



Town of Ridgefield

BOF Unapproved Public Hearing Minutes

Monday, March 23, 2026

DRAFT Final

I. Call to order

BOF Chair Mike Rettger called the Board of Finance Public Hearing meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2026 in the East Ridge Middle School auditorium. BOF Members Mike Rettger, Dave Ulmer, Greg Kabasakalian, Andrew Okrongly, Joe Shapiro present.

II. Presentation by First Selectperson

First Selectperson Rudy Marconi provided an overview of the proposed FY 2026-2027 Town Operating budget and Capital budget. The total operating budget request, including debt service and Ridgefield Public Schools, was \$182,668,140, a \$4.49% increase.

III. Presentation by Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Susie Da Silva provided an overview of the proposed BOE-adopted Operating budget for FY 2026-2027. Fiscal year request of \$125,324,800, a 4.62 % increase.

IV. Presentation by Chair of Board of Finance

BOF Chair Mike Rettger presented an overview of the annual Town budget process, BOF primary responsibilities and guidelines, relevant financial information including factors affecting budgets, and the BOF schedule for the budget meetings.

V. Public Hearing

The Ridgefield residents listed at the end of these minutes commented regarding the proposed budgets in writing prior to the public hearing or appeared at the public hearing and commented.

VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. by Mr. Rettger seconded by Mr. Shapiro All in favor.

Next BOF meeting March 24, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Mia Belanger

The following residents commented regarding the proposed budgets in person and/or in writings.

Support for the original BOE proposed increase of 4.62%

- Kari Polcari
- Liza Hartofilis
- Debra Christ
- Amanda Korner
- Amanda Kearney
- Caroline Moore
- Kimberly Ianne
- Jennifer & Oliver Phippen
- Kristin & Terry Mahan
- Melissa Gaithe
- Laura & Chris Liberti
- Jenna Clay
- Jennifer Sunderman
- Kate Krsulich
- Kelsey DePalo
- Matthew Schulman
- Susie Gerwitz
- JoAnna Kelly
- Jessica & Carl Fontana
- Christina Hochkeppel
- Therese Marbury
- Jessica Rowe
- Alan Lemire
- Patty Dering
- Lee Gonzalez
- Sara Myjak
- Caitlin McMahan
- Nora Nosenzo

Opposition to the proposed 4.62% increase to the BOE budget.

- Kirk Carr
- John Tartaglia
- Rich Fasanelli
- Christopher Vahlsing
- Joan & Carl Forcheski

General comments on budget/budget process.

- Debra Franceschini
- Ridgefield PTA Council
- Joe Ternullo

The following spoke in person at the Public Hearing

- Sean McEvoy 150 High Ridge Avenue (spoke against BOE budget level)
- John Tartaglia 638 Danbury Road (spoke against BOE budget level)
- Ashley Dougherty 51 Prospect Ridge (spoke about FOIA and compliance issues)
- Gregg Hutchings 89 Cedar Lane (spoke against BOE budget level)
- Gary Roman 54 Branchville Road (spoke about taxation of seniors)
- Kirk Carr 62 Prospect Ridge (spoke against BOE budget level)
- Mary Ellen Foley 197 Barry Avenue (spoke in favor of BOE budget)
- Juan Salgado 105 Nod Hill Road (spoke in favor of BOE budget)
- Christopher Vahlsing 382 North Street (spoke against BOE budget level)
- Michael Petchonka 143 Saint Johns Road (spoke about fiscal responsibility concerns)
- Caitlin Kinast 5 Pump Lane (spoke in favor of BOE budget)
- Shannon Capocci 33 Bobbys Court (spoke in favor of BOE budget)
- Mariah Okrongly 34 Tanglewood Court (spoke against BOE budget level)
- Dawn Callahan 56 Ridgewood Road (spoke in favor of BOE budget)