



**Town of Ridgefield**  
**Approved Board of Finance Meeting Minutes**  
**Tri-Board Meeting with Board of Selectpersons and Board of Education**  
Tuesday, November 18, 2025  
DRAFT Final  
(For additional information, please see Board of Finance Minutes)

**Call to order**

Mike Rettger called the Tri-Board meeting to order at 6:30 PM on November 18, 2025 in the Town Hall Annex Large Conference Room. Board of Finance Members Mike Rettger, Dave Ulmer, Greg Kabasakalian, Andrew Okrongly and Joe Shapiro present.

Others Present:

Board of Selectpersons: Rudy Marconi, First Selectperson; Maureen Kozlark; Sean Connelly.

Board of Education: Tina Malhotra, BOE Chair; Jonathan Paradiso, Sean McEvoy, Christine More, Wyatt Lipman, Rachel Marino, Kathryn Graf, Angela Rice, Scott Sigel.

Town Officials: Kevin Redmond, Controller.

RPS Staff: Dr. Susie Da Silva, Superintendent of Schools; Jill Browne, Director of Finance; Cory Gillette, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Elizabeth Hannaway, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education; Karen Dewing, Director of Personnel; Joe Morits, Director of Facilities.

Mr. Rettger noted that the Board of Finance has discussed how to approach the coming budget, and all members felt that it was important to offer specific guidance on its view for budget growth at the beginning for the planning process this year. After reviewing the potential range of outcomes, the consensus of the Board of Finance is that year-over-year operating budget changes should target a range of 2.50% and 3.00%, which would result in a mill rate change of 3.33% and 3.85%.

Mr. Rettger concluded his remarks with several slides showing the recent growth in capital budget requests compared with prior periods and with inflation.

**Board of Selectpersons Remarks**

Mr. Marconi spoke regarding the Town's budgets. He first explained that the BOS will be selecting a committee to discuss the long-term PD and FD building needs. He expressed concerns about the PD building condition and noted the impacts of addressing the most

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immediate of those concerns in next year's budget, such as basement-level flooding at the PD. He described in some detail the spending needs for the two buildings if there is not construction to replace the existing buildings.

Mr. Marconi discussed some details about the upcoming needs of the Town in its operating budgets. He noted that one contract has been settled and another is being negotiated, and he anticipated the increase at approximately 3%. He noted that the BOS will be looking at the senior tax credit recommendations and considering the effect of implementing all the recommendations on the time frame proposed as well as considering adopting changes in pieces.

Mr. Marconi then addressed short and medium term capital needs, identifying many specific items. He noted that there is a plan to completely rebuild Ridgebury Road, with a cost of over \$8 million. He explained state grants already obtained as well as additional state grants sought which if realized would total around \$7 million, in order to limit the impact on the taxpayers of Ridgefield.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. by Mr. Rettger, seconded by Mr. Okrongly. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Mia Belanger

***NOTE: This meeting was broadcast over the Town's live stream facility. A video copy of the full meeting can be accessed at the Meeting Videos page on the Town web site [ridgefieldct.gov](http://ridgefieldct.gov).***