



Town of Ridgefield
BOF Approved Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 16, 2025

I. Call to order

Dave Ulmer called the Board of Finance meeting to order at 11:30AM on Thursday, January 16, 2025 in the Town Hall Conference Room. Board Members Dave Ulmer, Mike Rettger, Joe Shapiro, Greg Kabasakalian and Andrew Okrongly present.

Others Present: Rudy Marconi, First Selectperson; Jake Muller, Town Director of Facilities; Kevin Redmond, Town Controller.

II. Election of Officers for 2025

Motion by Mr. Ulmer to elect Mr. Rettger as Chair of the Board of Finance for 2025. Seconded by Mr. Okrongly . All in favor

Motion by Mr. Okrongly to elect Mr. Ulmer as Vice-chair of the Board of Finance for 2025. Seconded by Mr. Shapiro. All in favor

III. Discussion of Proposed Capital Projects

Members discussed the recent action by the Board of Selectpersons to request additional capital appropriations and bonding for a new Public Safety Building, in the amount of \$85.6M, funding to repair or replace aging roofs on five school buildings over the next 2-3 years, in the amount of \$12.3M, and funding to construct and outfit a new building to house the school district's Alternative High School and 18-22 Transition Programs, in the amount of \$4M. All three proposals will require approval of town voters by referendum, to be scheduled for late in February.

Members questioned Mr. Marconi and Mr. Muller regarding various aspects of the proposals, including the stability and reliability of cost estimates for each, potential sources of and likelihood of receiving grants or other funding sources to offset costs, timing of pursuing the various projects if approved, and alternatives to the proposals that were considered. Mr. Muller and Mr. Redmond outlined their expectations for the timing of the project work and of the related bonding if the projects are approved in the referendum. They indicated that it was expected one or more school roofs would be done this coming summer and the AHS/TP Building

would also start very quickly, with related bonding expected in October 2025. Physical work on other school roofs and the Public Safety Building would not begin until spring and summer of 2026, and extend over a roughly two year period, with related borrowing expected in October 2027. In response to a question posed at the Board of Selectpersons' meeting the prior week, the school district has provided a cost projection for additional furniture and fixtures for the proposed AHS/TP Building of \$189,000, which is included as part of the proposed request and funding package.

Following completion of questions, Mr. Rettger noted that the BOF's consideration at its regular meeting next week would be to make a positive or negative recommendation on the proposals, and that he would expect the Board would vote on each item separately, assuming it came forward from the Board of Selectpersons in that manner. He also reported that Mr. Okrongly had updated the capital projection model reviewed by the Board several months ago with the cost estimates from the current proposals. This updated projection information will be distributed to the members prior to the next meeting as information for review, with possible discussion by the members at next Tuesday's meeting.

XII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 12:21PM by Mr. Ulmer , seconded by Mr. Shapiro . All in favor.

Next meeting January 21, 2025 at 7PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Mike Rettger