



**Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectpersons Meeting
Minutes
UNAPPROVED
January 21, 2026 at 6:30pm
Veteran's Park School Auditorium, 8 Governors Street, Ridgefield, CT**

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

Present: Sean Connelly, Maureen Kozlark, Rudy Marconi, Geoffrey Morris

Absent: Barbara Manners

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

1. **Public Comment** - None
2. **Appointments and Reappointments** – all appointees are reminded that while they can attend their committee meetings, they must be sworn in by the town clerk before they can vote.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to add the reappointment of John Murren to this item. Geoffrey Morris seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

- a. Building Code Board of Appeals
 - i. John Murren (reappointment)
 - ii. Peter Coffin (reappointment) expressed that this committee only meets when called to hear an appeal and there have only been two appeals in recent years. Sean Connelly asked if there are ever any conflicts of interest. Mr. Coffin explained that one of the recent appeals required his recusal because he was involved with the project.
 - iii. Jason Celestino, Building Official (reappointment) - must be reappointed every four years. Building fees are reviewed annually and remain consistently mid-range comparatively with other communities. The last increase was in 2018.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to reappoint John Murren and Peter Coffin to the Building Code Board of Appeals. Sean Connelly seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to reappoint Jason Celestino as the Building Official. Geoffrey Morris seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

b. Economic Community Development Commission

- i. David Perlmutter (Appointment)-Mr. Perlmutter introduced himself sharing that he has been a resident of Ridgefield since 2019. Sean Connelly asked what talents he brings to the ECDC. Mr. Perlmutter shared that he will contribute his networking and commercial real estate expertise. Geoffrey Morris asked how to bring more businesses to town which would expand the Grand List. Mr. Perlmutter shared his ideas and thoughts on ECDC discussions. Rudy Marconi asked if the ECDC has looked at the impact of zoning regulations on potential businesses moving to Ridgefield.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to reappoint David Perlmutter to the ECDC. Sean Connelly seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

c. Board of Ethics

- i. Robert Rotolo (appointment alternate)-long-time resident of Ridgefield. Recently retired and has vast experience dealing with ethics. Maureen Kozlark shared that she has known him for a very long time and he is fair-minded and level-headed individual. Sean Connelly asked what criteria he would use to evaluate any issue. Mr. Rotolo explained that any issue requires investigation, listening, and collaboration.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to appoint Robert Rotolo as an alternate on the Board of Ethics. Geoffrey Morris seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

3. Police and Fire Facilities Committee (Public Safety Facility Committee)

- a. Appointment of committee-Rudy Marconi summarized the process by which the BOS arrived at the seven candidates to be appointed. One, Adam Safir, is traveling. Six are in attendance; Stephen Scalzo, Pamela Dunaway, Dennis Graves, Ed Tyrrell, Wally Martinez, and David Brickley. The board selected experts of different fields covering areas such as marketing, construction management, emergency services logistics, and legal. Sean Connelly thanked the fifty applicants and the fifteen candidates who were interviewed. Maureen Kozlark added her appreciation and remarked that key criteria were no preconceived or predetermined opinions and a willingness to meet regularly in order to meet benchmarks and timelines so that this project moves forward efficiently. Geoffrey Morris commented that he was impressed by the applicants and grateful for the high level and wide-ranging expertise of all the candidates. Sean Connelly added that the committee meetings will be broadcast and minutes made available. The committee discussions will be transparent to ensure the community is aware and informed along the way. Rudy Marconi added that there should not be a spirit of competition for financing of capital projects among the different agencies. He also asked the new committee to be prepared to meet soon to determine meeting frequency and set the meeting schedule for the year.

Sean Connelly motioned to appoint Adam Safir, Stephen Scalzo, Pamela Dunaway, Dennis Graves, Ed Tyrrell, Wally Martinez, and David Brickley to the Police and Fire Facilities Committee (Public Safety Facility Committee), motion amended by Geoffrey

Morris to correct committee name and approved by motion maker. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

- b. Approval of committee charge – Geoffrey Morris stated that while the charge has been reviewed, the BOS also wants to acknowledge the goal of having a proposal on the November ballot. To that end, they want to set a benchmark date of March 31 to receive an update from the new committee with their procedures, communications strategy, and site evaluations. Three to five proposals for site locations including pros and cons will be anticipated on June 30. Final details, cost estimates, and schedule will be presented on September 15. Maureen Kozlark added that all municipal properties will be considered and throughout the process, the new committee must ensure discussion and decisions without prejudice. The charge was read aloud by Geoffrey Morris. Sean Connelly added to item six that the committee presentation should be to the BOS *and* the Fire Commission and Police Commission. He also suggested the committee be clear that public input should be sought throughout the process.

Geoffrey Morris motioned to approve the charge as amended here and the timeline presented for the Police and Fire Facilities Committee (Public Safety Facility Committee). Sean Connelly seconded. Public comment by Pamela Dunaway, 19 Pond Road, that understanding the public sentiment will be a criteria for the new committee. Ralph Money, 120 Prospect Street, asked that charge item one include 911 dispatch and Emergency operations. The BOS agreed to amend the motion. He asked the needs assessment should be completed by March 18 and the site evaluations by May 26. The BOS felt that the committee will already have the authority to meet deadlines sooner. Sharon Dornfeld, Chair of the Police Commission, added that with regard to item 5, no financial data can be accurately sought until plans are set. But Rudy Marconi stated that the committee can report that back to the BOS for date modifications. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm to hold the Town Meeting to vote on a new Historic District.

BOS meeting back in session at 8:30pm

4. **Pension Committee Report** – Chris Christiansen summarized his written report and addressed BOS questions and public comments.
5. **Form of Government discussion** – Rudy Marconi summarized the major points of the report. Then, the BOS discussed theoretical town administrator salary, job description, division of duties between the first selectperson and the town administrator, and public hearings to avoid the spread of misinformation.
6. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - a. **December 30, 2025 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectpersons**
Sean Connelly made corrections.

Sean Connelly motioned to approve the minutes from the December 30, 2025 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectpersons, as amended. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

b. January 7, 2026 Public Hearing

Maureen Kozlark made one correction.

Geoffrey Morris motioned to approve the minutes from the January 7, 2026 Public Hearing, as amended. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

c. January 7, 2026 Meeting of the Board of Selectpersons

Sean Connelly made corrections.

Sean Connelly motioned to approve the minutes from the January 7, 2026 Board of Selectpersons Meeting, as amended. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

d. January 10, 2026 Special Meeting, Executive Session, of the Board of Selectpersons

Maureen Kozlark, Sean Connelly, and Geoffrey Morris made corrections.

Sean Connelly motioned to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2026 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectpersons, as amended. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

7. Selectpersons Report

Mr. Marconi reported that he discussed long-term projections with the Board of Finance and the need to prioritize town needs without a sense of competing interests between agencies.

Mr. Marconi shared a real estate report showing sales.

Mr. Marconi asked the board for support to approve a purchase order for the rec center. They sought three bids but want approval to select the middle bid which was provided by a contractor who is currently on site doing other work.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to add approval of a non-conforming bid to the agenda. Seconded by Sean Connelly. Motion carried 4-0.

Sean Connelly motioned to allow the exception of approving a non-conforming bid as presented. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:07pm. Sean Connelly seconded. Motion carried 4-0.