Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectpersons Meeting
Minutes
APPROVED
October 7, 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 6:30 pm.

1. **Public Comment**
   Carol Marks, 47 Fairview Ave, corrected misinformation stated during the leaf blower discussion. She said that landscapers don't need portable generators. She spoke to several landscapers who are fully or mostly electric and they have batteries that last up to five hours. She added that friends in neighboring towns that have instituted Quiet Summer regulations are very happy.

   Susan Betterly, 28 Fairview Ave, stated that she researched landscaper organizations and found one with over 100,000 landscaper members. This entity has an article on its website addressing the benefits of battery-powered equipment. She shared a list of towns in Westchester and Connecticut that have implemented the new regulations, and she thinks no one has gone out of business.

   Coco Barron 51 Prospect Ridge, asked the board to address maintenance needs at 51 Prospect Ridge as she believes they've supported the tenants at Ballard Green. Rudy Marconi will reach out.

   Chuck Hancock, 480 North Street, commented that at the August 27 meeting the board gave certain instructions to the Public Safety Facilities Committee to further study one option. But at the committee meeting he heard the committee describe their charge to include further study of three other options as well. He questioned the need to spend resources on those additional options. He concluded by stressing the importance of the BOS representing the interest of the community, which in his opinion, is keeping the cost at $50 million.

2. **Appointments and Reappointments - Bob Knight – ECDC Reappointment**
   Rudy Marconi stated that Bob Knight is not present but would like to serve another term. He presented a comprehensive letter to the BOS describing his work and objectives.

Geoffrey Morris motioned to reappoint Bob Knight to the ECDC. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

3. 250 Committee

Co-Chair Pamela Jones read a letter to the BOS summarizing their two-year efforts culminating with the July 4, 2026 celebrations. She thanked the BOS, the community, and all the volunteers who contributed. She especially thanked her fellow committee members; Co-chair Stephanie Heering, Renee Brown-Cheng, James Carone, Sara Champion, Louzette Dovaras, Dawn Fawcett, Deborah Rundlett, and Hildi Grob. They submitted funds totaling $26,486.56 with the hope it is used for Ridgefield's Museum in the Streets. They also presented several documents to be archived by the town for future reference; a printed version of the website, the town proclamation, and the committee's letter. They also have many digital photos archived online for one more year to be moved to a town repository once it is established. They will now remove the committee from the Friends of Ridgefield umbrella. The BOS will explore the Museum in the Streets needs. Jim Carone also thanked Geoffrey Morris for his work on this committee before he joined the BOS.

4. Ridgefield Public Schools Request

Rudy Marconi read aloud a letter from Dr. Susie Da Silva, Schools Superintendent, on behalf of the Board of Education, in which they request that the town acquire and provide facilities for the town's pre-kindergarten program. The BOS acknowledged receipt of the letter. Rudy Marconi is exploring options and will present them to the BOS at a later date. Maureen Kozlark asked that current spaces in school buildings be considered as potential solutions considering the trend of decreasing enrollment. Goeffrey Morris and Sean Connelly stated that more information will be necessary for the BOS to understand the specifications and needs of what is being requested.

Mike Rettger, Board of Finance Chair, added that Dr. Da Silva has more information prepared.

5. Charter Revision Discussion

The town charter calls for another revision process to begin by October 2027. Town Counsel reminded the BOS that charter revisions can be made via the town meeting. If a charter revision commission is to be appointed, it is wise to begin the call for candidates and interviews. The BOS agreed to begin the process.

6. Public Safety Facilities Committee Charge and Approval

Jake Muller, Director of Public Works, shared an email with the BOS explaining draft charter questions from the PSFC. He shared that the committee wanted clarity on the level of research needed for the Katoonah Street building. Geoffrey Morris explained that there should be sufficient research to show the public whether the property is a viable solution. Sean Connelly suggested clarification that funds not be spent for KBA work if committee work can show the property is not a viable solution. Maureen Kozlark added that due diligence for each option is needed to show the community that all possibilities were explored. The committee also requested confirmation of their understanding of the other options; combined facility at 217 with no assumptions for adjacent parcels, 217 for stand-alone FD or stand-alone PD, 76 PD with renovation and potential addition, and PD (no FD) at Old Quarry. KBA will provide a timeline to the PSFC at the next committee meeting, Wednesday October 14. The BOS finalized the Public Safety Facilities Committee charge; RFD at Danbury Road and RPD at Quarry Ridge.

Chuck Hancock, 40 North Street, is distressed that the Schlumberger property is being considered as the 2016 report showed to be the public's desires. Ralph Money, Board of Police Commissioners, appreciated the clarity with the amended charge.

Geoffrey Morris motioned to approve the amended charge for the Public Safety Facilities Committee. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

7. Refunds

The refund proposed, $47,675.94, includes a large amount to Toyota, $23,732.20, which requires further understanding. Therefore, this item is tabled.

8. Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 16, 2026 BOS Meeting

Sean Connelly motioned to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2026 Board of Selectpersons Meeting, as presented. Geoffrey Morris seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1, with Barbara Manners abstaining.

9. Selectpersons Report

HR Director, Laurie Fernandez, submitted a second draft of the town administrator job description to the BOS incorporating comments from Maureen Kozlark and Geoffrey Morris. The BOS will review and then it will be posted.

The Golf Pro and Golf Committee requested a contract extension for the golf pro to March 2027 but he will then exit. BOS will request Town Counsel to draft a contract amendment for BOS approval.

Leaf Blower Ordinance draft language is under review for BOS approval at the October 21 meeting.

HR Director, Laurie Fernandez, will update the BOS on all new state mandated policy changes for town employees.

Geoffrey Morris acknowledged the passing of former Charter Revision Commission member Jonathan Seem.

Maureen Kozlark suggested that an ordinance for election signs appropriateness be considered.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:11pm. Sean Connelly seconded. Motion carried 5-0.