



## **Town of Ridgefield**

### **Board of Selectman Special Meeting Minutes – APPROVED**

June 10, 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

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

Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 7.30pm. This meeting is on channel 24, Streaming live on [www.ridgefieldct.org](http://www.ridgefieldct.org) and on Zoom. Mr Marconi asked the board if they had any additions to the agenda for this evening – there were none.

#### **1. Public Comment**

RM: public comment can be sent to [selectman@ridgefieldct.org](mailto:selectman@ridgefieldct.org) or on the Zoom chat notes. No public comment seen at this time.

#### **2. Vendor Permit Renewal:**

##### **a. Chez Lenard – Michael Principi (MP)**

M Principi, owner of Chez Leonard, interviewed with BOS for renewal of his vendor permit. The BOS asked Mr Principi about how business had been through the months of quarantine. He explained that business has been slow but that he is hopeful it will begin increasing now that other town businesses are opening up again and the weather is warmer. Ms Manners asked whether masks were being worn in public and on Main Street. Mr Principi yes and that social distancing was being maintained at his cart. Mr Hebert wanted to know about what type of support the businesses needed to get through this period. Mr Principi said small business loans have helped some and unemployment relief would help.

**Motion to approve Chez Lenard vendor permit**

**BH: made the motion, MK: seconded the motion.**

**Vote was: 5-0. Motion carries.**

### **3. Reappointments to HRRRA (Term ending 6/30/21):**

#### **a. Rudy Marconi member and Maureen Kozlark as an alternate**

Mr Marconi explained HRRRA (Housatonic Resource Recovery Authority) is a regional, government waste management and recycling authority serving 11 municipalities of which Ridgefield is one. Mr. Marconi has been the primary member for years, with Ms. Kozlark serving as the alternate. Ms. Kozlark said she was happy to let another BOS member serve. Mr. Hebert said he would reappoint both.

**Motion to reappoint Rudy Marconi as member and Maureen Kozlark as alternate to HRRRA**

**BH: Made the motion. BM: second the motion**

**Vote was: 5-0 Motion carries.**

### **4. Conservation Commission – OSWA Grant to purchase open space**

Jim Coyle, chairman of the Conservation Commission, presented to BOS two parcels of land the Commission would like to purchase to add to the Open Space. The purchase would be made possible through a grant from the Ridgefield Thrift Shop and an OSWA Grant through CT DEEP. The Town would not contribute any funds. Mr Marconi asked if Jake Muller, Director of Facilities and Purchasing, has made sure there was a Phase 1 survey done to comply with the Town Charter Purchase of Property. Mr Coyle said a Phase 1 would be done for both parcels.

The first parcel discussed is on a cul de sac on Craigmoor Rd. It is being sold by Thomas Keller, owner of the Garden of Ideas property. It abuts an existing 5 acre of land the Conservation Commission owns. The land consists of a wetland and a waterfall. The plan is to put a trail, a kiosk and a bench; and the purchase would give better access to the other conservation easement. Mr. Hebert was concerned about informing the neighboring residents about the acquisition. BOS agreed the neighbors would be made aware of the open space proposal and concerns could be addressed at a Public Hearing. Mr. Marconi asked about the property taxes. Mr. Coyle said they were all paid-up – they are \$1500 per year.

The second parcel of land was 14 acres on Bear Mountain Rd in Pine Mountain. Acquiring this parcel creates an opportunity to join a few open space parcels for better access and opens up a land locked parcel. Mr Marconi asked about the property taxes. Mr Coyle responded that they are about \$600 per year and that there is an agricultural exemption on it.

**Motion to take both properties to a public hearing on June 24<sup>th</sup>; notification to be given to the neighbors of both parcels of land and a Town vote was proposed for July 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**BM: Made the motion. SC: Seconded the motion.**

**Vote was: 5-0. Motion carries.**

**5. Pension Commission – Christofer Christiansen (CC), Laurie Fernandez (LF):**

Christofer Christiansen, chairman of the Pension Commission and Laurie Fernandez, director of Human Resources, joined the BOS to explain the amendments the Pension Commission proposed to make to the Pension Plans. The proposals were primarily to clarify certain articles of the plan and a few corrections. Mr Hebert asked about the use of 6.25% for the interest rate and how long the commission thinks it will receive those types of returns. Mr Christiansen explained that the financial advisor, VanGuard, gives the advice on the asset allocation and the Pension Commission monitors it.

Mr. Christiansen reviewed all amendments to plans and explained the reasons for modifications. Ms Fernandez answered questions regarding any impact to contracts of business units.

**Motion to Approve Amendments to Pension Plans**

**MK: made the motion. BH: seconded the motion**

**Vote is: 5-0. Motion carries.**

**6. Selectman's Report**

Ms. Fernandez gave an overview and update on the gradual reopening of Town Hall and Town Buildings.

Mr. Marconi reported that Town Hall had advertised on social Media and with a written piece in the Ridgefield Press about volunteer positions currently open on Town Committees and Commissions.

Mr. Marconi reported that Malone and McBroom is completing a Hazard Mitigation plan through the COG. Dick Aarons, the Emergency Manager, Charles Fisher and Jake Muller have all reviewed this for Ridgefield. The plan must be in place to the municipality to qualify for State and Federal funds. The COGs are being funded to have this work done.

Mr. Hebert asked for a follow up on the Affordable Housing Commission grant for the housing study and an update on the joint meeting with the Police and Fire Commission regarding the new facilities study. Jake Muller will send information to the BOS concerning this.

Ms. Kozlark asked about the formation of an oversight committee to review the BOE accounts. The BOS had voted to request this formation. Mr. Marconi said he would follow up with Dave Ulmer, chairman of the BOF.

## **7. Tax Collector Refunds:**

**Motion to approve the Tax Collector refunds of \$10,523.64**

**BM: made motion, MK: seconded.**

**Vote was: 5-0 . Motion carries**

## **8. Minutes Approval:**

The BOS delayed the approval of the 03/19/2020 minutes pending clarity on executive session.

The BOS delayed the approval of the 04/20/2020 minutes pending clarity on content.

Mr Marconi updated the BOS that the Fire Department had had 2 resignations and 2 personnel out sick. The interview process to replace the two that resigned will begin shortly. The Police department is at full staff. The Highway department is at full staff. Director Peter Hill had retired after a long 40-year career. The golf course is running at a record high for this period but due to Covid shutdown revenues are still behind for the year.

## **9. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 pm.**

**BH: made the motion; SC: seconded the motion**

**Vote was: 5-0. Motion carries.**