



Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectpersons Special Meeting Minutes
APPROVED
November 14, 2025 at 11:00 am
Town Hall – Large Conference Room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

Present: Sean Connelly, Maureen Kozlark, Barbara Manners, Rudy Marconi,

Absent: Geoffrey Morris

Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 11 am. He stated that this is not a public hearing. The purpose of this meeting is for the BOS to discuss next steps following the defeat of the referendum regarding the Public Safety Building. He appreciates the community's clear response to the proposal but also expressed the community's understanding of the need for a solution to the existing suboptimal public safety structures. He stressed the importance of prioritizing this project because the elected officials have a duty to the community to provide adequate public safety services and facilities.

The purpose of this meeting is to get BOS consensus to form a citizens' committee of community members who will study the Public Safety Building needs and design ideas. Any community members with any expertise that could support that task, are invited to apply.

Maureen Kozlark explained that today is for the board to approve next steps. There will be future meetings to get community feedback and discussion.

Barbara Manners added that they are hopeful that the community is rich in expertise that will be most useful with this project including electrical and engineering experts and most importantly, the local police and fire personnel. They have the highest-level expertise to state their needs and industry standards. She explained that there was a committee of experts tasked with this project. They held community meetings and studied the needs. Different ideas were considered. That committee reached a consensus and put forth their best solution. Misinformation was knowingly or unknowingly spread. The community voted against that solution. Her hope is that another committee of experts, including community members, will design a solution that addresses the public safety building needs and meets with community approval.

Sean Connelly also commented that while he may feel strongly one way or another, his deference is to the community's choice. He cautioned that expectations should be set. A timeline of six months, for example, would be unrealistic. The Citizen's Committee charge should be clear. They can discuss theoretical solutions but if consultations or studies are needed, then more time is needed as well. He

also reminded the community that any solution should have longevity beyond our lifetimes. The solution should address not only today's needs but should forecast the community's needs well into the future to ensure that this investment serves those community members as well.

Rudy Marconi explained that much of the work of the past six years will still be available. It will be shared with the new committee to get them started. The committee will have seven to nine members. No board of selectpersons will be appointed to the citizens committee nor anyone who strongly favored a specific outcome. Open-mindedness will be critical to the success of this committee. The budget utilized thus far is \$420,000. The new committee will have to create a budget and submit a request to the Board of Selectpersons.

Citizens' Committee will:

- Study the work done and data gathered thus far to have a thorough understanding of how we got to this proposed Public Safety Building
- Meet with consultants (existing and/or new) and request additional studies
- Explore alternative solutions with the cost assumption of \$1000 per square foot; new design, building purchase, multiple buildings, one building with multiple stories, etc.
- Run community meetings and Charettes

A call for candidates will be made. Sean Connelly asked that candidates submit a statement describing the skill they would bring to the Citizens' Committee. Resumes are welcome but not required.

Sean Connelly motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:36 am. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 4-0 (Morris absent).