



Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectmen Regular & Budget Meeting Minutes
UNAPPROVED

March 2, 2023 at 7:00pm

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

Present: Rudy Marconi, Maureen Kozlark, Bob Hebert, Sean Connelly, Barbara Manners (zoom)

1. Capital Closeouts – Facilities Director

There are several items from Fiscal year 22-23 operating budget that are overages due to delays in materials, parts and other factors. Jake Muller, Director of Purchasing, discussed the items which included:

- Updates to the Board of Selectmen meeting room in the Annex – new sound booth, table configuration with privacy screens and audio/visual components.
- Mac trucks
- Pool HVAC system at Parks & Rec
- ADA upgrades to the Playhouse bathroom – there was a discussion on who should pay. According to the lease agreement, interior ADA upgrades falls under the responsibility of the tenant. Maureen Kozlark expressed that the lease was very clear regarding these upgrades and that the Playhouse should be responsible for these costs. The Playhouse request \$108,000 be reimbursed by the Town, as the landlord for these upgrades. Bob Hebert and Sean Connelly proposed sharing the financial responsibility. Barbara Manners commented that she has a personal interest in the matter. The BOS discussed and approved 50% of the \$108,000 (\$54,000) as a reimbursed expense. Rudy Marconi will set up a meeting with the Playhouse to discuss the approved amount

There is \$834,000 of underspent money in capital budgets from previous years. This can cover the cost to close out the projects from Fiscal 22-23.

Sean Connelly moved to approve the use of \$721,571.84 of close out projects toward the funding capital projects that came in over budget. Bob Hebert second the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

2. Facilities Budget

Jake Muller, Director of Purchasing, updated the Capital Budget from a 5-year plan to a 10-year plan. This helped to create a schedule and budget that can manage and repair infrastructure in a timely manner. Some of the items discussed included:

- Building inflation into the budget for items that remain the same each year, like doors and playgrounds. These projects are spaced out over time to more efficiently manage costs. All upgrades involve measures to for ADA compliancy.
- EV Charging Stations – conduits for charging stations are included in new parking lot and paving projects. Stations can be free or revenue streamed which is something to Town needs to consider. There is a new state statute requirement for EV Charging stations in newly construction parking lots.
- Public Safety Building – there will be a referendum in about a year. There was a discussion about which budget this will fall under and if it should be broken into 2 separate projects (site work and main project).
- Cupola rebuild on the Annex building – the proposed cost is \$342,000. There could be places to save, however the environmental costs associated with removing the old cupola cannot be avoided. \$25,000 will be kept in the budget for research and planning. Construction will be pushed.
- Landscaping for the Schlumberger property will be pushed until after construction of the new Safety Building is completed.
- Police Department Building upgrades – only the necessary upgrades are being done at this time.
- Several of the roofs at the schools are starting to need replacing. Joe Moritz, Director of Facilities at RPS, will work with Muller to find ways for the Town to utilize the information from the building assessments that will be done on all the schools.

3. Final Capital/Operating Budget deliberations and vote

Sean Connelly moved to approve the Board of Selectmen operating budget for fiscal year 2024 in the amount of \$42,029,352. Bob Hebert second the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Sean Connelly moved to approve the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education capital budget for fiscal year 2024 in the amount of \$7,588,636. Maureen Kozlark second the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Maureen Kozlark moved to approve the roads/drainage ADA infrastructure in the amount of \$2,657,000. Barbara Manners second the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Maureen Kozlark moved to approve the non-binding recommendation to the

Board of Finance for the Board of Education operating expenses in the amount of \$110,645,000. Bob Hebert second the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Maureen Kozlark moved to approve the debt service for fiscal year 2024 in the amount of \$6,936,131. Sean Connelly second the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Bob Hebert moved to adjourn the March 2, 2023 Board of Selectmen Budget meeting at 8:35pm. Sean Connelly second the motion. Motion carries 5-0.