



**Town of Ridgefield**  
**Board of Selectmen Regular & Budget Meeting Minutes**  
**UNAPPROVED**

**February 1, 2023 at 7:30pm**

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

**Present:** Rudy Marconi, Maureen Kozlark, Bob Hebert, Sean Connelly

**Absent:** Barbara Manners

**1. Public Comment**

Andrea Beebe, Main Street, commented that many people of the pickleball community have donated money and were upset that the Parks & Rec financial numbers were incorrect in last night's meeting. The community donated with the belief that new courts were going to be built.

**2. American Legion Lease Renewal**

George Bessie, President of the American Legion Post No. 78., attended the last Board of Selectmen meeting to discuss the renewal of the lease with the Town. The Board has since reviewed the lease, which has no changes other than the revisions of the contract dates.

There was a discussion about the cost in utilities for the town and if this an agreement that continues to make sense. Rudy Marconi commented that the American Legion fully maintains the building and grounds and there has never been an issue with utilities being a significant cost.

**Bob Hebert moved to approve the American Legion Post No. 78 lease renewal with the Town of Ridgefield. Maureen Kozlark second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.**

**3. Cemetery Grant Resolution**

Tom McManus gave an update on the status of the Grant from the State that will be used for the Graveyards. The Grant usually is offered every 2 years, however due to covid has not been offered since 2019.

MCManus talked about the continued maintenance needed for both the grounds and gravestones at all the cemeteries. The Grant will not cover all the work that needs to be done but it will help significantly.

**Maureen Kozlark moved to approve the Cemetery Grant Resolution. Sean Connelly second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.**

**4. Tax Collector Refunds**

**Bob Hebert moved to approve the Tax Collector Refund in the amount of \$10,251.04. Maureen Kozlark second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.**

**5. Highway Budget**

Kevin Redmond, Finance Director, gave an overview of the proposed Highway Department Budget.

The big items for the increase in the budget are roads, snow removal, support services and supplies. Redmond commented that they did not know the inflationary costs would continue and therefore have not kept up with them in the budgets.

The key discussion points included:

- Parttime salary increases and fulltime salary decreases
- How to better budget for overtime and other items to avoid end of the year transfers.
- How to manage the rising fuel prices.
- The new more efficient process for paving roads called micro sealing.
- The importance of testing the batches of tar to make sure they haven't cooled off too much before paving. Highway has received a few bad batches over time.
- The cost of piping for drainage has tripled.
- The total replacement of the head wall on Canterbury Lane, which is a big budget item
- The bridges on Wooster Street, Wilton Road East and others need to be assessed and possibly upgraded.
- Prospect Street will need repaving once Eversource has finished their project. The Town will request for them to do the paving.

There was a discussion about trucks, the different types, costs, cycles, and usage. Steve Metzger went into detail about the build of the Mac truck, rust jacking, double frame vs single frame and the reason some trucks last longer than others. This year's budget includes a new pickup truck, a screener and an air compressor & fume extractor at the garage for safety purposes.

**6. Possible Operating/Capital Budget vote**

No vote was taken

**7. Selectman's Report**

There was a discussion about the Board of Education's new conference room and what, if anything, needs updating in the Board of Selectmen's conference room.

**8. Meeting Minutes**

**Maureen Kozlark moved to approve the January 12, 2023 Board of Selectmen Executive Session Minutes as is and the January 14, 2023 Board of Selectmen Executive Session Minutes as amended. Bob Hebert second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.**

**Maureen Kozlark moved to adjourn the February 1, 2023 Board of Selectmen Meeting at 9:45pm. Sean Connelly second the motion. Motion carries 4-0.**