



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

April 8, 2026 at 6:30pm

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, Geoffrey Morris

Absent: None

Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to hold an executive session after this meeting to discuss litigation regarding an ethics complaint and a land purchase on Main Street. Seconded by Barbara Manners. Motion carried 5-0.

1. Public Comment

None.

2. Appointments and Reappointments

a. Don Ciota, Maureen Culhane – Commission for Accessibility Reappointment

Both were present. Topics discussed included:

- Mr. Ciota expressed appreciation for the BOS support. He explained that the commission stays apprised of laws and requirements for accessibility to support the town with compliance and works closely with Tony Phillips, Ridgefield's Municipal Agent for the Disabled.
- He read a statement from the commission requesting an honorary award for service to Michael Londrigan for his diplomatic education of the community businesses and landlords regarding the Americans With Disabilities Act and other disability laws and compliance. These laws weren't intended to bankrupt businesses, and Mr. Londrigan led with kindness as he helped the Town of Ridgefield comply with accessibility for all townspeople.
- Maureen Culhane shared that this commission is working closely with the Commission on Aging. Together, they have researched and learned what Ridgefield seniors need.

- She added that she supports this commission through her service on the Commission on Aging by supporting any common objectives.

Barbara Manners motioned to reappoint Don Ciota and Maureen Culhane to the Commission for Accessibility. Sean Connelly seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

b. Chris Nolan, Maureen Culhane – Commission on Aging Reappointments

Both were present. Topics discussed included:

- Co-Chair Patty Yaffa shared that she is grateful and proud of the work of Co-Chair Chris Nolan and the joint service of Maureen Culhane on this and the Commission for Accessibility, which has proven to be an advantage to both.
- Ms. Nolan shared that the commission is expanding their outreach to include more communications. They recognize that personally attending information sessions is not always an option for many seniors, so digital meeting access is being offered. They work with the ECDC to announce commission events. They are working toward an e-newsletter. The Senior Gold Card has been very successful as well. They have also encouraged the seniors to register their email addresses to receive information from the town's Public Safety Facilities Committee and be informed voters.
- Ms. Culhane and Patty Yaffa shared that this commission works with other senior support organizations such as Commission for Accessibility, ECDC, Meals on Wheels, RVNA, Ridgefield Library, Rides for Ridgefield, and Parks and Recreation.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to reappoint Maureen Culhane and Chris Nolan to the Commission on Aging. Geoffrey Morris seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Ridgefield Operation for Animal Rescue, Inc. (ROAR) land Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- ROAR requests approval to create a pet memorial at the site of the Ligi Way Vista Kiosk.
- Rudy Marconi read the MOU defining the purpose, scope of collaboration between ROAR and the town, roles and responsibilities, and terms.

Sean Connelly motioned to support ROAR's pet memorial memorandum of understanding. Barbara Manners seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Approval for Ridgefield Volunteer Fire Department Gasoline

Rudy Marconi presented Volunteer Firefighters Captain Fred Fields' request for gasoline reimbursement for the volunteers. These have been submitted before. The volunteers track their individually purchased gasoline used for service to the town and at a convenient opportunity for all of them, they go to the town gasoline supply to receive a reimbursement supply of gasoline.

Geoffrey Morris motioned to approve the volunteer fire department request for reimbursement. Barbara Manners seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Approval of Ballot Questions

Sean Connelly motioned to waive the reading of the ballot questions aloud. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Geoffrey Morris introduced and read the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That The Recommendation Of The Board Of Finance Relative To The Appropriation Of \$55,096,440 For Town Expenditures (Consisting Of Town Operating Expenditures Of \$46,227,045 And Debt Service Of \$8,869,395 On Both Town And Education Capital Projects) For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2026 And Ending June 30, 2027, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

Geoffrey Morris moved that said resolution be adopted as introduced and read. The motion was seconded by Maureen Kozlark. Upon roll call vote the ayes and nays were as follows: AYES 5 NAYS 0. Geoffrey Morris thereupon declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted.

Maureen Kozlark introduced and read the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That The Recommendation Of The Board Of Finance Relative To The Appropriation Of \$123,800,000 For Board Of Education Expenditures For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2026 And Ending June 30, 2027, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

Maureen Kozlark moved that said resolution be adopted as introduced and read. The motion was seconded by Rudy Marconi. Upon roll call vote the ayes and nays were as follows: AYES 5 NAYS 0. Maureen Kozlark thereupon declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted.

Rudy Marconi introduced and read the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That The Recommendation Of The Board Of Finance Relative To The Appropriation Of \$2,246,900 For The Planning, Design And Construction Of Various Town Road And ADA Improvements For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2026 And Ending June 30, 2027, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

Rudy Marconi moved that said resolution be adopted as introduced and read and the motion was seconded by Barbara Manners. Upon roll call vote the ayes and nays were as follows: AYES 5 NAYS 0. Rudy Marconi thereupon declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted.

Barbara Manners introduced and read the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$240,000 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Highway Dump Truck With Plow, \$241,600 For The Design And Acquisition Of A John Deere Loader, \$500,000 For The Planning, Design And Construction of Tertiary Roads, \$235,000 For The Planning, Design And Construction Of Sidewalk Improvements, \$350,800 For The Planning, Design And Construction Of Canterbury Lane Headwall Replacement, And \$189,000 For The Planning, Design And Construction Of Laurel Hill Drainage and Paving; And

Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,136,291 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes (Provided That The Bonds Shall Be Reduced By The Amount Of Any Grants Received For Such Purposes, Which Are Anticipated To Be \$235,000 For Sidewalk Improvements, \$280,640 For Canterbury Lane Headwall Replacement and \$189,000 for Laurel Hill Assessment/Reimbursement)", a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

Barbara Manners moved that said resolution be adopted as introduced and read and the motion was seconded by Sean Connelly. Upon roll call vote the ayes and nays were as follows: AYES 5 NAYS 0. Barbara Manners thereupon declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted.

Sean Connelly introduced and read the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$135,632 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Parks And Recreation Dump Truck With Plow, \$125,350 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Leaf Loader, \$187,500 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Golf Tee Box Renovations, \$310,654 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Pickleball Courts, \$250,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Recreation Center Playground Replacement, \$670,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Tiger Hollow 2 Field Replacement, And \$103,295 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Barlow Pool Renovations; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,782,431 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes (Provided That The Bonds Shall Be Reduced By The Amount Of Any Grants Received For Such Purposes, Which Are Anticipated To Be \$310,000 For Pickleball Courts)", a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

Sean Connelly moved that said resolution be adopted as introduced and read and the motion was seconded by Geoffrey Morris. Upon roll call vote the ayes and nays were as follows: AYES 5 NAYS 0. Sean Connelly thereupon declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted.

Geoffrey Morris introduced and read the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$362,069 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Recreation Center HVAC Replacements, \$457,729 For The Design And Acquisition Of Fire Department SCBA Bottles And Air Packs, \$411,483 For The Design And Acquisition Of An Ambulance Replacement, \$200,000 For the Planning, Design, Acquisition and Construction Of Town Hall Air Duct Replacement, \$225,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of High School Student Sidewalk Entry Replacement, \$235,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Elementary School ADA Playground Upgrades, And \$147,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Recycling Center Floor Replacement And Paving; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$2,038,281 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes (Provided That The Bonds Shall Be Reduced By The Amount Of Any Grants Received For Such Purposes, Which Are Anticipated To Be \$147,000 For

Recycling Center Floor Replacement And Paving)”, a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

Geoffrey Morris moved that said resolution be adopted as introduced and read and the motion was seconded by Maureen Kozlark. Upon roll call vote the ayes and nays were as follows: AYES 5 NAYS 0. Geoffrey Morris thereupon declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted.

Maureen Kozlark introduced and read the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled “Resolution Appropriating \$4,000,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Ridgebury Road Drainage Improvements And Paving; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$4,000,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes (Provided That The Bonds Shall Be Reduced By The Amount Of Any Grants Received For Such Purposes, Which Are Anticipated To Be \$4,000,000)”, a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

Maureen Kozlark moved that said resolution be adopted as introduced and read and the motion was seconded by Rudy Marconi. Upon roll call vote the ayes and nays were as follows: AYES 5 NAYS 0. Maureen Kozlark thereupon declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted.

Rudy Marconi introduced and read the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled “Resolution Appropriating \$135,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Fire Department Decontamination Showers, \$125,000 For The Planning, Design And Acquisition Of A Public Safety Facilities Committee Study, \$287,050 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Police Department Roof Replacement At Headquarters And Garage, \$306,600 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Fire Department Roof Replacement At Headquarters, And \$990,115 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Police Department Communications Relocation; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,843,765 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes”, a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

Rudy Marconi moved that said resolution be adopted as introduced and read and the motion was seconded by Barbara Manners. Upon roll call vote the ayes and nays were as follows: AYES 5 NAYS 0. Rudy Marconi thereupon declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted.

Barbara Manners introduced and read the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled “Resolution Appropriating \$706,992 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of High School LED Upgrades, \$243,819 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Scotts Ridge Elementary School Visual Performing Arts

Equipment/Infrastructure, \$318,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Barlow Mountain Elementary School Vertical Unit Ventilator Replacement, \$233,230 For the Planning, Design, Acquisition and Construction Of High School Direct Expansion/Heat Pumps, \$365,340 For The Planning, Design And Acquisition Of District Wide Network Infrastructure Upgrades/Replacements, \$234,000 For The Planning, Design And Acquisition Of District Wide Security Server Replacements, And \$139,050 For The Planning, Design And Acquisition Of District Wide LPR Cameras/Upgrade Legacy Cameras; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$2,240,431 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes (Provided That The Bonds Shall Be Reduced By The Amount Of Any Grants Received, And Reimbursements For Such Purposes, Which Are Anticipated To Be \$321,505 For Eversource Rebates For The High School LED Upgrades)", a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

Barbara Manners moved that said resolution be adopted as introduced and read and the motion was seconded by Sean Connelly. Upon roll call vote the ayes and nays were as follows: AYES 5 NAYS 0. Barbara Manners thereupon declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted.

Sean Connelly introduced and read the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled "Resolution Making Appropriations Aggregating \$2,233,002 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition, Installation And Construction Of Various Public Improvements And Equipment; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$2,233,002 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes", a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town by Town Meeting vote.

Sean Connelly moved that said resolution be adopted as introduced and read and the motion was seconded by Geoffrey Morris. Upon roll call vote the ayes and nays were as follows: AYES 5 NAYS 0. Sean Connelly thereupon declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted.

Sean Connelly motioned that Rudy Marconi be authorized to call an Annual Town Meeting for May 4, 2026, at 7:30pm at the Ridgefield Playhouse, 80 East Ridge Road, Ridgefield, Connecticut, for the purpose of a town vote on the resolutions here approved. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Barbara Manners motioned to approve the written communication signed by Rudy Marconi to the Ridgefield votes with the resolution language. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

- 6. Discuss and approve Radio Ridgefield Broadcaster Guidelines and Code of Conduct**
Geoffrey Morris received and edited the draft document describing the mission, broadcaster responsibility, prohibited content, standards for discussion, editorial authority, and acknowledgement. He added a section for a three-member community advisory board to ensure

guideline compliance. Upon BOS approval, the document will be returned to the radio station agent for approval.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to approve the Radio Ridgefield Broadcaster Guidelines and Code of Conduct. Barbara Manners seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

7. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. March 18, 2026 BOS Meeting

Sean Connelly corrected "TOR" in the Selectperson Report to read Town of Ridgefield. Geoffrey Morris noted that Tina Malhotra was not in attendance but reappointment.

Sean Connelly motioned to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2026 Board of Selectpersons Meeting, as amended. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

b. March 26, 2026 BOS Executive Session

Sean Connelly added a missing name.

Sean Connelly motioned to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2026 Board of Selectpersons Executive Session, as amended. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

c. April 1, 2026 BOS Special Meeting

Sean Connelly noted on page 2, under AV Equipment Upgrade discussion, that the AV equipment was installed when the Library was renovated, not built.

Mr. Connelly noted on page 3, under the ECDC discussion, "the landlord has agreed."

Mr. Connelly also noted on page 3, the alley "south of Botanika Café and Baja Cucina."

Maureen Kozlark motioned to approve the minutes from the April 1, 2026 Board of Selectpersons Special Meeting, as amended. Geoffrey Morris seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1 (Manners abstained).

8. Selectpersons Report

Rudy Marconi reported that a town-owned building on Route 7 has a 501C3 interested to purchase it. The buyer will purchase if he is approved for the tax deduction.

Revenues are good with YTD 79% tax collection rate; Parks and Recreation is projected 175% but total membership is reaching a plateau.

He shared a real estate report. Average sale price \$1.184 million.

John Zagrodsky and Matt Knickerbocker will meet with the BOS on April 22nd at 5pm before the BOS meeting that day.

Small Business Administration presented an award to Megan Searfoss of Ridgefield Running Company. There will be a ceremony on April 16th at the store.

Nod Hill Brewery would like to have more than one food truck on site. Meeting minutes show that they could have more than one truck. The BOS discussed the language of the ordinance which could be interpreted to allow an unlimited number of food trucks.

Sean Connelly motioned to adjourn the meeting to an executive session at 8:17pm to discuss a pending ethics complaint, Main Street land purchase, and a lawsuit regarding an accident allegedly due to a hickory nut falling from a tree. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

At 8:17pm the board moved to Executive Session.

The board return to public at 9:15pm

No vote was taken

Maureen Kozlark moved to adjourn meeting. Sean Connelly seconded, Motion carries 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:16pm.