

TOWN of RIDGEFIELD – BOS MEETING – JANUARY 18, 2017

TOWN HALL/LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM – 6:30 P.M.

APPROVED MINUTES

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.

In attendance: R. Marconi, R. Hebert, M. Kozlark, B. Manners, S. Zeno

Agenda

1. Public Comment
2. Pension Commission Interview: Michael J. Rettger
3. Ridgebury Cemetery
4. Proposed Donation of Land
5. Sprint Lease Agreement
6. Moses Mountain AT&T Lease Agreement
7. Selectman's Report
8. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 1/4/17

- 1) Public Comment – There were no comments from the public. Welcome back to Barbara Manners following her surgery. We have missed her.
- 2) Pension Commission Interview: Michael J. Rettger

Michael Rettger came forward to meet with the Board of Selectmen and express his interest in serving on the Pension Commission. Mr. Rettger is Assistant Treasurer for the Town of Ridgefield. It is OK for him to serve as Assistant Treasurer and also be on the Pension Commission per D. Grogins, Town Counsel.

Mr. Rettger has lived in Ridgefield for the past twenty-five years and is an Economics major and a CFA (Certified Financial Analyst). He is familiar with the Pension Fund and retired in 2015 from General Reinsurance Corporation in Stamford, CT as Sr. Vice President/Operations Manager.

R. Hebert indicated that he does not have any questions for Mr. Rettger. M. Kozlark commented on the recent move to Vanguard by the Pension Commission. How does he feel this is going to impact Ridgefield's Pension Commission? Mr. Rettger stated he has worked directly as a money manager for years, but the Pension Commission is going to have to do things differently. He stated the Commission will have to make sure we are not being put in any risk areas where we do not want to be. B. Manners stated going to Vanguard management was not an easy decision. S. Zeno asked if Mr. Rettger is familiar with the new system as compared to what the Pension Commission was doing under the direction of Mr. Campbell. Mr. Rettger stated there is a cost for this retainer but the Commission can still "tweek" our investments a little. Mr. Zeno thanked Mr. Rettger for coming forward. We are fortunate to get talented folks like Mr. Rettger.

M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to appoint Michael J. Rettger to fill one of the vacancies on the Pension Commission for a three-year term. Motion passed 5-0.

- 3) Ridgebury Cemetery

Maureen Kiernan, Susan Law, and Nancy Selander, Chair of the Restoration Committee, came forward for a discussion on the Ridgebury Cemetery. Ms. Selander has been very active restoring gravestones gratis. Ridgebury Cemetery is a pre-Revolutionary cemetery and the plan is to transfer the cemetery over to the Town of Ridgefield. The Board of Directors includes Bob Reynolds as President and Secretary, Doug Clewell as Vice President/Sexton, and Maureen Kiernan as Treasurer. Ms. Kiernan is also Treasurer of the Town of Ridgefield.

R. Marconi asked how do they see this ownership transfer coming together? How do they envision management of the cemetery being organized and under whose leadership? The Committee is comprised of nine members and it is an older group, age-wise. The volunteers on the Committee need to do some of the work. There are many historic grave markers in the cemetery. Whose name should be on the sign as sexton? There are still empty gravesites available. There needs to be a lot of pruning done at the cemetery. The Highway Department goes over there and removes debris. The Boy Scouts have volunteered to do work at the cemetery but they are not consistent. There is a lot of overseeing that needs to be done. What about a Rangers Program? There are five cemeteries in town and the Town of Ridgefield looks over two of them. S. Zemo inquired as to why the Town does not overlook all the cemeteries. We did have someone last summer. An Intern can be responsible for clean-up in the spring. This would be a good Eagle Scout project.

We need to develop a plan. We need to be sure that volunteer efforts and funding are firmly in place. How are all the cemeteries managed? We need to have a spreadsheet with everything listed. Are all the cemeteries deeded to the town so we know that they will be cared for in perpetuity?

R. Hebert stated the Town will accept the Ridgebury Cemetery. Plot sales and interest income go back into the endowment. Income exceeds sales by a good amount. We need to understand our liability. M. Kiernan stated we are lucky so far. Volunteer liability is covered by the Town. R. Marconi stated we need to check with the insurance company as to what exactly is our liability and how are we covered. R. Hebert stated we need to get a real understanding of the liability/insurance situation so we are comfortable with it. It is difficult to get volunteers. The turnout has been poor. M. Kiernan stated we need to find someone who is interested in this project. R. Marconi stated he will research the liability. We will then need to hold a Public Hearing and a Town Meeting as to how taking on the Ridgebury Cemetery is to be organized.

4) Proposed Donation of Land

Jim Coyle and Susan Baker of the Conservation Commission came forward for this discussion. The Conservation Commission has been asked by Barbara Smarz, the owner, to accept a small parcel (less than ¼ acres) on Lakeside Drive (Lot 41). The Conservation Commission walked the property and voted unanimously to accept the parcel. Nothing can really be done with the property and it is not buildable. We want to be sure that the Town is not accepting any environmental liability. The property was assessed at \$3900. M. Kozlark stated the last Charter revision stipulated that to accept a piece of land, we need to have a Phase 1 report, and we need to know the back taxes that are due. The question was whether or not to spend the money on doing a Phase 1. We want to be sure that there is no possible liability on this property. R. Hebert stated the Engineering Department has been asked to look at the property. R. Marconi will ask Scott Bristol of Milone & MacBroom to look over the possibility of this donation. M. Kozlark stated the tax bill is about \$100/year. We need to know what we are accepting and what we are getting into.

S. Zemo moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to schedule a Public Hearing on February 8, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall/Large Conference Room, 400, Main St., Ridgefield, CT, and a Town Meeting on February 22, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall/Large Conference Room, 400, Main St., Ridgefield, CT, relative to the Town's possible acceptance of the parcel (Lot 41) on Lakeside Drive following research on back taxes, the need for a Phase 1 study and environmental research. Motion passed 5-0.

5) Sprint Lease Agreement

This is an amendment to the PCS Site Agreement between Spring Spectrum Realty Company and the Town of Ridgefield. Some changes have been made to the Agreement which need to be discussed. The changes are to be in place for the February 8th BOS Meeting. The Agreement is to start on February 20, 2017.

6) Moses Mountain AT&T Lease Agreement

This Agreement regard a tower site on Moses Mountain between New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC, and the Town of Ridgefield. AT&T will be paying \$1500/month for their spot on the tower. Motorola is also signing on.

R. Hebert moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to approve the Moses Mountain Lease Agreement (Moses Mountain Rd/3313/10137472, between New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC, with offices at 575 Morosgo Drive NE, Atlanta, Georgia, 30324, and the Town of Ridgefield. Motion passed 5-0.

7) Selectman's Report

- Mountainside withdrew their application for a private substance abuse rehabilitation facility on Old West Mountain Road. Group homes such as this one are a big issue in our state.
- The Parking Authority created a policy regarding no parking during a town event. They want the BOS to look at it. Will put this item on the Agenda – Parking Authority Policy to Manage Public Parking during an Event. One thought is to have parking available by the Post Office.
- Budget Meetings – There is nothing scheduled for February 6 for the BOE. The BOS wants to meet on the 6th. Parks & Rec would like to meet that evening as Phil Kearns is away from February 7th on. Budget meetings are scheduled to start at 7:00 p.m. Big problem at the Rec Center with water behind the wall. The thought is that it is caused by the HVAC System. There hasn't been any bidding yet. The thought is it may cost as much as \$1,268,000 to repair. The wall will need to be totally ripped out and rebuilt – replacing wood and sheetrock. Regular sheetrock is what is on the wall currently. We need to know the scope of this repair. Gerald Roche & Peter Coffin are working together to come up with the numbers.

The budget schedule calls for meetings Feb 6, 7, 8 and maybe 9. K. Redmond knows where all departments are regarding costs. Insurance is the big issue – the deductibles for the employees. Insurance is in the single digits. We may go to the CT Plan – back to the old 80/20 Plan.

- What about Waste Water Management?
- Study on dams – What about Shadow Lake Dam?
- Roofs on town municipal buildings that need to be replaced.

- We are getting our debt down. Do we want to turn around and build it up again?
- The thought is for the current budget to go up 2.5%.

M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 9:00 p.m. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet L. Johnson