



**Town of Ridgefield
Public Safety Facility Committee
Minutes
APPROVED**

January 24, 2026

ANNEX, Large conference room, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, CT

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

Committee Members Present: Stephen Scalzo, Pamela Dunaway, Denis Graves, Ed Tyrrell, Wally Martinez, David Brickley, Adam Safir

Committee Members Absent: None.

Others present: Facilities Director Jacob Muller, Assistant Fire Chief Tony Cerulli, Ralph Money, Police Commission, Chuck Hancock, /Rudy Marconi, Geoff Morris, Maureen Kozlark

Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

1. Introductions – The committee members discussed meeting rules and restrictions such as a quorum of the committee, four or more, may NOT discuss committee business outside of a legally noticed meeting. Legal notice requires 24-hour advance public posting of the meeting agenda. This restriction also applies to any email communication. They may assign tasks to subcommittees no more than who will present them to the full committee at the weekly meetings. The committee settled on weekly Thursday evening meetings at 7:30pm, to last about two hours.

Wally Martinez motioned to set the weekly meetings on Thursdays from 7:30-9:30pm. Ed Tyrrell Seconded. Motion carried 5-0 (unsworn members can't vote yet).

2. Discussion about the BOS approved committee charge – Members shared their understanding of the charge breaking it down into these categories: Needs, Cost, and Communication. Communication efforts are critical. The committee will share information with the community regularly to bring them on the journey. The committee discussed the failure of the two votes to understand what caused such strong opposition. They may distribute a survey to gather this data. They discussed the need to determine if this vote will be set for a regular election or require a special election, but that will be decided later as they finalize the committee work. They discussed cost, return on investment, tax impact on

residents, and informing the community with easy-to-understand charts or tables. The timeline management may be left to the chair while other aspects of the charge will be discussed by the whole committee during their meetings. They also explored possible subcommittees as follows: site, financial, and community engagement. Then they discussed communication with the community. How often? What will be shared? They also want to provide a forum for hearing public comments.

3. Election of Officers – Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary-The committee discussed the qualities needed in the roles. The chair must be committed to transparency, consensus building, time availability, and stewardship of the committee charge. Ed Tyrrell volunteered to be secretary.

(Wally Martinez motioned to table agenda item 3, Election of Officers, to the next meeting, pending the swearing in of all committee members. Stephen Scalzo Seconded. Motion carried 5-0 (unsworn members can't vote yet).

4. General Discussion – (Minute 46:43) Chuck Hancock, 480 Main Street, cautioned that the committee shouldn't short sell the public because they may have well understood finances and other aspects but felt there could be a better way. He also suggested taking attendance at meetings to collect names and contact information for community members. The committee then summarized immediate tasks; develop and distribute a broad-reaching survey, speak to fire and police, meet with the architect, draft first communication to the public. They finalized the agenda for next week; 1. Election of Officers 2. Preliminary subcommittee structure – risk assessment, site evaluation, financial analysis, community engagement, other 3. Preliminary meeting schedule – 4. bringing in other stakeholders such as town clerk 5. Public Comment 6. General Discussion. The meeting time was changed to 7pm. The committee will try to tour the current police and fire facilities before the next meeting. The committee discussed the stewardship of community funds to be spent on this project but also what has already been spent. Look at all proposed expenditures responsibly. They will also explore the issue of trust. The committee wants to earn the community's trust.

David Brickley motioned to adjourn the Fire and Police Facilities Committee meeting at 11:30am. Dennis Graves seconded. Motion carried 5-0 (unsworn members can't vote yet).

Minutes prepared by Etna Monsalve