

Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectmen Budget Meeting
Tuesday, February 6, 2018 - 7:00 pm
Town Hall (Large Conference Room)
400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut
APPROVED MINUTES

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

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

Agenda

- Highway Department Budget
- Police department budget
- General Budget discussion

R. Marconi called the Budget Meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. Highway Department Budget

The following individuals came forward to discuss this topic – Kevin Redmond, Director of Finance; Peter Hill, Highway Department Director; and Burt Motta and Ellen Rossini from the Highway Department.

K. Redmond reported Administration of the Highway Department is 1.81%, Maintenance is up less than 1% and snow removal is up 2%. We supplement the snow with the Town Aid Road Money. R. Marconi stated that there is a possibility we might not get the money this Spring. P. Hill asked for 4 drivers labors and a supervisor position. R. Marconi stated the 4 driver labors won't be added to the budget of this year and the supervisor position is frozen at the moment. B. Hebert asked why do we need 4 drivers? P. Hill stated that over the years the Highway Department has decreased in personnel and we don't have enough people to cover all the programs. In order to accommodate one program, we have to shut another and all the programs should be up and running all the time. B. Manners asked is curbing program can be outsourced? P. Hill stated it could be outsourced but then we would have to budget more money. R. Marconi asked about the salt? P. Hill reported we have 2000 tons of salt- another 1000 tons were ordered this afternoon.

P. Hill stated that about 7-8 miles of road have been paved this fiscal year. There are 35-40 roads that the Highway Department is planning to pave the next fiscal year. Paving contractors have been very busy and we had hard time bringing them into town. M. Kozlark asked how do we get put in their calendar? P. Hill stated that the Department calls the Paving contractors and meet with them to discuss calendar dates. S. Zemo asked what do we have to do to get priority and get the paving contractors to us first? P. Hill stated that there is no way to get priority anymore. P. Hill explained the process of paving roads.

P. Hill explained that Highway Department had requested a body for a truck and a 20-ton trailer. P. Hill stated that the Department would prefer that the 20-ton trailer take priority. B. Manners asked if there is a reason why? B. Motta explained that the 10-ton and 20-ton trailers that the department owns need repairs, and with the money that are needed to repair the two trailers, the department would prefer to get a new 20-ton trailer which would be sufficient for all equipment to move around. M. Kozlark asked if going from two trailers to one would impact driving equipment's from one point to another? P. Hill explained that when a machine needs to go to a certain area, the truck and the trailer don't need to stay there and if there is another equipment that needs to be dropped off at another location, the truck then picks up the

other equipment and takes it where it needs to go. R. Marconi asked how many pieces of equipment can be moved in that trailer? B. Motta explained that it depends on what its being moved. R. Marconi stated that the sweeper machine has been approved for the Highway Department. R. Marconi asked if the wash base is something that is needed immediately? P. Hill stated that is not needed immediately but we are spending \$250,000 on a truck that needs to be maintained. P. Hill explained that the Highway Department has met with contractors and have an estimate of how much the machine and the building would cost. P. Hill also stated that the wash building would benefit other departments and all town vehicles as well.

2. Police Department Budget

The following individuals came forward to discuss this topic – Kevin Redmond, Director of Finance; Chief John Roche; Major Stephen Brown of the Police Department and Marcie Coffin and Charlie Knoche from the Police Commission.

Chief Roche asked the BOS for the restoration of the current second frozen position sooner than anticipated. M. Kozlark stated that the reason the position was frozen was because of budget concerns that we have in this current year. R. Marconi stated that the budget needs to be reviewed with the Finance Director and would have an answer for the Chief sometime before March. Chief Roche explained the process of hiring new policeman.

Chief Roche stated that with the vehicle budget cut to \$111,083 we are not going to be able to restore 4 Police Cruisers; only three. The restoration requested is \$21,500. The sedan cost for this year was \$27,000 minus the trade in value \$12,500. The replacement of three SUV cost \$90,600 minus the trade in value of \$13,500. The total expenses for the Department are \$140,000 and with the budget cut the department is short \$21,000. R. Marconi explained that the reason for the cut is because the car costs are escalating. Chief Roche asked for the restauration of those money.

Chief Roche requested an increase from \$24,000 to \$26,000 for Traffic Control Services because there has been an increased request for crosswalks in the neighborhoods. Chef Roche asked if BOS can restore \$2,125 from the Maintenance budget cut and instead of \$10,000 to make it \$20,000 for the License Plate Reader – which is the cost of the reader. There is a request for computers, an ongoing program to replace mobile computers and desktop computers.

No capital for Animal Control – Their operating budget is minimal. M. Kozlark asked how are we doing with the collaboration on the study of Fire and Police department buildings? R Marconi stated that we interviewed a consultant from Berlin, CT. Chief Roche suggested hiring an architectural firm to do an estimate.

3. General Budget Discussion

The Mill Rate went down .8%. BOS discussed the revenue. Personnel issues must be discussed in Executive Session – Discussions are about staffing. Community grants – Lyme Disease went down from \$5000 to \$2500; Dream Homes went down from \$2750-\$2500, and Education Foundation from \$500-\$0; Regional Hospice from \$1500 to \$1000; Ann's Place went down to \$1000.

M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 9:50 pm. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Nita Asani