



Town of Ridgefield

Board of Finance Unapproved Public Hearing Meeting Minutes

Monday March 25 2024

Draft FINAL

I. Call to order

Dave Ulmer called the Public Hearing meeting to order at 7:00 PM on March 25, 2024 in the East Ridge Middle School auditorium. Board Members Mike Rettger, Joe Shapiro, Greg Kabasakalian, Andrew Okrongly, Dave Ulmer present.

II. First Selectperson Rudy Marconi provided an overview of the proposed FY 2025 Town Operating budget and the proposed Capital budget. Fiscal year request of \$168,308,127, 3.88% increase requested, which is expected to be amended to 3.77% increase.

III. Dr. Susie DaSilva, School Superintendent provided an overview of the proposed BOE Operating budget for FY 2025. Fiscal year request of \$115,041,000, 3.97% increase requested.

IV. Dave Ulmer presented an overview of town budget history data and related financial information, as well as the schedule for the remaining budget review meetings.

V. Public Hearing:

The following comments regarding the proposed budgets were offered in person or in writing, as indicated, by residents:

In opposition to the magnitude of the increase in the budget:

Raymond and Catherine Sementini, Old Wagon Road (N1)

In support of the capital item for the architectural planning study for the RHS auditorium:

Aron, Judith, Isaac Hirt Manheimer, New Street (N2)

Mark and Virginia Konopka, Parley Road (N2)

Jennifer Tejada, Silver Spring Lane (N2)

Alison Pratt, Lewis Drive (N2)

Renee Farmer, High Valley Road (N2)

Nora Barton Cascella, Danbury Road (N2)
Lisa Sauer, address unknown (N2)
Brian Trukowski, Florida Hill Road (N2)
Teresa McManus, Florida Hill Road (N2)
Jeannie Goldberg, Limestone Road (N2)
Anna Malavisi, address unknown (N2)
Rayda Krell, Wooster Heights Drive (N2)
Emily Mills, Mimosa Circle (N2)
Jessica Mcnamara, Hunter Lane (N2)
Michelle DiMiceli, Old Branchville Road (N2)

General comments regarding the budget process:
John Tartaglia, Danbury Road (N2)

In opposition of the Pickle Ball court capital item:
Lisa McEvoy, High Ridge Avenue (N2)

In support of the BOE budget request:
Angela Rice, 237 Branchville Road (N3)
Liz Karlan, 31 Mallory Hill Road (N3)
Mary Ellen Foley, 197 Barry Avenue (N3)
Dawn Marie Callahan, 56 Ridgewood Road (N3)
Andrea Bebe, 678 Main Street (N3)
Rebecca Avallone, 146 Tanton Hill Road (N3)

In support of various capital budget items contributing to energy efficiency and savings:
Dwayne Escola, Catoonah Street (N3)

Notes: N1: Provided written comments, also read into the record at the meeting by Colette Kabasakalian
N2: Written comments provided by email to the BOF
N3: Comments provided in person at the hearing

VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. by Mr. Rettger, seconded by Mr. Okrongly. All in favor. Next meeting March 26, 2024, BOS Budget meeting

Respectfully Submitted by
Mia Belanger