

TOWN of RIDGEFIELD - BOARD of SELECTMEN MEETING – JULY 20, 2016

TOWN HALL/LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM – 6:30 P.M.

REVISED/APPROVED MINUTES

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

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

Absent: B. Manners

Agenda

1. Public Comment
2. Joyce Ligi, Rotary Citizen of the Year
3. Fire Department: Fire Engine Sale Discussion; Ambulance Rate Approval
4. Youth Commission Member Reappointments: Denise Dammer-Qualey, Mark Robinson
5. Request to Include CERT Under Friends of Ridgefield Umbrella
6. 2016-17 Proposed Deer Hunt
7. National Gun Violence Awareness Day
8. Food Vendor Ordinance – Discussion of Proposed Change
9. Reappointment of HRRRA Representative and Alternate; Two-Year Term
10. Approval of Tax Refunds
11. Selectman's Report
12. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 6/15/16 Special Meeting; 6/22/16 Regular Meeting
13. Executive Session: Real Estate (Venus Building Possible Leases, Schlumberger)

R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., following the Fire Commission Special Meeting at 6:15 p.m.

1. Public Comment – There were no comments from the public.

2. Joyce Ligi, Rotary Citizen of the Year

Joyce Ligi was invited to this evening's BOS Meeting for the BOS to say thank you for the many volunteer hours she has contributed to the Town of Ridgefield. The BOS members are sorry that they were unable to attend the evening program in which Ms. Ligi was honored. Ms. Ligi opened the two gifts presented to her from the BOS – matching monogrammed glass vases, one large and the other small in size.

3. Fire Department: Fire Engine Sale Discussion; Ambulance Rate Approval

The proposed sale of one of our fire engines was discussed at the Fire Commission meeting held earlier this evening. **R. Hebert moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to approve the sale of the Fire Engine as discussed in this evening's Special Meeting of the Fire Commission. Motion approved 4-0.**

Each year the State of Connecticut issues a table detailing the State of Connecticut Allowable Ambulance Rates for the next year. This year's table details the rates for Calendar Year 2017 and provides for an increase in rates of 2.3%. This is the lowest increase percentage in many years. Each municipality does not have to increase their rates, but they may do so if they so desire. Medicare/Medicaid does not pay the full ambulance rate. The cardiac monitor is used in 70% of

the ambulance cases. More extensive procedures are used in 30% of the ambulance cases. The rate schedule also includes rates for assistance with helicopter patient transfers.

M. Kozlark moved and R. Hebert seconded a motion to approve the Ambulance Rate schedule effective January 1, 2017, as allowable by the State of Connecticut in their Schedule of Maximum Allowable Rates. Motion passed 4-0.

4. Youth Commission Member Reappointments: Denise Dammer-Qualey, Mark Robinson
Requests for reappointment to the Youth Commission have been received from both Denise Qualey and Mark Robinson.

M. Kozlark moved and R. Hebert seconded a motion to reappoint Denise Dammer-Qualey and Mark Robinson for an additional two-year term on the Youth Commission. Motion approved 4-0.

5. Request to Include CERT Under Friends of Ridgefield Umbrella

A letter dated July 7, 2016, has been received from the Town of Ridgefield CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), a non-profit organization dedicated to serve the citizens of Ridgefield and the surrounding towns in times of disaster, community emergencies, and town-wide events, requesting that they be included as an organization or committee of the Friends of Ridgefield Community Programs, Inc. This will enable all CERT accounting flow through the Town's MUNIS accounting system. CERT has applied for and received grant funding and has been trained in conjunction with the Citizen Corps program put forward by the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

M. Kozlark moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to approve the request that the Ridgefield Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) be included as an organization of the Friends of Ridgefield Community Programs, Inc. Motion passed 4-0.

6. 2016-17 Proposed Deer Hunt

Stefano Zandri came forward to discuss the proposed list of properties selected for the Controlled Hunt for the 2016-17 season. All the properties have been approved by the Conservation Commission except for Hemlock Hills. The Conservation Commission wants to take a closer look at the uses of the Hemlock Hills property and the possibility of only having the hunt be on a portion of the property. They will review the property over the coming months and will decide if all or part of the property can be added to the Controlled Hunt list for 2017-18.

M. Kozlark moved and R. Hebert seconded a motion to approve the requested list of Deer Hunt Properties for the 2016-2017 hunting season. Motion passed 4-0.

7. National Gun Violence Awareness Day

R. Marconi read the proposed Proclamation for National Gun Violence Awareness Day. R. Hebert indicated that he cannot sign the proclamation as it is written. He would like a document with "more substance".

R. Hebert indicated he would like to see something that would help to limit some of the unfortunate accidents that occur with the use of guns. We need to address the reason these accidents are happening. Owners of guns need to know how to store guns properly and the Police

Department needs to be made aware of where in a house the guns are stored. R. Hebert indicated he is a strong advocate of gun safety. R. Marconi stated he understands R. Hebert wants to increase gun safety awareness. What does he suggest that we do? As an alternative to the Proclamation for National Gun Violence Awareness Day, he would suggest a National Gun Safety Day. M. Kozlark stated R. Hebert's points are good ones. S. Zemo asked if the BOS wishes to change the Proclamation from its original intent.

S. Zemo moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to approve the “Proclamation for National Gun Violence Awareness Day” as presented to the BOS for their approval. Motion passed 3-1. R. Hebert opposed. R. Marconi will contact B. Manners for her vote.

8. Food Vendor Ordinance – Discussion of Proposed Changes

Town Counsel David Grogins and Intern Gwen Ellis came forward to discuss possible changes in the Food Vendor Ordinance.

M. Kozlark asked where we are in this process with the Food Vendor Ordinance. We are seeking input from Ed Brigg's, Ridgefield's Director of Health, Planning & Zoning, the Chamber of Commerce, Parks & Recreation, and neighboring towns. None of the towns give out permits to food vendors. Instead they give out permits for food vendors to be present at special events. Copies of the Food Vendor Ordinances from Darien and Westport are included in the packet for the BOS to review. Also included are comments from David Grogins and Gwen Ellis.

S. Zemo stated he was surprised to see the draft attached in our packet. This is as much a policy issue as a Planning & Zoning issue. What can vendors sell on our streets? When we talk about vendors roaming around town, we restrict a brick/mortars vendor with a roving vendor located nearby. We keep talking about food trucks. We turned down a flower vendor. We need to be careful where we are going with this whole process. We might be opening up the process more than we anticipate. Should we open up Town events to food vendors or are such events only to be available for special catering firms.

D. Grogins stated we have an ordinance with legal requirements. It was his understanding that the BOS wanted assistance with an ordinance overseeing food trucks. He addressed the food vendor ordinance from that perspective. Specific stationary vendors seem to be the problem. He therefore “took a crack at it” and came up with a model for a food vendor ordinance. We are in the forefront. No other towns are doing this. New Haven is looking into increasing the cost for permits for their food vendor trucks. New Haven is a city and a very different environment from Ridgefield. This draft is “one shot” at a food vendor ordinance, with the purpose of addressing some of the significant issues. Do we want to control the total number of vendors? We need to look at the food safety issue. We have previously denied a vendor permission for a specific location. Do we have a problem if we approve this location? What about take-outs?

Gwen stated some items in the draft ordinance have been highlighted. A permittee can request an appeal. What is happening in practice but not written down? Westport does not allow food trucks on public property. Parks & Rec has allowed a vendor to come in and no permit. This should not be happening. What about vendors who are approved by the organization putting on the event? How restrictive can a permit be – food category, hours of operation? Permits can be one-year seasonal summer permits.

S. Zemo stated if we allow in one vendor in a specific category, more will come in. How can we limit a youth? If someone orders food from a vendor, do they have to bring the food to a table?

We do not have tables available at vendor locations. Parking can also be an issue at some of these vendor locations.

R. Hebert stated this whole issue gets complicated. M. Kozlark indicated she called a lot of towns to get their input. What do we want our guidelines to be? We need to move out of the moratorium we are in now. Do peddlers (vendors) have to keep moving? M. Kozlark stated ice cream trucks had been a problem as they were overlapping towns, but they seem to have worked out their territories. A catering vendor should have a definite place to provide their services.

R. Marconi stated we need to clarify if a vendor wants to come into town for special events. Catering is for a one-time event and we need to lift the moratorium for such events. It should be OK for someone in town to be able to hire a food truck for a one-time event as long as the vendor has secured their Health Department approval.

S. Zemo inquired about taxing? How do we handle this? Can we tax catering for an event on private property – no! A vendor secures a \$50 permit from Parks & Rec to sell at a CHIRP concert. We have some “cleaning up” to do on this permit business/permit process. Can a permit be obtained by a non-resident for a greater fee? We need to look at this. If one drives home at night from a food location, then it is a restaurant and not a vendor.

R. Hebert stated everything he has read treats ice cream trucks differently. There should be no more than five roving trucks on our streets at one time. Should we permit no more than three stationery ice cream vendor locations? We need to figure this out. There are vendors who are “grandfathered” in.

Let’s focus first on motor vehicles doing catering for special events on private property. Do they have Health Department approval? Ed Briggs is to check on them. How is the licensing criteria different for such vehicles? All have to go thru the Health Department check. They must have a permit and comply with zoning regulations. They must have an approved background check. Are we going to open up the moratorium for these special parties? Is this special event for a 501c3 recognized town-sponsored entity?

D. Grogins will work on a revised draft of a Food Vendor Ordinance and will bring it back for discussion at the August 17, BOS Meeting. The moratorium on certain types of vendors could be lifted at this time. A maximum number can be put on such vendors. The “grandfathering” procedure and the issue of previous permits can be addressed.

9. Reappointment of HRRRA Representative and Alternate: Two-Year Term

R. Marconi moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to reappoint R. Marconi as Ridgefield’s HRRRA Representative and M. Kozlark as Alternate for an additional two-year term. Motion passed 4-0.

10. Approval of Tax Refunds

M. Kozlark moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to approve the request for tax refunds totaling \$5,729.97 as requested by Jane Berendsen-Hill, Tax Collector, in her memo dated July 14, 2016. Motion passed 4-0.

11. Selectman’s Report

- A water conservation request has been received from Aquarian.
- Enchanted Garden is back into their permanent location on Danbury Road.
- Re the Schlumberger loan from the State of CT for \$385,000, this loan will be forgiven.
- Conveyance dollars are up – from 7/1/15 to 6/30/16 – Collected \$740,764 - \$39 million in permits. S. Zemo asked for a comparison to other years. June and July are always good months. A good start to the new fiscal year helps us to get thru the winter months.
- Town Hall’s restoration of the Widow’s Walk is being financed by a private donor. Ridgefield Supply will provide the necessary special building materials. The Widow’s Walk was originally in place on the roof of Town Hall, with access to it from the attic. The thought is to not restore this access.
- A meeting is scheduled with the DOT (Department of Transportation) regarding Main Street and the traffic situation.
- John Pinchbeck has met with a landscaper and an info session is scheduled for July 27 in the evening at Town Hall. This is not a public hearing. Representatives from specific Boards have been invited to attend. There are old trees along Main Street that need to be replaced. Some of these trees are liabilities which need to be addressed.
- Copps Hill Intersection – traffic continues to back up. A new light is to be installed with one lane for outbound traffic. New lights have greater control over timing. We are in the engineering phase for this right now. The hope is for this project to take no more than one year to complete.
- The Post Office is now going to allow the demolition of the house next door. This is necessary since the Post Office is the lessee of the property.
- New regulations became effective as of May 3rd. A new storm water drainage regulation requires that any additional square footage about 750 sq. feet includes installation of a run-off and also the hiring of an engineer. This requirement will result in the generation of significant additional cost for the builder.

Is the jurisdiction over installation of a new driveway or a change in an existing driveway, with the Highway Department or Planning & Zoning? There are a lot of issues here. Planning & Zoning and the Town Engineer have been complaining about this for years – approvals without looking at all the issues.

12. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 6/15/16 Special Meeting; 6/22/16 Regular Meeting

M. Kozlark moved and R. Hebert seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the June 15, 2016, Board of Selectmen Special Meeting. Motion passed 4-0.

S. Zemo moved and R. Hebert seconded a motion to approve as written the minutes of the June 22, 2016, Public Hearing and Board of Selectmen Meeting. Motion passed 4-0.

R. Marconi moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:40 p.m. to discuss Real Estate (Venus Building Possible Leases, and Schlumberger). Motion passed 4-0.

The Board of Selectmen returned to public session at 10:48 p.m. No vote was taken.

**M. Kozlark moved and R. Hebert seconded a motion to adjourn the BOS Meeting at 10:48 p.m.
Motion passed 4-0.**

Respectfully submitted,
Janet L. Johnson