

TOWN of RIDGEFIELD – BOARD of SELECTMEN MEETING

SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

TOWN HALL/LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM – 7:30 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, B. Manners, S. Zemo

Agenda

1. Public Comment
2. Reappointments: Director of Civil Preparedness: Fire Chief Kevin Tappe
Economic Development Commission Members: Paul Levine, Arnold Light
3. Request to Transfer Venus Painting Money to Peter Parley Painting: Set PH/STM
4. Vendor Permit Ordinance
5. Approval of Tax Refunds
6. Selectman's Report
7. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 7/11/16 Special, 8/17/16
8. Executive Session: Future Lese of Town-Owned Property

R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Public Comment – There were no comments from the public.
2. Reappointments: Director of Civil Preparedness: Fire Chief Kevin Tappe
Economic Development Commission Members: Paul Levine, Arnold Light

Fire Chief Kevin Tappe was unable to attend this evening's meeting, but he did send a letter requesting reappointment. R. Marconi pointed out this position is no longer called Director, Emergency Operations. It is now called Director of Civil Preparedness.

B. Manners moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to reappoint Fire Chief Kevin Tappe as Director of Civil Preparedness for an additional one-year term. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Light and Mr. Levine were both present at this evening's meeting in support of their request for reappointment. They are hoping for a good year with the EDC.

R. Hebert moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to reappoint both Paul Levine and Arnold H. Leichtman (Light) for an additional one-year term on the Economic Development Commission. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Request to Transfer Venus Painting Money to Peter Parley Painting: Set PH/STM

Present at this evening's meeting were three members of the Ridgefield Historical Society, Nancy Selander, President, Sharon Dunphy, Vice President and Donna Warren, a member of the Ridgefield Historical Society. They all expressed support for the continued maintenance of the Peter Parley Schoolhouse.

R. Marconi commented on the bids received which ranged from \$7,800 to \$25,000. The windows are in very bad shape with the glazing coming out. There is lead present in the existing paint, which will have to be taken care of properly. R. Hebert inquired if the scope of the work has been identified. The bulkhead has been completed, the flashing has been fixed, and the bell steeple-tower has also been repaired. M. Kozlark inquired as to how the low bid of \$7800 will cover the scope of the work. S. Zemo commented on a problem when the water is turned on. Some dollars need to be designated for a new furnace. The electric light in the interior hallway needs to be fixed/replaced. A replacement light does not have to be an antique – it just has to work.

R. Hebert moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to approve the bid of \$7,800.00 and up to an additional \$1,000 if needed by McGuire Brothers Painting of Bethel, CT for the exterior painting of the Peter Parley Schoolhouse, subject to the understanding by R. Marconi that McGuire Brothers will replace any exterior siding/molding dry rot. Motion passed 5-0.

4. Vendor Permit Ordinance

R. Marconi commented on the term “mobile food vendor”. Is this the correct term to be used? This has been a remaining issue for discussion. M. Kozlark stated people want the permit moratorium to end. These are food vendors who do not have a permanent location. B. Manners stated the wording has to be correct as the ordinance will be in effect for a long time. S. Zemo stressed the need for the food trucks to be parked in a safe location. What about allowing an appropriate number of curb cuts so their vehicles can get further off the highway? Are certain trucks grandfathered in for specific locations? What if two vendors show up to use the same location? This is State property adjacent to a State highway.

R. Marconi asked if the ordinance details as to when the vendor has to shut down. We could put in that they can be open in their location from sunrise to sunset. People like to stop early for their morning coffee. Hours of operation could be from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at night. We want to be sure that all vendors come in for an annual permit. We want to think about all possible situations. We want to have flexibility, but we do not want to keep changing the ordinance. We could just say that something is “at the discretion of the BOS”.

John Devine, a member of the EDC, commented on how at special events he has seen an ice cream truck parked on Ridgefield town land and in very close proximity to a permanent ice cream store. R. Marconi stated he thinks there are going to be conflicts that will need to be worked out. S. Zemo stated he doesn’t think our new ordinance will be perfect. It was agreed to table this discussion for now and return to it at a later meeting.

5. Approval of Tax Refunds

B. Manners moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to approve the tax refunds totaling \$6,987.31, as requested by Tax Collector, Jane Berendsen-Hill in her email dated 8/31/2016. Motion passed 5-0.

6. Selectman’s Report

- The tax sale is coming up. Once the process gets started, every delinquent situation will have received a certified letter. If there is no contact in return, then the tax sale on that particular piece of property will continue. Some homeowners contact the Town and want to make a deal. The owner has up to six months to rectify the situation. Everyone listed has received a notice

of their delinquency. Their name remains on the tax sale list because they have done nothing. They should have received a registered letter. There are properties in town that have been abandoned.

- Sunday, September 11 at 6:30 p.m. – 9/11 Memorial Service. All are encouraged to attend.
- Road Report – Peter Hill to come before the BOS to discuss what has been done already and what is scheduled for 2016/17 with regard to paving. We can ask him at that time as to the exact number of miles scheduled for redo. They are doing a patch on Barlow Mountain Rd.
- Main Street Improvements – The State of Connecticut requested a meeting. The interest by the State of CT was there and they wanted to hear what the community wanted to have done and not hear from the Ridgefield town government. Under consideration was the entrance to CVS and the safety issue at that intersection, synchronization of the traffic lights on Main Street, and control of the pedestrian walk in front of the Ridgefield Conservatory of Dance. What about a Walk and Don't Walk light at that location?

Trees are a key issue for people. What about construction and the digging up of tree roots? People cut through a variety of roads to avoid traffic back-ups. What about construction of a bypass? The town looked at this as a possibility years ago. What about the appointment of seven members to meet as a committee again? It is difficult to get the public to agree with what such a committee would suggest.

There were a lot of people involved with Ridgefield's downtown in attendance at this meeting called by the State. John Frey and the Downtown Real Estate group were present at the meeting as well as landscape architects and John Kinnear, an architect and Chairman of the Architectural Advisory Committee. Previous Police Commissioners were also present. One option is to eliminate parking on Main Street, but this would change the character of the town. What about a change in the angle of the parking? M. Kozlark stated the town needs to think about how we want to craft the downtown area. R. Marconi stated we do not want to lag on this issue. The dollars are appropriated and State Representative John Frey is being asked to "jump in". The State of CT did not ask for BOS decisions on this issue. M. Kozlark stated she wants to participate in any future meetings. John Devine stated every stakeholder was present at that meeting. The State was so amiable and presented three different scenarios.

R. Marconi stated there is a lot to talk about. It is all about trees. There are trees with problems that have to be addressed. No – we are not suggesting construction and the cutting down the trees on Main St. as suggested by social media. Do we want what is to be done to be a BOS decision? The State of CT owns the road and they are coming to the town to get our input. To make any changes to Main St. is going to be a real mess and inconvenience. He knows drainage issues are being looked at. R. Marconi and Charlie Fischer have met. This first meeting was attended by people who heard about it and were interested. We are now waiting for what the State of CT is proposing. J. Pinchbeck has put in place what trees need to be repaired and how any road construction will disrupt tree roots. We need to look at our trees and replace them when needed. With anything that is proposed to be done, we need to see a visual of what the town will look like. What are the consequences of whatever we decide to do? M. Kozlark is welcome to attend any future meetings and will get the dates from Wendy.

S. Zemo stated the trees are the most sensitive issue. The State is willing to put in new curbing drainage and fix up the road for the next ten years.

The restoration of the widow's walk on top of Town Hall has been approved by Planning & Zoning. All the costs of this project are being donated by Fairfield County Bank.

- Three people have retired from the Fire Department. Brian Jones retired after forty years and Peter Drake had been with the Fire Department almost as long. Fire Marshal Dave Lathrop also retired. The Fire Commission will need to appoint replacements.
- Jerry Gay, Director of Purchasing, has left Ridgefield to go to Brookfield to work. Ken Sandberg, the full-time Health Department Administrator, will replace Jerry as the new Purchasing Director. Applications closed today for Ken's position in the Health Department.
- Cell Tower Issue – A 120-ft. tower is being suggested near Pamby Motors on Route 7. We can't stop them? Do we need to take legal action? The thought is that we will be a wireless town by 2020. The thought is to locate wires on the top of telephone poles and put boxes next to the pole and off the ground. Received a letter from Mobilitie wanting to appoint someone to work with us. It appears that the State gave them the authority to do this. We are asking J. Frey to look into this and see what action has been approved. This affects all communication.

John Devine commented on the problem Verizon has at the High School. This is a "dead spot" area. The original plan was for this issue to be solved but this has been slow to happen.

- The Open Space Violations Appeal Hearing Officer is to be appointed by the First Selectman. Two individuals have been interviewed so far – one more is yet to come.
- R. Hebert stated he has received a call from a group that wants to do a reenactment of the Battle of Ridgefield. The suggestion is to do this in 25-year increments. He does not know any details. They want to set up a meeting time and the Masonic Lodge is going to be part of this project. R. Hebert will find out what this group has in mind. At some point they will need to contact R. Marconi's office and set up a meeting time. What do they want to do and what dates do they have in mind? The Police will need to be involved.
- No Idling Project – Town Hall is all aboard on this project. Signs are available for installation.

7. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 7/11/16 Special, 8/17/16

B. Manners moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the 7/11/16 BOS Special Meeting. Motion passed 4-0-1. M. Kozlark abstained as she was not present for the 7/11/16 meeting.

S. Zemo moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the 8/17/16 BOS Meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to recess the BOS Meeting at 9:25 p.m. and go into Executive Session to discuss Future Lease of Town-Owned Property. Motion passed 5-0.

The Board of Selectmen came back to public session at 10:55 p.m. No vote was taken.

M. Kozlark moved, B. Manners seconded a motion to adjourn the BOS Mtg. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet L. Johnson