

Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectmen Special Meeting
Wednesday, July 12, 2017
Meeting Minutes- APPROVED
Town Hall (Large Conference Room)
400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut

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

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

Agenda

Call to Order

A special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:30 pm by R. Marconi.

1. Public Comment

No public comment.

2. Youth Commission Reappointments: Joanne Baird and Alttara Scheer (not in attendance)

Joanne Baird has served on the commission for two years and described it as challenging. By profession Joanne is a Pediatric Specialist. When asked by B. Manners, Joanne stated that opiates seem to be the most prevalent issue within our community and surrounding towns. Joanne also discussed some of the items the commission is working on which includes a Kindness Mural, which is meant to raise awareness and prevention of bullying. Joanne spoke about the Juvenile Review Board, an organization assembled as an alternative to the judicial process which eliminates first time offenses from being put on record. The JRB program has a 92% success rate.

S. Zemo moved and B. Manners seconded the motion to reappoint Joanne Baird for an additional two-year term. Motion carried 4-0.

3. Pension Commission Interview: Christopher Andrew St. Vincent-de Pinho

Highly qualified Chris St. Vincent-de Pinho feels that serving in this role is great way to give back to the community, one in which he feels comfortable and confident. Chris feels that a stable pension plan is essential for all municipal employees. Chris holds various professional titles; Naval Officer, insurance agent, investment banker, and Attorney (with a specialty in corporate tax and corporate governance).

S. Zemo moved and B. Manners seconded the motion to appoint Christopher Andrew St. Vincent-de Pinho to the Board of Ethics. Motion carried 4-0.

4. First Floor Retail- Economic & Community Development Commission

John Devine and Bob DeFalco (both in attendance) assembled a task force and reviewed the proposed Central Business District incentive plan for first floor retail. R. Marconi and the Board are working to fabricate a plan meant to attract new retailers to Main Street. The plan will benefit both landlords and tenants.

5. Radio Project Report- Dick Aarons

Dick Aarons (in attendance) heavily participated in and facilitated the radio system upgrade project. All six remote sites have now been completed. The final installation of portable radios will soon be completed and have the capability to use both the analog and digital systems simultaneously. Radios at the police department were installed several months ago and will make the official conversion to the digital system on July 26th. Parks & Recreation and the Fire Department have been using the digital system for approximately six months without issue. The fire police are still in the testing phases for areas of town where they were previously unable to use their communication devices. The project is currently under budget and any remaining funds will be returned to the town. There is a punch list in place that still needs to be executed. R. Marconi states that this project has resulted in a huge improvement in communication.

6. Director of Civil Preparedness Appointment: Dick Aarons

In the past, this position was filled by the Fire Chief; however, there is a vacancy for the Assistant Chief position; therefore, Chief Jerry Myers will be unable to fulfill the Director position in addition to his current workload. Chief Myers was in favor of Dick Aarons' appointment.

B. Manners moved and S. Zemo seconded the motion to appoint Richard N. Aarons as the Civil Preparedness (Emergency Management) Director. Motion carried 4-0.

7. 2018 Ambulance Rate Approval

Chief Myers stated that by law, insurance companies (including Medicare/Medicaid) are required to cover ambulance services; however, the percentage of which the cover is not regulated. This year's rates increased by 4%, which is the maximum the town can charge for services. The projected town revenue for ambulance services in 2018 is approximately \$825,000.

S. Zemo moved and B. Hebert seconded the motion to approve the ambulance rate increase as proposed.

B. Manners abstained. Motion carried 3-0-1.

8. Golf Director Contract

Ed Tyrrell (Chair of the Golf Committee) sent correspondence to Frank Sergiovanni via e-mail regarding the proposed contract. Per Mr. Tyrrell, it was difficult to do a comparative analysis of the contract relative to other courses, as each have differing structures. The new contract will result in a net increase. R. Marconi states that the contract is average if not below the median.

B. Hebert moved and B. Manners seconded the motion to approve the contract for Golf Director Frank Sergiovanni for the 1/1/17 – 12/31/19 time-period. Motion carried 4-0.

9. Selectman's Report

- Hiring Freeze: R. Marconi has implemented a hiring freeze, which will also apply to summer positions. Should the state zero Ridgefield out, the 2017 budget only leaves the town with \$590,000.
- Blight Prevention Board: The property at 29 Lakeview is an ongoing issue but is being worked on secondary to the imposed blight ordinance.
- Dog Waste: Funds are being raised by two girl scouts to purchase pet waste receptacles which will be placed at cross streets. A student at East Ridge Middle School has committed to maintaining the receptacles for the next two years. Additionally, they are working on the pet waste issue on the Rail Trail (the Town and all involved are aware that we must take care not to penetrate the fabric/barrier). Approval from the Historic District Commission and Eversource are being sought. Nothing will be done until the appropriate approvals are in place.
- Horse Ordinance: The horses on Manor Road have been removed; however, residents are adamant that an ordinance be put in place. Attorney Neil Marcus will draft a brief Article III to the ordinance, if approved it will go to a vote and then a public hearing and town meeting.
- The Town was recognized by the GFOA for Excellence in Finance.
- MCCA has vacated the space located in the Venus Building.
- Margaret Stamatis has resigned from the Ridgefield Prevention Council, as she now serves on the BOE.

10. Approval of Minutes

B. Hebert motioned and S. Zemo seconded the motion to approve the 2/7/17 budget meeting minute as written. Motion carried 4-0.

B. Hebert motioned and S. Zemo seconded the motion to approve the 2/16/17 special budget meeting minutes as written. Motion carried 4-0.

B. Hebert motioned and S. Zemo seconded the motion to approve the 3/6/17 budget meeting minute as written. Motion carried 4-0.

B. Hebert motioned and S. Zemo seconded the motion to approve the 6/21/17 meeting minutes as written. Motion carried 4-0.

S. Zemo motioned and B. Hebert seconded the motion to adjourn the special BOS meeting at 8:35pm. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Freda