



**Town of Ridgefield**  
**Board of Selectmen Budget Meeting Minutes**  
**APPROVED**  
**February 22nd, 2021 at 6:30pm via Zoom**

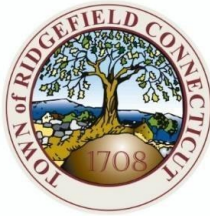
**Present:** Rudy Marconi (RM), Bob Hebert (BH), Sean Connelly (SC), Maureen Kozlark (MK), Barbara Manners (BM)

**1) Public Comment**

- No Public Comment

**2) General Budget Overview and Discussion**

- Rudy Marconi stated the current town and infrastructure Budget is at 3.37% increase to the Budget. R. Marconi stated the total request \$40,085,880. The reduction in health insurance yields \$99,465, this is a decrease of 8% to 6%. R. Marconi stated that this would possibly allow the BOS to return the Conservation Commission to their original budget pre-cuts. This would be a 8.8%(\$5036) increase in their budget for the Conservation Commission. R. Marconi stated that social security and Medicare reduced by \$7,719. R. Marconi stated the largest reduction was made in roads which was a reduction of \$405,491(funded from a state grant). However, the same amount of roads are being done. This money was due to town aid for roads not being previously used.
- R. Marconi stated there are a few different scenarios in order to get to increase 2% from a 2.7% increase in the budget.
- R. Marconi stated the first scenario is the elimination of centralized dispatch at \$139,000. The elimination of this would bring the budget down to 1.71% total increase.
- Rudy Marconi stated the second scenario if the town lowered Liability by \$10,000, Workers Comp by \$10,000, and Roads by \$20,000. The budget 1.97% total increase



- Rudy Marconi stated the third scenario would be decreasing Liability \$10,000, Workers Comp \$10,000, Premium for healthcare \$10,000 and the Library Budget would be decreased by \$10,000. This would result in a 1.97% total increase in the budget.
- Rudy Marconi stated they are looking at switching workers comp to a hybrid where part of the insurance is self-insurance. This hybrid system would save almost \$300,000. But in order to have this amount available it would be funded by the town. R. Marconi stated that this money couldn't be currently saved, but when July 1st came there would be a premium reduction. R. Marconi stated this would be only if the insurance committee and everyone agreed on it.
- Kevin Redmond stated the budget for workers comp is \$982,000.

### **3) Possible Capital/Operating Budget Vote**

- Kevin Redmond stated that there is a large decrease in debt service. This will be until 2025 and then will flatten out before increasing again. Fiscal year 2022, it will be \$57M.
- Kevin Redmond stated the big increase is in the sewer debt, which is \$8M on top of the normal increase.
- Kevin Redmond stated in Fiscal 2024, he has included \$9M in debt.
- Rudy Marconi stated they need to do something about the creeping debt service, which is currently at \$3.8M.
- Rudy Marconi stated that meeting with Tiger Hollow representatives will occur on 2/23/2021.

### **4) Adjournment**

Barbara Manners moved to adjourn at 8:12pm. Bob Hebert seconds the motion. (Motion carries 5-0)

