

**Town of Ridgefield**  
**Board of Selectmen Meeting**  
**Approved Minutes**  
Wednesday, June 21, 2017 – 6:30 PM  
Town Hall (Large Conference Room)  
400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut

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

**Agenda**

1. Public Comment
2. Fire Chief Contract Approval
3. Board of Education Technology Lease/Purchase Agreement
4. Parks & Recreation Building Project
5. Ballard Park Camera Installation Discussion; Possible Recommendation to Friends of Ballard Park
6. Approval of Tax Refunds
7. Selectman's Report
8. Meeting Minutes Approval: 12/20/16 special, 6/7/17 regular, 6/7/17 special

**Call to Order**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:40 pm by R. Marconi.

**1a. Addition**

R. Marconi asked the Board to consider a motion to move the regularly scheduled meeting for July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017. R. Marconi also proposed scheduling a public hearing for the possible land purchase on Ridgebury Road (property adjacent to the golf course). The regular meeting will begin at 6:30 pm and the Public Hearing will begin at 7:30 pm.

**M. Kozlark motioned and B. Hebert seconded the motion to schedule a Board of Selectmen special meeting on July 12, 2017 at 7:30 pm and cancel the July 19, 2017 and to set a Public Hearing date of July 12, 2017 at 7:30 pm to hear comments for a possible land purchase on Ridgebury Road.**

**Motion carried 5-0**

**1. Public Comment**

Ed Tyrrell, 17 Pond Road- Asks that the Board have an agenda item added to a future meeting to discuss what electors are allowed to do at a regular town meeting. Ed Tyrrell stated that he was allowed to make a motion to decrease a line item that didn't exist from the schools budget; however the person before him was not allowed to do the same. R. Marconi will review this with council; however they stand firm on the summary that was published in the paper. The town is not required to publish this, rather they choose to. The cost to publish this is approximately \$4,000/year. The town may seek to withdraw this in an effort to be more cost effective, while also recognizing that we are a

technological society which has access to online resources for retrieval of this information. The aforementioned is in the Charter and can only be changed during charter revision. No motions posed.

## **2. Fire Chief Contract Approval**

Chief Myers and the Board had the opportunity to review the contract for newly appointed Fire Chief, Jerry Myers. The contract states that shifts will be at times that do not cause undue hardship to the town. Separately, the issue was raised regarding medical control which is required to operate as a Paramedic; however it is not a requirement of the Fire Chief position. In order for Chief Meyers to continue instructing classes he must continue to carry his paramedic licensure. The town will begin working to establish goals and objectives for Chief Myers' performance evaluation which will take place approximately six months from the date of his appointment.

**M. Kozlark motioned and B. Manners seconded the motion to approve the appointment of Jerry Myers as Fire Chief. Motion passed 5-0.**

## **3. Board of Education Technology Lease/Purchase Agreement**

R. Marconi handed out the term sheet provided by Capital One which came in as the lowest supplier. The figures came in at \$600,000 for a three year term (for all schools) at 1.89%. Paul Hendrickson (not in attendance) has reviewed the terms and assured R. Marconi that the terms mirror that of the previous agreement. Upon acceptance of the terms, formal contractual documents will be provided by Capital One to the town for further review and execution.

**B. Hebert motioned and S. Zemo seconded the motion to approve the Board of Education technology lease/purchase agreement. Motion passed 5-0.**

## **4. Parks & Recreation Building Project (Postponed- Item followed Ballard Park discussion)**

*The Board decided to postpone this to later in the agenda once Phil Kearns of Parks & Recreation arrived.*

Once both Peter Coffin and Phil Kearns were in attendance they explained that they recommend using a Construction Manager for the project in which they will bid out the overall project in segments rather than one lump sum. The reasoning for this is that if we did a lump sum option, anything found that is not in bad shape will not be refunded to Parks & Rec. Peter Coffin stated that the original numbers came in between \$1.1M-\$1.2M, and those numbers were based on very few points, as they couldn't evaluate what was beyond the walls, as they did a very small amount of destructive testing. M. Kozlark asked if there has been any more erosion or progression. Peter replied that there was running water behind the fitness center and some leaks have been repaired, but there have been no drastic changes in the condition. Thermal cameras showed moisture under the floors, so he recommends getting vapor barriers under the floors sooner rather than later. As of now, no design work, drawings, or generalized materials have been selected; therefore we are currently using rough numbers. Peter Coffin has put together a rough timeline; Oct-Dec will focus on the wellness locker rooms, Dec-Jan will focus on the family locker rooms, and Jan-Feb will focus on the completion of the general membership locker rooms. Peter Coffin stated that the ultimate goal is to keep the Rec Center operable during the renovations. No opposition stated with regards to the proposed committee. No motions posed.

## **5. Ballard Park Camera Installation Discussion; Possible Recommendation to Friends of Ballard Park**

B. Manners spoke to the fact that she has witnessed both litter in Ballard Park as well as people using the stage for purposes other than concerts. B. Manners feels as though cameras on some level will act

as a deterrent. S. Zemo was pleased to see this on the agenda. He mentioned that this is the second incident of this nature. S. Zemo also feels that security cameras would be beneficial from a liability, policy, and security perspective and suggested that we may want to surveil just the gazebo and the stage area. S. Zemo would also like for the Police Commission and Parks & Rec to weigh in on this issue. The Rabbi was impressed with the actions taken by the Town and the Ridgefield Police department. R. Marconi will draft a letter to Parks & Rec, seeking feedback, as they assume jurisdiction over Ballard Park. No motions posed.

## **6. Approval of Tax Refunds**

**B. Manners motioned and S. Zemo seconded the motion to approve tax refunds totaling \$2,848.14 as requested in Tax Collector Jane Berendsen-Hill's request dated 6/15/17. Motion passed 5-0.**

## **7. Selectman's Report**

- Dog Waste Committee has been assembled and is working on Main Street and the Rail Trail. Two Girl scouts are working on this project (researching) in an effort to earn a Silver Award. R. Marconi stated that we have to be cautious not to penetrate the barrier that's in place due to the arsenic. There are currently plastic bag dispensers with biodegradable bags available for use. It has been reported that people are not properly disposing of the bagged waste. Additional bag dispensers and receptacles may be installed in the future at cross streets (so they are less visible). M. Kozlark suggests that the Historical Society Committee have input as to where the proposed receptacles will be placed. R. Marconi will meet with the girl scouts to further discuss. The first two years of cleaning and maintaining the receptacles will be taken care of by a student at ERMS along with his mother. B. Hebert suggested a clean-up campaign (Keep Ridgefield Beautiful) via social media and in the schools may be effective in getting pet owners to be accountable for properly disposing of pet waste. R. Marconi asked Amy to write an overview titled the Status Dog Waste Initiative, which will consist of seven committee members, two girl scouts and middle school students. They will fund this initiative and are in the process of seeking approval.
- Horse Ordinance- R. Marconi has been told that the horses from Manner Road have been moved. This was the first complaint in years regarding equestrians. Ad Hoc Committee states that if we don't need an ordinance we'd prefer not to have one. The Board of Selectmen will discuss if they will accept the report and bring it to a town meeting. R. Marconi states that a Horseman's Association may be assembled to advise on best practices.
- Fireworks are scheduled to take place on July 4<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of July 5<sup>th</sup>. Parking passes are available for purchase at Town Hall and Fairfield County Bank.
- Coalition Coordinator Position- Laura Cleary's last day will July 15<sup>th</sup>. The town is looking to fill this position which is funded thru grants. This position helps raise awareness and prevention of substance abuse.
- Vaping/Substance Abuse Awareness Grant- Two interns were assigned a project regarding vaping. Alcohol is the most frequently used substance at present. Vaping has taken the place of marijuana in terms of popularity. The interns drafted a report after compiling research. R. Marconi will provide copies to the Board. R. Marconi spoke briefly about the new trend, "Jewels" which are an electronic cigarette that is now being used for illicit substances. R. Marconi also discussed the new trend dubbed "dripping" which causes blistering in the mouth, esophagus, and lungs. Darien, who was recently approved for a grant, came in to give a presentation. The

Town of Ridgefield has previously applied for this grant but was denied. R. Marconi discussed statistical data relating to adolescents and their inability to make sound decisions. B. Manners states that parental involvement is key in keeping our youth drug-free. Academic pressures and the freedom that comes with obtaining a driver's license often contribute to the lack of parental involvement. M. Kozlark suggests piggy backing off of Darien's application for the grant.

- Barbara Safran has resigned from the Board of Ethics. There will be a vacancy for her position.
- Schlumberger- Plans have been submitted to Planning & Zoning and it is on the agenda for a Phase 1 public hearing (site lights, putting a road in, parking, drainage) to satisfy our lease requirements. Public Hearing is scheduled for July 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Gov. Malloy- Principle of Operations in Absence of a Government.
- Nod Hill Brewery- New business located on Route 7 (near bridge work), which employs approximately thirty people has asked to be permitted to have a food truck; however it sits on private property. R. Marconi and B. Manners state that we don't control private property; therefore we cannot approve this request as another business was previously denied under similar circumstances. R. Marconi will advise the business owner to go through zoning.
- NRVT- Regarding a section of the trail north of the Redding line/Ridgefield line. The issue was the Ball field going in on Route 7. They spoke to Phil Doyle (architect) and are working together on it. R. Marconi provided copies of the document to the Board.
- Governor Street Parking- Steve Sullivan is moving forward to do the extension of the parking. Costs not to exceed \$5,000.
- Building Department- S. Zemo asked if the Building Department will be moving. R. Marconi sent a draft lease to get things started with the Playhouse approximately 3 months ago. R. Marconi asked that Charlie and Jake clean up the entry way (paint, etc.). Chef's Warehouse is still interested in some of the space.

## **8. Approval of Minutes**

- 12/20/16 Special Meeting  
**M. Kozlark motioned and S. Zemo seconded the motion to approve the 12/20/16 BOS special meeting minutes as written. Motion carried 5-0.**
- 6/7/17 Regular Meeting
  - Amendments will be made to minutes regarding the Pension Commission reappointment of Arthur Harris Aaronson. B. Manners did not abstain, as she wanted to pose further questions at a later date.**M. Kozlark motioned and S. Zemo seconded the motion to approve the 6/7/17 meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried 5-0.**
- 6/7/17 Special Meeting  
**M. Kozlark motioned and S. Zemo seconded the motion to approve the 6/7/17 special meeting minutes as written. Motion carried 5-0.**

**B. Manners motioned and B. Hebert seconded the motion to adjourn at 8:06 pm. Motion passed 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Shannon Freda