. Old Business-ARPA-American Recovery Plan. Mike and Greg sit on this committee. They've had one meeting with another to be held. The committee is not making any decisions or spending any money. This is a working committee. Mike Rettger discussed the requirements of ARPA with regard to uses of ARPA funds, and offered the following resolution to document the BOF's intent in its use of \$1.55M of ARPA funds in the 2021-2022 budget:

Whereas, the 2021-2022 Town of Ridgefield budget included among its sources of revenue an amount of \$1.55 million in anticipation of expected funds from the 2021 American Recovery Plan Act ("ARPA") legislation;

Whereas, The Town of Ridgefield has now received a first ARPA funding in the amount of approximately \$3.6 million, and has determined that this amount can be supported under the decline in revenue provisions of ARPA;

Whereas, funds received by the Town under this provision of ARPA can be used for a number of municipal services, including police, fire safety, roads, and schools;

Whereas, the Board of Finance wishes to clarify and document the use of these ARPA funds in the 2021-2022 budget;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that in administering the 2021-2022 budget, the Town of Ridgefield Controller should be directed to allocate the total ARPA funding as follows:

- \$500,000 to support of the Police Department operations
- \$500,000 to support of the Fire Department operations
- \$550,000 to support of school district operations (later replaced by support of road maintenance.)

Further, that ARPA funds should be considered to have been used first, prior to other funding sources, in providing support to these Town operations as indicated.

In the discussion, it was proposed to replace "support of school operations" with "support of road maintenance."

Motion to accept as amended by Karen Ogden, seconded by Andrew Okrongly. All in favor

IX. New Business- special meeting to be held September 8 at noon for sewer project discussion via zoom. BOF meetings will return to zoom format until further notice. Next regularly scheduled BOF meeting September 21, 2021, 7:00 pm.

X. Adjournment-motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. by Karen Ogden, seconded by Greg Kabasakalian. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Mia Belanger