

Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, September 6, 2017
Approved Meeting Minutes
Town Hall (Large Conference Room)
400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut

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

Absent: M. Kozlark

Agenda

Call to Order

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:30 pm by R. Marconi.

1. Public Comment

No public comment.

2. Cybersecurity; General Liability; Health Insurance Discussions- Andrew Neblett, Rob Miller, IRMC Members, Rob Fitzpatrick

Cyber Security: In attendance: Andrew Neblett, Bill Jaeger, Miles Hisiger, John Queirolo, Joe Loonan, and Jeff Welsch. Rob Miller not in attendance

The panel discussed the policy recently purchased by the town (copies were handed out). Intrusion testing was performed in July and another one is scheduled for early-October. Employee, tax, and school information are among the most important types of information that need to be safeguarded. Jeff Welsch of Fairfield County Bank Insurances Services discussed the financial implications of a breach and explained that not all breaches involve electronic data, there are also physical breaches that can impact an entity. Techniques were discussed for prevention of any future breaches.

General Liability/Workers Compensation: Jeff Welsch

Per Jeff Welsch, General Liability is the single biggest premium item and is statutorily recovered. As part of our policy, we have access to a Loss Engineer from the Travelers, which should be utilized as a resource. Jeff Welsch also recommended that we provide additional training to employees to minimize exposures and incidents resulting in claims. R. Marconi posed the question, at what point should an individual be appointed to solely oversee safety and procedures for the town. Per R. Marconi's request, Jeff Welsch will provide a comparative analysis of Ridgefield versus similar towns.

Health Insurance: Rob Fitzpatrick of Brown & Brown.

Rob has worked with the town since 2010 and helped to control premium growth. Rob points out that the annual increase in cost is secondary to increased claims. Rob encourages the town to become part of a collaborative effort with other municipalities which will lower our costs, as the risk is more spread out. Rob provided the Board with a projection report. The data within indicates that we are paying for our past success. R. Marconi asked if Brown & Brown can provide an analysis if the town were to offer a pension incentive for retirement, as we have many employees working beyond 65 years of age. Rob will provide this to the Board.

No motions made.

3. Horse Ordinance

A draft of the proposed ordinance and letters from the Conservation Commission were provided to the Board. S. Zemo will send a follow up email with questions to Rudy which will become Public Record. The Board of Selectmen voted to set a date for a Public Hearing followed by a Town Meeting to modify the current Chapter 120. The

proposed ordinance, mutually agreed upon by both sides, would become Article III. Both Paula Schmidt and Tom Pesce, Ridgefield residents spoke about their concerns relative to the ordinance.

B. Hebert moved and B. Manners seconded the motion to hold a public hearing on the proposed ordinance on September 27, 2017 at 7:30 pm in the Town Hall large conference room. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Ridgebury Cemetery- Set Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting Date

The Board of Selectmen voted to schedule a Public Hearing regarding possible town ownership of the Ridgebury Cemetery. Hannah Barber has now been appointed as acting Sexton. The Public Hearing is set for September 27, 2017, as two public notices are required prior to the acquisition.

S. Zemo moved and B. Hebert seconded the motion to schedule a Public Hearing on September 27, 2017 at 7:30 pm regarding possible town ownership of the Ridgebury Cemetery. Motion carried 4-0.

5. 2017-18 Controlled Deer Hunt - DMIC

The Board of Selectmen voted to approve signage to be used for the upcoming controlled deer hunt. The signage will be fabricated by a Ridgefield-based business. The cost does not exceed the total spent last year.

S. Zemo moved and B. Hebert seconded the motion to approve signage not to exceed \$2,900 to be paid from the Town Contingency fund. Motion carried 4-0.

B. Hebert moved and S. Zemo seconded the motion to approve the controlled deer hunt as proposed by the Deer Management Implementation Committee and review at end of March 2018 with a possible public hearing. Motion carried 3-1. B. Manners opposed. Sites approved include: Shadow Lake, Laurel Lane, Linden Lane, Old Trolley/Shadow Lake, Golf Course, Keeler Court, Ledges, Stonecrest, Ridgebury Farms, Silvermine Ridge, Sarah Bishop, Bobby's Court, Colonial Heights, Peaceable Refuge, and Peaceable Court.

6. Policy on Abatements for 501(c)3 Entities

B. Hebert asked if there is currently a policy in place for approving a tax abatement. The Board feels that if they approve for one 501(c)3, it may set a precedence. R. Marconi stated that the Assessor should meet with each entity to justify their charitable status. No motions will be made on this subject until M. Kozlark returns.

7. Family Day Proclamation

The Board of Selectmen have proclaimed that Monday, September 25th, 2017 is "Family Day" in Ridgefield; a day meant to connect as a family and enjoy dinner together.

S. Zemo moved and B. Manners seconded the motion to approve the Family Day Proclamation. Motion carried 4-0.

8. Selectman's Report

- Route 35/Main Street Project: Sal Arresco, State Project Manager and Charles Robbins, Ridgefield resident & liaison. As of now, there still needs to be an internal design review to look at the grades and the pitch. They may have to make grade changes which is being studied now.
- Branchville TOD- applied for grant through Federal Government, regarding pedestrian connectivity with the train station. The Government came back and asked for the whole project not a partial project. Norwalk took a step back to do further work and Ridgefield will move forward. We are awaiting confirmation on the \$2M grant. Kevin Redmond to look at all outstanding projects (BOE) and reallocate the money to forgo having to do an appropriation.
- 9/11 Ceremony is scheduled for Monday at 6:30 pm in front of Parks & Recreation.
- 9-17-17- Safety Day at East Ridge Middle School from 10 am- 2 pm.
- Alice Kenny has resigned from the Commission on Aging.
- Emergency Preparedness- Rudy is watching Hurricane Irma and will keep the town posted.
- Ridgefield Boys & Girls Club is currently located in a residential zone. They are asking that they be classified as a central business district. R. Marconi has no issue with this change and will meet with Richard Baldelli next week.
- Ridgefield Playhouse lease will stay on the agenda for September 27th. A copy of the lease will be sent to board members.
- Current Committee Vacancies:
 - a. Architectural Committee- 2

- b. Board of Ethics- 1
- c. Commission for the Disabled- 2
- d. Commission for the Aging- 2
- e. Insurance Risk Committee- 2
- f. Arts Council- 2
- g. Prevention Council- 3 adults/2 students
- h. Tree Commission- 2
- i. Youth Commission- 5 adult vacancies
- Financial Report was e-mailed to the Board.
- The audit is getting close to the end and we will be running close to \$2M surplus. R. Marconi states that tax collections have been fantastic, as residents are paying their taxes in full rather than spreading them out over four quarters.
- State report released regarding opiate deaths in 2015, 2016, and part of 2017. Waterbury has asked us to join a lawsuit regarding the unethical marketing practices of drug companies. Although the legal representation will be pro-bono, R. Marconi would like to funnel efforts into the community and substance abuse awareness rather than dedicating 5-7 years to a lawsuit where the settlement will ultimately not make it to the cause.
- Route 35 Bridge is on schedule for completion at the end of November 2017.

9. Meeting Minutes Approval

B. Hebert moved and S. Zemo seconded the motion to approve as written the Executive Session Meeting Minutes from 8/23/17 and move the approval for 3/8/17, 4/5/17, and 8/19/17 to the September 27th meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion to Adjourn

B. Manners moved and S. Zemo seconded the motion to adjourn the BOS meeting at 10:04 pm. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Freda