



**Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectpersons Meeting Minutes
APPROVED**

November 19, 2025 at 6:30pm

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

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

Absent: Geoffrey Morris

Location: Town Hall, large conference room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT

Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

1. Public Comment - None

2. Veterans Exemption – Al Garzi, Tax Assessor was present

- He explained that a federal law provides a building property tax exemption for veterans with 100% military disability
- Ridgefield has 11 such veterans
- The law excludes the land tax but local option (or corresponding zone) would allow the BOS to extend the exemption to include the land, up to 2 acres.
- If included, the additional and tax exemption amounts to \$72,000 for the current 11 veterans
- Current veteran tax exemptions total \$132,000
- The BOS will consult Town Counsel to adopt an ordinance to limit the total exemptions to the median assessed valuation of residential real property.
- There will be a public hearing and a town meeting.

No action was taken.

3. New Arts Council charge

- The council proposed an update to the 2015 language and will provide a redlined draft for Town Counsel review.
- The BOS will schedule a public hearing and town meeting for approval of the ordinance change

No action was taken.

4. Appointments – Ridgefield Compassionate Committee

- The BOS interviewed most of the candidates at the last BOS meeting.
- Political party affiliation was confirmed, to be in compliance with statute.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to appoint Martha Evans Morris, Jennifer Tejada, Ezra Zimmerman, Robert Cascella, Margaret Rodgers, Shelly Fisher, and Carol Mahlstedt to the Ridgefield Compassionate Committee. Sean Connelly seconded. Motion carried 3-0-1 (Morris absent and Marconi abstained).

5. 2026 Meeting Calendar reviewed;

- a. BOS-Feb 28 deleted, Nov 11 and 25 changed to Nov 4 and 18
- b. Fire Commission-Feb 4 deleted
- c. Fair Rent Commission – one scheduled meeting

Sean Connelly motioned to approve the calendar as modified. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 4-0 (Morris absent).

6. Public Safety Building (PSB) Committee

- a. The BOS discussed and decided to hold public hearings prior to appointments to get input on committee composition and charge; set for December 3rd 7pm at Town hall, and 13th at the Annex at 10am.
- b. Charge
- c. Interview Schedule

Sean Connelly motioned to set two public hearings on December 3, 7pm, Town Hall, and December 13, 10am, Annex. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 4-0 (Morris absent).

7:29pm adjourned to Public Hearing.

8:21pm adjourned back to the BOS meeting.

7. Approval of November 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Sean Connelly asked to change Public Comment bullet 3 from board of supervisors to BOS, and in the line above that, add party after "...her."

Sean Connelly motioned to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2025 Board of Selectpersons Meeting, as modified. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 3-0-1 (Morris absent and Mannors abstained).

8. Selectpersons Report

Rudy Marconi reported that PURA rejected Eversource's sale of Aquarion to the Regional Water Authority. Water rate increases were projected to be 65% because the debt service was going to be passed on to the water customers. Zoom meeting to discuss next options will take place next week.

Rudy Marconi reported the '27 budget will ask for additional personnel on the Highway staff, but none on the Police, Fire, Parks and Recreation, but the challenge will be the capital budget. All costs have escalated substantially.

Rudy Marconi explained that the pending purchase of a new ladder truck is on hold pending the outcome of the public safety building. Either a custom truck is ordered to fit into an existing building or wait for the possibility of a new facility.

Maureen Kozlark asked if the BOS should consider footnoting the costs of a public safety building.

Barbara Manners motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:44pm. Sean Connelly seconded. Motion carried 4-0 (Morris absent).