

Town of Ridgefield Annual Town Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2026 – 7:30 pm
Ridgefield Playhouse, 80 East Ridge Road, Ridgefield

NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD, CONNECTICUT
MAY 4, 2026

RECEIVED
APR 23 2026
4:21 PM
Wendy J. Smith
BY TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RIDGEFIELD CT

Electors and persons qualified to vote at Town Meetings of the Town of Ridgefield are hereby duly notified and warned that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, May 4, 2026 at 7:30 P.M. (E.T.) at the Ridgefield Playhouse, 80 East Ridge Road, Ridgefield, Connecticut, for the following purposes:

1. To consider recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to appropriations for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027:

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): \$55,096,440

2. To consider recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to appropriations for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027:

Board of Education Expenditures: \$123,800,000

3. To consider recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to appropriations for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027:

Planning, design and construction of various Town road and ADA improvements: \$2,246,900

4. To consider a 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 \$1,756,400 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).

5. To consider a 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).

6. To consider a 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).

7. To consider a 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).

8. To consider a 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.

9. To consider a 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); 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.

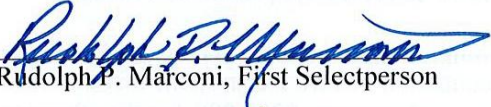
Items 1 through 9 on the call of the Annual Town Meeting will be voted upon by a referendum vote on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 between the hours of 6:00 o'clock A.M. and 8:00 o'clock P.M. (E.T.) at Yanity Gym, 60 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut, in accordance with the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and pursuant to Section 10-1 of the Town Charter.

10. To consider and vote upon a 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".

11. To transact any other business proper to come before the meeting.

Copies of the Town budget and the proposed bond resolutions are on file and open to public inspection at the office of the Town Clerk.

Dated at Ridgefield, Connecticut this 23rd day of April, 2026.


Rudolph P. Marconi, First Selectperson

RETURN OF NOTICE

RECEIVED
@ 8:16am
MAY 12 2026
Wendy Gannon Lionetti
BY TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RIDGEFIELD CT

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on April 23, 2026, I left a duplicate of the attached warning and notice of the Annual Meeting of the Town of Ridgefield, Connecticut, with Wendy Gannon Lionetti, its Town Clerk.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I caused a copy of said warning and notice to be published in The Ridgefield Press, a newspaper having a general and substantial circulation in said Town, on April 16, 2026.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that on April 23, 2026, I caused to be set upon the signpost or other exterior place nearest the office of the Town Clerk and at all other places and signposts designated by the Town a written copy of said warning and notice signed by the Town Clerk.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that all of the above acts were done at least five days before the holding of said Annual Town Meeting on May 4, 2026.


Rudy Marconi, First Selectperson

The meeting was called to order by First Selectperson Rudy Marconi at 7:33 pm. A total of 75 registered voters and 14 non-voting attendees were present. After recitation of the Pledge of allegiance, Sharon Wicks Dornfeld was chosen and acted as Moderator.

The Town Clerk provided the Notice of the meeting and stated that said Notice signed by the Board of Selectpersons had been posted in the office of the Town Clerk on April 23, 2026, and that a copy thereof had been published in The Ridgefield Press, a newspaper of general circulation in said Town, in its issue of April 16, 2026.

Tom McManus, 310 West Lane, moved and Christine More, 63 Scott Ridge Road, seconded the motion to waive the reading of the Notice. Motion carried unanimously.

The Moderator then explained that in accordance with Section 10-3 of the Town Charter Items 1 through 8 on the call of the Annual Town Meeting would be voted upon at a referendum to be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026.

The Moderator further stated that in accordance with Section 7-6 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, only an elector of the Town or a citizen of the United States of the age of eighteen years or more who, jointly or severally, was liable to the Town for taxes assessed against him based on an assessment of not less than \$1,000 on the last completed grand list of the Town or who would have been so liable if not entitled to an exemption as a blind person or as a veteran or as a parent or surviving spouse of a veteran will be entitled to vote. Absentee ballots shall be available as provided by law at the Town Clerk's office during business hours.

Selectperson Sean Connelly moved and Selectperson Maureen Kozlark seconded the motion to waive the reading of the letters from the First Selectperson and the Board of Finance Chair. Motion carried unanimously. Following are both letters:



TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD
Office of the First Selectperson

April 8, 2026



To the Legal Voters of the
Town of Ridgefield:

At a meeting of the Board of Selectpersons held April 8, 2026, the following resolutions were adopted to be voted upon by a referendum vote on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 between the hours of 6:00 o'clock A.M. and 8:00 o'clock P.M. (E.T.) at Yanity Gym, 60 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut:

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.

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.

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.

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 \$1,756,400 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

In addition, at said meeting, the Board of Selectpersons adopted the following resolution to be voted upon at the Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 4, 2026 at 7:30 P.M. (E.T.) at the Ridgefield Playhouse, 80 East Ridge Road, Ridgefield, Connecticut:

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.

Very truly yours,


Rudolph P. Marconi
First Selectperson

**Town of Ridgefield
Board of Finance**

RECEIVED
@ 5:13 PM
APR 09 2026
Weidinger James J. Honetti
BY TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RIDGEFIELD CT

April 9, 2026

To the Legal Voters of the
Town of Ridgefield:

At a meeting of the Board of Finance held April 9, 2026, the following resolutions were adopted to be voted upon by a referendum vote on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 between the hours of 6:00 o'clock A.M. and 8:00 o'clock P.M. (E.T.) at Yanity Gym, 60 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut:

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.

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.

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.

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 \$1,756,400 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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In addition, at said meeting, the Board of Finance adopted the following resolution to be voted upon at the Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 4, 2026 at 7:30 P.M. (E.T.) at the Ridgefield Playhouse, 80 East Ridge Road, Ridgefield, Connecticut:

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.

Very truly yours,



Chairman
Board of Finance

The Moderator then introduced the First Selectperson to present the Town budget:

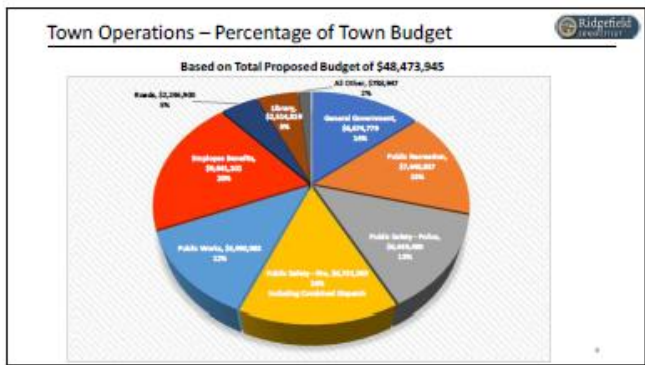


| Expenditures | 2026 | 2027 | \$ Change | % Change |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|----------|
| Town Operations | \$ 32,452,000 | \$ 33,555,381 | \$ 1,103,381 | 3.42% |
| School Buildings & Grounds | 705,894 | 748,955 | 43,061 | 6.10% |
| Utilities | 2,370,275 | 2,281,807 | (88,468) | -3.74% |
| Employee Benefits | 9,405,850 | 9,841,102 | 235,252 | 2.50% |
| Subtotal | 44,934,019 | 46,227,245 | 1,293,226 | 2.88% |
| Roads/ADA Infrastructure | 2,147,250 | 2,248,900 | 99,650 | 4.64% |
| Total Town | \$ 47,081,269 | \$ 48,476,145 | \$ 1,394,876 | 2.96% |

Overall, town expenditures are budgeted to increase by \$1,393K or 2.96%.

Town Operations – Components of Increase

| Town Operations | School Buildings & Grounds | Utilities, Heat, Vehicle Fuel | Employee Benefits | Roads ADA Infrastructure |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Salary / Outsourcing | \$672,845 | | Medical / Dental | \$285,040 |
| Social Services – Emergency Fund | 10,000 | | Pension | (107,470) |
| Fire – OSHA, Meal Supp & Training | 21,000 | | OPER – GASB 45 | (5,000) |
| Central Admin Telephones | 45,000 | | Social Security / Medicare | 50,840 |
| Community Grants-Regional Trail | 45,429 | | Worker's Comp/Unemployment Ins | (47,907) |
| Building Maint | 27,881 | | Health Offsets | 1,591 |
| Vehicle Maint / Drivers | 46,226 | | Debt/Contributions | 83,227 |
| Riv Center – Program Costs | 45,100 | | Compressed Air/Noise | 5,149 |
| Legal | 15,000 | | | |
| Golf & Recreation Ground Care | 47,460 | | | |
| Library | 86,211 | | | |
| All Other | 20,266 | | | |
| Total | \$1,183,381 | \$43,081 | (\$65,882) | \$239,201 |
| Town Grand Total \$1,382,676 | | | | |

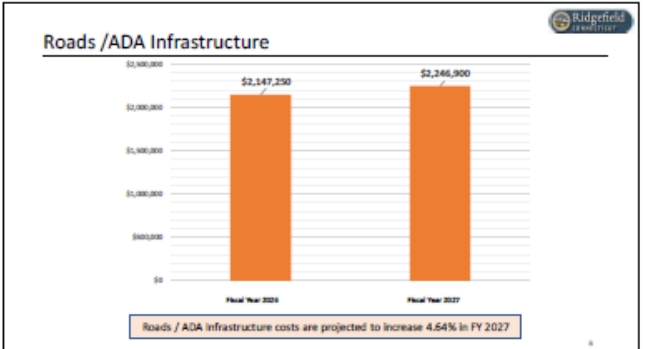
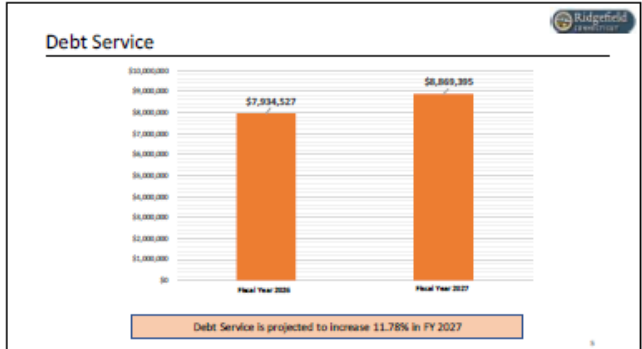


Capital – Public Recreation

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Golf | \$95,000 |
| Range Hut Replacement with Tee Work | 107,000 |
| Phase 2 Tee Box Renovations (Holes #11 and #15) | 12,000 |
| Tee-Behind Blower | 30,000 |
| Utility Cuts | |
| Parks & Recreation | |
| One Ton Pickup Truck & PLOW | 72,417 |
| Two 1/2 Dump Truck & PLOW | 136,632 |
| Mowers - 2x with Trailer | 49,050 |
| Field Conditioner with Trailer | 81,814 |
| Field Conditioner Attachments - 2x | 27,046 |
| Leaf Loader | 125,000 |
| Electric Cart | 17,000 |
| Trash PLOW | 21,034 |
| ADA Maint / Compliance (Riv Center & Golf Park) | 40,700 |
| Barber Shop Renovations | 133,206 |
| Parks, Fields & School Grounds - Fencing - VHS/Rate | 87,117 |
| Recreation Center - Wellness Design Phase | 27,786 |
| Recreation Center - Diner / Elevator Parking | 77,130 |
| Field Irrigator - Design Phase RIVS Upper Field | 16,000 |
| Multi-Track - Strategic Design | 16,000 |
| Recreation Center - Playground Replacement | 230,000 |
| Recreation Center - HVAC Replacements | 260,000 |
| Rickshaw Courts - Final Phase (Amount is Net of \$20K State Grant) | 654 |
| Tiger Hollow | |
| Tiger Hollow 2 Field Replacement | 675,000 |
| Total | \$2,438,562 |

Capital – Public Safety

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Police Department | |
| Police System | \$15,840 |
| Fire Department | |
| Fire Protective Gear-15x | 90,120 |
| Radio Equipment | 50,022 |
| Cardiac Monitor | 54,996 |
| SCBA Batches (10x) and Air Packs (20x) | 457,728 |
| Ambulance Replacement | 411,453 |
| Emergency Communications Center | |
| Digital Emergency Protocols | 40,000 |
| ICM Switching W/911 | 12,000 |
| Total | \$1,150,150 |



Capital – Public Works

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Highway Department | |
| Freightliner Dump Truck with PLOW | \$240,000 |
| John Deere Loader | 241,800 |
| Guardrail Replacements | 40,000 |
| Tertiary Road Paving | 500,000 |
| Total | \$1,021,800 |

Capital – Engineer

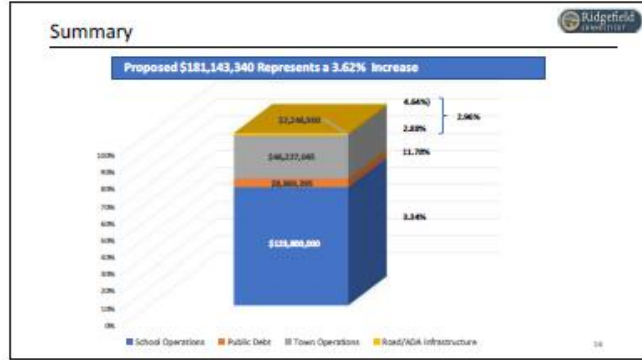
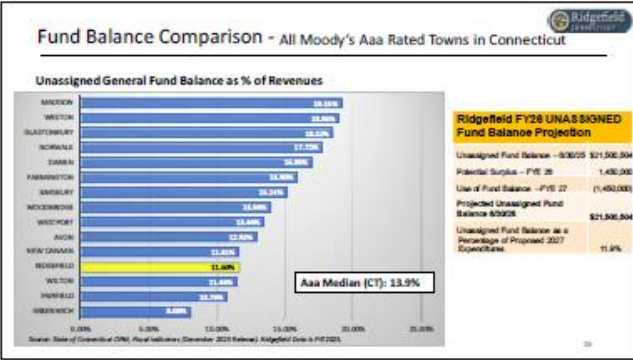
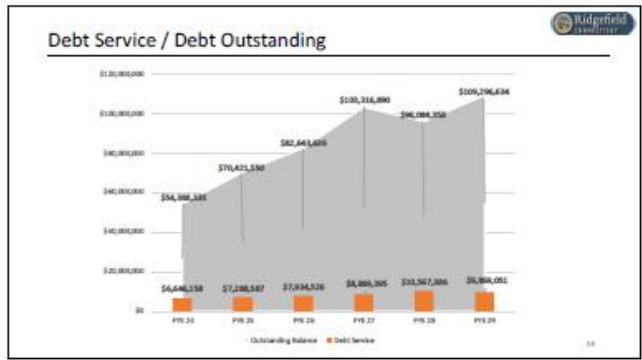
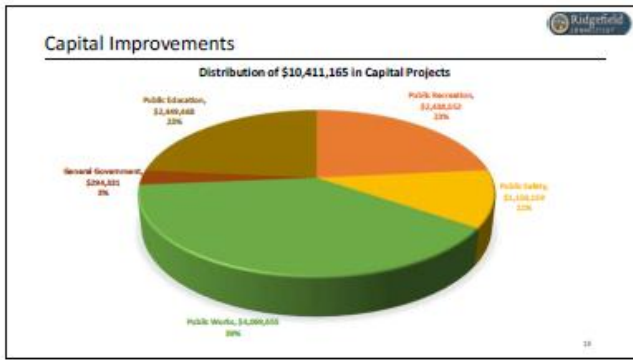
| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Town Engineer | |
| Town Hall Air Duct Replacement | \$200,000 |
| Garage 1 Renovations & Painting | 40,000 |
| Former Sotomayor Site Electrical Study & Repairs | 45,000 |
| Door Replacement, Various Locations | 60,000 |
| RIVS Student Sidewalk Entry Replacement | 225,000 |
| Water Main Extension - Branchville School | 60,000 |
| Elementary School ADA Playground upgrade | 225,000 |
| Recreation Center Traffic Light - Engineering Design | 41,000 |
| Building Maint Vehicle Replacement (TV Van) | 52,800 |
| M&M Projects - Discarded / Previous Surfaces | 75,000 |
| Sidewalk Improvements - Non-Bonded (Amount is Net of \$20K State Grant) | - |
| Conterbury Lane Headlight Replacement (Amount is Net of \$20K State Grant) | 70,100 |
| Laurel Hill Road Drainage and Paving (Amount is Net of \$10K Resident Assessment) | - |
| Recycling Center Floor Replacement & Paving (Amount is Net of \$147K State Grant) | - |
| Ridgebury Road Drainage Upgrade (Amount is Net of State Self Grant) | - |
| Police and Fire Infrastructure | |
| Fire Department Sirens | 135,000 |
| Police & Fire Building Condition Study | 125,000 |
| Police - Roof Replacement (K2 & Garage) | 287,000 |
| Fire - Roof Replacement | 306,800 |
| Police - Communications Relocation | 940,115 |
| Police - Drainage | 60,000 |
| Total | \$3,045,055 |

General Government

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Information Technology | |
| VMWare to PROMOX Conversion | \$41,248 |
| Building Connectivity Switches | 66,473 |
| Library | |
| Flooring | 22,000 |
| Masonry | 19,000 |
| IT/AC Phase Monitors | 17,000 |
| Technology Upgrades (Computers) | 26,000 |
| Security Camera System Server | 12,000 |
| Other | |
| Conservation Commission - Riding Mower | 6,810 |
| Town Committee - New Trees on Town Roads | 25,000 |
| Groundwork - Old Town Repair/ Crystal Ceiling | 25,000 |
| Total | \$264,531 |

Capital – Education

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Education | |
| LED Lighting Upgrade - RH (Amount is Net of \$201K Revenue Rebate) | \$365,457 |
| Large Group Instruction Space Renovation - SR | 44,170 |
| Student and Staff Bathroom Renovations - S | 67,300 |
| Staff Bathrooms Renovation - F | 75,000 |
| Visual Performing Arts Equipment/Infrastructure - SR | 262,819 |
| Sound Attenuation/Dampening for Callrooms - BM | 65,000 |
| Vertical Unit Ventilator Replacement Program - BM | 216,000 |
| District Pumps for O-Wing 2nd floor Classrooms - RH | 253,230 |
| Senior Electrical Distribution Expansion - RH | 46,247 |
| Network Infrastructure Upgrades/Replacements - D | 265,340 |
| Security Server Replacements - D | 234,000 |
| LPR Cameras and Renewal of Legacy Cameras - D | 136,000 |
| Collaborative Classroom Furniture Changeout - RH | 61,941 |
| Classroom Casework / Floor Replacements - RH | 61,601 |
| Total | \$2,440,468 |



Capital Items to be Voted on at the Annual Town Meeting

Highway & Engineering - Jake Muller

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Guardrail Replacements | \$40,000 |
| Garage 1 Renovations & Painting | 45,000 |
| Former Schlumberger Site Electrical Study & Repairs | 45,000 |
| Door Replacement, Various Locations | 60,000 |
| Water Main Extension - Branchville School | 60,000 |
| Recreation Center Traffic Light - Engineering Design | 41,000 |
| Building Maint Vehicle Replacement (EV Van) | 52,500 |
| M54 Projects - Disconnect / Previous Surfaces | 75,000 |
| Police Infrastructure - Drainage | 25,250 |
| Subtotal | \$614,150 |

Parks & Recreation - Dennis DiPinto

| | |
|---|------------------|
| One Ton Pickup Truck & Flow | \$72,417 |
| Mowers - 2x with Trailer | 49,053 |
| Field Conditioner with Trailer | 61,814 |
| Field Conditioner Attachments - 3x | 27,690 |
| Electric Cart | 17,596 |
| Tow Truck | 31,524 |
| ADA Maint / Compliance (Rec Center & Gov Park) | 49,733 |
| Parks, Fields & School Grounds - Fencing - VYERMS | 57,117 |
| Recreation Center - Wallbase Design Phase | 27,790 |
| Recreation Center - Divider / Coloring Painting | 77,150 |
| Field Irrigation - Design Phase RH5 Upper Field | 15,000 |
| Martin Park - Strategic Design | 18,500 |
| Subtotal | \$487,992 |

Capital Items to be Voted on at the Annual Town Meeting

OLF - Frank Sereschini

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Roller Net Replacement with Tack Work | \$65,000 |
| Tow-Behind Blower | 12,000 |
| Utility Carts | 33,000 |
| Subtotal | \$107,000 |

Fire Department - Chief Duckworth

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Fire Protective Gear-15x | \$96,120 |
| Road Equipment | 69,000 |
| Carroll Monitor | 24,900 |
| Subtotal | \$222,996 |

Police Department - Chief Kreitz

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| I-Record System | \$15,449 |
|-----------------|----------|

Emergency Communications Center - Tom Ramsdell

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Digital Emergency Protocols | \$40,000 |
| KVM Switching with 911 | 12,000 |
| Subtotal | \$52,000 |

Information Technology - Andrew Neblett

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| VMWare to Proxmox Conversion | \$41,248 |
| Building Connectivity Switches | 22,471 |
| Subtotal | \$140,721 |

Capital Items to be Voted on at the Annual Town Meeting

Library - Brenda McKinley

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Flooring | \$22,000 |
| Machinery | 18,000 |
| HVAC Phase Monitors | 17,000 |
| Technology Upgrades (Computers) | 20,000 |
| Security Camera System Service | 12,000 |
| Subtotal | \$97,000 |

Education

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Large Group Instruction Space Renovation - SR | \$94,170 |
| Student and Staff Bathroom Renovations - 5 | 87,283 |
| Staff Bathrooms Renovation - F | 75,000 |
| Sound Absorption/Clampers for Cafeteriums - BM | 65,000 |
| Exterior Electrical Distribution Expansion - RH | 95,507 |
| Collaborative Classroom Furniture Changeout - RH | 61,941 |
| Classroom Casework / Floor Replacements - RH | 21,831 |
| Subtotal | \$603,642 |

Other

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Conservation Commission - Riding Mower | \$6,610 |
| Tree Committee - New Trees on Town Road | 25,000 |
| Gravelyard - Old Town Repair Crypt Ceiling | 25,000 |
| Subtotal | \$56,610 |

GRAND TOTAL: \$2,233,992

Moderator Sharon Dornfeld then asked Susie DaSilva to present the Board of Education budget:

Board of Education

Capital Items Under \$100,000
Adopted Operating Budget
FY27

Ridgefield Town Meeting
May 4, 2026

Presented by:
Dr. Susie Da Silva, Superintendent of Schools

Tonight's focus will be to highlight:

- Capital Budget items under \$100,000 that will be voted on this evening; and,
- BOE Adopted Operating Budget



RPS: Two Budgets

| Adopted Capital Budget | Adopted Operating Budget |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| \$2,449,468 | \$123,800,000 |
| 23.5% of Town Capital Budget | 68.3% of Town Operating Budget |
| 1.2% Increase (+\$29,759) | 3.34% Increase (+\$4,004,000) |



BOE Capital Projects being Voted on this Evening:

| | |
|--|----------|
| LARGE GROUP INSTRUCTION (LGI) SPACE RENOVATION – SRMS | \$94,170 |
| STUDENT AND STAFF BATHROOM RENOVATIONS – SES | \$87,293 |
| STAFF BATHROOMS RENOVATION – FES | \$75,000 |
| SOUND ATTENUATION/DAMPENING FOR CAFETERIUMS – DW | \$65,000 |
| EXTERIOR ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION EXPANSION – RHS | \$95,507 |
| COLLABORATIVE CLASSROOM/WORKSPACE FURNITURE CHANGEDOUT – RHS | \$61,941 |
| CLASSROOM CASEGOODS/FURNITURE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM – RHS | \$51,631 |



Taking a Look Around Us: 3- Year Historical Data

| 2026-2027 | | 2025-2026 | | 2024-2025 | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| School District | Board of Education's Adopted Budget | School District | Board of Education's Adopted Budget | School District | Board of Education's Adopted Budget |
| New Canaan | 2.31% | Weston | 3.66% | Region 9 | 2.40% |
| Weston | 3.07% | Wilton | 4.00% | Weston | 2.85% |
| Ridgefield | 3.34% | Ridgefield | 4.10% | Ridgefield | 3.07% |
| Darien | 3.51% | Ridgefield | 4.13% | Ridgefield | 3.02% |
| Region 9 | 3.57% | Region 9 | 4.28% | Wilton | 4.50% |
| Wilton | 3.60% | New Canaan | 4.67% | Easton | 4.94% |
| Ridgefield | 3.96% | Westport | 4.75% | Westport | 5.38% |
| Westport | 6.48% | Darien | 4.82% | Darien | 6.38% |
| Easton | 5.94% | Easton | 6.72% | New Canaan | 6.99% |



FY27 Key Message



The FY27 Budget IS NOT a One Year Story



| District Theme | "Rebound" | "Imagine" | "Level Up" | "All In" | "Better Together" |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Program / Model Category | 2023-2022 Foundations & Systems | 2022-2023 Reimplementation & Study | 2023-2024 Expansion & Innovation | 2024-2025 Refinement & Advanced Pathways | 2025-2026 Sustainability & Future Growth |

What does the Operating Budget Support?

10 school facilities (and everything that goes with it)- Prospect Ridge, and BOE offices

- Current PK-12 enrollment on 10/1/25 is 4360 students; projected enrollment is 4391
 - PK will increase to 105 students (+25); RTP will increase to 40 students (+20); K-12 will collectively decrease by ~14 students
 - Elementary enrollment decreases by 17 students
 - Middle school enrollment decreases by 9 students
 - High school increases by 12 students



What does 3.34% Support?

- ✓ Fixed costs
- ✓ Continued Growth and Expansion of Programming
- ✓ Address Enrollment Shifts across the District
- ✓ Legally required mandates and responsibilities



Taking a closer look at 3.34%

| Description | Component of Budget Increase |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Salaries | 2.18% |
| Employee Benefits | 0.89% |
| Transportation | 0.02% |
| Projects/Repairs/Maint | 0.00% |
| Special Ed Outplace/Tuition | -0.15% |
| Energy | 0.35% |
| Supplies & Equipment | -0.23% |
| All Other | 0.29% |
| Total Request | 3.34% |

• Staff and Employee Benefits represent a 3.07% budget increase; before we replenish supplies, instructional materials, or even turn the lights on.



Thank you for your consideration.

It is a privilege to serve the students and families of Ridgefield.



Moderator Dornfeld then introduced Board of Finance Chair Mike Rettger, who presented the BOF budget:

2026 Annual Town Budget Meeting

Ridgefield, CT

BOF Chair Comments
Mike Rettger

May 4, 2026

Topics

1. Key Budget Factors This Year
2. BOF Recommended Operating Budget
3. BOF Recommended Capital Budget
4. Budget Referendum Information

FY 2026-27 Budget – Budget Factors / Considerations

- Budget Headwinds
- Concerns about Budget Growth Trend relative to Inflation Trend
- Sustainability and Affordability

FY 2026-27 Budget – Many Financial Headwinds

Debt Service costs are increasing

- \$8.9M for next year – a 12% increase over FY2026

Investment income is expected to decline with interest rates lower than last year and additional capital budget outlays

- Forecast \$1.35M for FY27 vs projected \$2.2M for FY26

Other non-tax revenue sources are expected to be slightly up – but these are only a small part of the overall revenue picture

Grand List Growth is about the same as the last two years – about 0.8%

The Special Education expense portion of the BOE budget remains a challenge, even after replacement of most state funding vs last year

FY 2026-27 Budget – Concerns about Growth Trends

Since 2020, the Mill Rate has increased substantially less than inflation over the same period

Average Annual Growth 2020 – 2026

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Tax Mill Rate | 1.3% per year |
| CPI / General Inflation | 3.7% per year |

BUT, increases in the tax rate for the past two years have trended in an unfavorable direction...

FY 2026-27 Budget – Concerns about Growth Trends

FY 2026-27 Budget – Concerns about Growth Trends

FY 2026-27 Budget – An Income Perspective

Based on some recent research by one of the BOF members, we have seen evidence that

- Ridgefield sits at the lower end of "DRG-A" towns in terms both the level and the rate of growth of median family income per household...

FY 2026-27 Budget – An Income Perspective

Estimated Median Household Income¹
2024 5-Year U.S. Census ACS Survey (Collected 2020-2024)

| Town | Estimated Median Household Income |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| Stamford | \$108,875 |
| Westport | \$77,100 |
| Weston | \$72,000 |
| New Canaan | \$70,100 |
| Wilton | \$64,500 |
| Ridgefield | \$57,210 |
| Madison | \$47,400 |

FY 2026-27 Budget – An Income Perspective

% of Households with Income <\$100,000
Based on U.S. Census Data from 2024 5-Year U.S. Census ACS Survey (Collected 2020-2024)

| Town | % of Households with Income <\$100,000 |
|------------|--|
| Ridgefield | 31% |
| Madison | 28% |
| Westport | 23% |
| Weston | 22% |
| New Canaan | 21% |
| Stamford | 20% |
| Wilton | 19% |
| Stamford | 18% |

FY 2026-27 Budget – An Income Perspective

Based on some recent research by one of the BOF members, we have seen evidence that

- Ridgefield lags other "DRG-A" towns in terms both the level and the rate of growth of average family income per household,

and consequently,

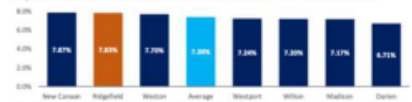
- Ridgefield may be closer to the upper end of "DRG-A" communities when you look at average property tax per household, relative to income

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2026 Annual Town Budget Meeting - BOF

FY 2026-27 Budget – An Income Perspective

Property Tax Revenue Per Household as a % of Median Household Income¹
Based on U.S. Census Data From 2024 5-Year U.S. Census ACS Survey (Collected 2020-2024) and Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Town Annual Financial Reports Adjusted for Residential/Motor Vehicle Contribution to Each Town's Grand List²



Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey and Town Annual Financial Reports. See information on slide 2 for important information on data sources.
¹ Estimated for Westport, New Canaan, Darien, and Weston as Census data does not report median household income over \$200,000. Calculated using aggregate household income for each town divided by total number of households and adjusted based on the average rate of total household income to median household income for each town. See Appendix for additional details.
² Based on 2024 grand list data found here: https://citizen.govcloud.com/govcloud/GrandListbyTown20242024.xlsx#sheet_001

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2026 Annual Town Budget Meeting - BOF

FY 2026-27 Operating Budget

Calculation of the Tax Rate ("Mill Rate")

$$\frac{\text{Expense Budgets} - \text{Other Revenues}}{\text{Tax Base (Grand List)}} = \text{Mill Rate}$$

Other Adjustments:
- senior and veterans' tax credit revenue offset
- assumed tax collections rate

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2026 Annual Town Budget Meeting - BOF

FY 2026-27 Operating Budget

Approved Operating Expenses

| | Avg Annual Increase Prior 5 Years | Prior Year Budget Change | Proposed by BOS/BOE FY 2026-2027 | Approved by BOF |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Town Operations + Roads/ADA | 4.0% | 2.5% | 3.0% | 3.0% |
| School Operations | 3.7% | 4.1% | 4.6% | 3.3% |
| Debt Service | | 9.0% | 12.0% | 12.0% |

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2026 Annual Town Budget Meeting - BOF

FY 2026-27 Operating Budget

Approved Operating Expenses

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Town Operational Expenses | \$ 46,227,045 |
| Debt Service Expenses | \$ 8,869,395 |
| Total - Town Budget | \$ 55,096,440 |
| School Operational Expenses | \$ 123,800,000 |
| Roads/ADA Infrastructure Expenses | \$ 2,246,900 |
| Total Approved Expense Budget being Recommended by BOF | \$ 181,143,340 |

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2026 Annual Town Budget Meeting - BOF

FY 2026-27 Operating Budget

Other Revenues – Major Components

| Source | Amount | YoY Chng (%) |
|---|---------------------|--------------|
| Golf and Rec Fees | \$ 5,763,450 | 5.6% |
| Real-estate related | \$ 1,809,000 | 2.8% |
| Supplemental / Prior Year Taxes, Interest | \$ 2,600,000 | 0.0% |
| Charges – Services/Rent | \$ 3,044,255 | 0.5% |
| All Other | \$ 1,799,201 | - 1.3% |
| Sub-total | \$15,015,866 | 2.4% |
| Investment Income | \$ 1,350,000 | - 29.0% |

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2026 Annual Town Budget Meeting - BOF

FY 2026-27 Operating Budget

Utilization of Surplus/Unassigned Fund Balance

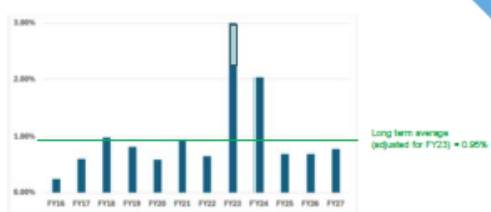
| | |
|--|-------------|
| Estimated Operating Budget Surplus, Current (FY25-26) Year | \$1,450,000 |
| BOF Recommended Use of Surplus in the Mill Rate calculation | \$1,450,000 |
| Resulting Estimated Reserve Ratio (Unassigned Fund Balance / Coming Year Operating Budget) | 11.87% |
| BOF Reserve Policy – Target Ratio | 9% - 12% |

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2026 Annual Town Budget Meeting - BOF

FY 2026-27 Operating Budget

Growth in the Grand List (Tax Base)



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2026 Annual Town Budget Meeting - BOF

FY 2026-27 Operating Budget

Bottom Line – Mill Rate

If the recommended budgets are approved by the voters, the resulting Mill Rate will be

28.36

This result represents a 3.52% increase over the prior year Mill Rate

This compares with last year's Mill Rate increase of 3.98%

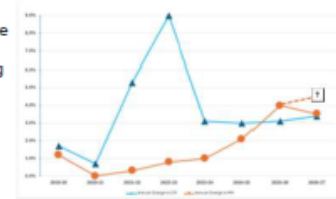
49

2026 Annual Town Budget Meeting - BOF

FY 2026-27 Operating Budget - Summary

The Operating Budgets recommended by the BOF...

- Flatten** the rate of growth in operating budgets
- Reverse** the recent trend in Mill Rate growth
- Bring** the Mill Rate change **in line** with the likely level of CPI change for the coming year



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2026 Annual Town Budget Meeting - BOF

FY 2026-27 Operating Budget

The Mill Rate change from the recommended budgets is in line with many of our surrounding towns

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| New Fairfield | 4.3% |
| Bethel | 4.3% |
| Darien | 3.7% (P) |
| Brookfield | 3.6% |
| Ridgefield | 3.52% |
| Redding | 3.0%–3.2% (P) |
| New Canaan | 2.6% |
| Newtown | 2.9% |
| Wilton | 2.7% |

11 2024 Annual Town Budget Meeting - BOF

FY 2026-27 Capital Budget

The BOF recommended Capital Budget is just under \$16 million, distributed among functional uses as follows:

| | Total | Amount after Offsets |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Education-related | \$ 2,770,973 | \$ 2,449,468 |
| Police and Fire | \$ 1,159,159 | \$ 1,159,159 |
| Recreation-related | \$ 2,748,552 | \$ 2,438,552 |
| Buildings/Infrastructure | \$ 2,189,480 | \$ 2,042,480 |
| Other | \$ 197,331 | \$ 197,331 |
| Roads/Sidewalks | \$ 4,889,800 | \$ 185,160 |
| PSB-related | \$ 1,939,015 | \$ 1,939,015 |
| Total | \$15,894,310 | \$10,441,165 |

12 2024 Annual Town Budget Meeting - BOF

FY 2026-27 Budget Referendum

| Ballot Question | Description | Amount |
|-------------------|--|----------------|
| Ballot Question 1 | Town Operations and Debt Service Expense | \$ 83,096,440 |
| Ballot Question 2 | School Operations Expenses | \$ 123,800,000 |
| Ballot Question 3 | Roads/ADA Infrastructure Expenses | \$ 2,246,900 |
| Ballot Question 4 | Capital Roads and Sidewalks | \$ 1,759,600 |
| Ballot Question 5 | Capital Recreation Related | \$ 1,782,431 |
| Ballot Question 6 | Capital Buildings and Infrastructure | \$ 2,039,281 |
| Ballot Question 7 | Capital Ridgebury Road Improvements | \$ 4,889,800 |
| Ballot Question 8 | Capital Public Safety Related | \$ 1,843,785 |
| Ballot Question 9 | Capital Education Related | \$ 2,248,431 |

13 2024 Annual Town Budget Meeting - BOF

FY 2026-27 Budget Referendum

The Annual Town Budget Referendum is

Tuesday, May 12 at Yanity Gym
Voting Hours: **6AM to 8PM**

There are 9 ballot question – 3 pertaining to the recommended Operating Budgets, 6 pertaining to the recommended Capital Budgets

The recommended Operating Budgets result in a Mill Rate of 28.36, which is a 3.52% increase over the FY2026.

We encourage everyone to come out and vote.

14 2024 Annual Town Budget Meeting - BOF

Moderator Dornfeld moved on to the resolutions. Because copies of the entire resolutions was made available in the lobby, Andrew Neblett, Ashbee Lane, moved and Jon Paradiso, 386 North Street, seconded the motion to waive the reading of the entire resolutions. Motion carried unanimously. Moderator Sharon Dornfeld introduced and read the following budget resolutions and bond resolutions by their title. Complete copies of the budget and complete copies of the bond resolutions were printed and made available to members of the public attending the meeting.

Tina Malhotra, 198 Keeler Drive, moved and Christine More, 63 Scott Ridge Road, seconded the motion to approve the following resolution:

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

James Pierpont, 128 West Mountain Road, questioned the BOE budget relative to the decreasing population of students; Susie DaSilva responded.

Ken Needleman, 372 Bennetts Farm Road, moved and Terry Bearden-Rettger, 25 Fairview Avenue, seconded the motion to approve the following resolution:

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

Mike Gelormino, 126 Ledges Road, moved and Maureen Kozlark seconded the motion to approve the following resolution:

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

Ken Needleman moved and Laura Zolotorofe, 17 Kingswood Place, seconded the motion to approve the following resolution:

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 HEADWELL REPLACEMENT, AND \$189,000 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF LAUREL HILL DRAINAGE AND PAVING; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,756,400 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 PURPOSE, WHICH ARE ANTICIPATED TO BE \$235,000 FOR SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS, \$280,640 FOR CANTERBURY LANE HEADWELL REPLACEMENT AND \$189,000 FOR LAUREL HILL ASSESSMENT/REIMBURSEMENT)

Tina Malhotra moved and Christine More seconded the motion to approve the following resolution:

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)

((Chris Vahlsing, North Street questioned \$310,000 for pickleball courts? Mike West, Parks & Recreation, responded that there is additional state grant funding for this project. Mike Rettger further clarified that the state grant would offset the project cost.

Sean Connelly moved and Dawn-Marie Callahan, 56 Ridgewood Road, seconded the motion to approve the following resolution:

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)

Sean Connelly moved and Ken Needleman seconded the motion to approve the following resolution:

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)

Joe Adams, 44 Langstroth Drive, asked when will Ridgebury Road be paved? Jake Muller, Department of Public Works, stated it is a multi-year project and should be complete by 2027.

Jon Paradiso, 386 North Street, moved and Christine More seconded the motion to approve the following resolution:

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

Selectperson Geoffrey Morris moved and William Bliss, 2 Island Hill Avenue, seconded the motion to approve the following resolution:

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

Chris Vahlsing questioned whether Scotts Ridge is an elementary school, as is stated in the resolution? No, it is not. The resolution should state Scotts Ridge Middle School. The First Selectperson will check with Bond Counsel to determine whether this will be a problem.

After discussion on the Town budget and the proposed bond resolutions, a motion was made by Joe Adams, Langstroth Drive, and seconded by Rob Kinnaird, 69 Peaceable Hill Road, that the First Selectperson be authorized and directed to call a referendum to be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 between the hours of 6:00 o'clock A.M. and 8:00 o'clock P.M. (E.T.) at Yanity Gym, 60 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut, to consider and take action upon the aforesaid proposed Town budget and the proposed bond resolutions and that the notice of said referendum be in substantially the following form:

**TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD
NOTICE OF REFERENDUM TO BE HELD May 12, 2026**

Pursuant to Section 10-1 of the Town Charter and the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, notice is hereby given to the electors and persons qualified to vote in the Town of Ridgefield that a referendum will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. (E.T.) at Yanity Gym, 60 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut, for the purpose of voting on the following questions:

1. "Shall 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?"

The form of the ballot label on the voting machine shall read as follows:

"Shall 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? YES/NO"

2. "Shall 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?"

The form of the ballot label on the voting machine shall read as follows:

"Shall 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? YES/NO"

3. "Shall 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?"

The form of the ballot label on the voting machine shall read as follows:

"Shall 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? YES/NO"

4. "Shall 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 \$1,756,400 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)", be approved?"

The form of the ballot label on the voting machine shall read as follows:

"Shall the 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 \$1,756,400 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), be approved? YES/NO"

5. "Shall 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)", be approved?"

The form of the ballot label on the voting machine shall read as follows:

"Shall the 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), be approved? YES/NO"

6. "Shall 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)", be approved?"

The form of the ballot label on the voting machine shall read as follows:

"Shall the 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), be approved? YES/NO"

7. "Shall 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)", be approved?"

The form of the ballot label on the voting machine shall read as follows:

"Shall the 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), be approved? YES/NO"

8. "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", be approved?"

The form of the ballot label on the voting machine shall read as follows:

"Shall the 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, be approved? YES/NO"

9. "Shall 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)", be approved?"

The form of the ballot label on the voting machine shall read as follows:

"Shall the 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); 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), be approved? YES/NO"

The vote will be by optical scan voting machine. Those in favor of the resolution referred to in the question shall fill in the oval under the word "YES" under such question. Those not in favor of the resolution referred to in the question shall fill in the oval under the word "NO" under such question. Absentee ballots will be available at the office of the Town Clerk as provided by law.

The polls will be open during the hours between 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. (E.T.). Electors and persons qualified to vote as aforesaid may cast their votes at the following polling place: Yanity Gym, 60 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut.

In accordance with Section 7-6 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, only an elector of the Town or a citizen of the United States of the age of eighteen years or more who, jointly or severally, was liable to the Town for taxes assessed against him based on an assessment of not less than \$1,000 on the last completed grand list of the Town or who would have been so liable if not entitled to an exemption as a blind person or as a veteran or as a parent or surviving spouse of a veteran will be entitled to vote. Absentee ballots shall be available as provided by law at the Town Clerk's office during business hours.

The voting will take place pursuant to the provisions of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and the votes will be cast and canvassed and the results determined and certified as nearly as may be in accordance with the laws governing the election of the Town officials.

The full text of said resolutions is on file open to public inspection at the office of the Town Clerk.

Dated at Ridgefield, Connecticut, this ___ day of _____, 2026.

Town Clerk
Published in _____ on _____, 2026.

Received for Record this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Town Clerk

Moderator Sharon Dornfeld introduced and read the following resolution for question 10:
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

Sean Connelly moved that said resolution be adopted as introduced and read, waiving the reading of the entire resolution, and the motion was seconded by Rob Kinnaird.

RESOLVED:

Section 1. That the aggregate sum of \$2,233,002 is hereby appropriated by the Town of Ridgefield, Connecticut (the "Town") for the planning, design, acquisition, construction and installation of the various public improvements and equipment herein after listed, including, where appropriate, costs for design, acquisition, installation, construction, site improvements, removal of materials and discarded equipment, permitting and environmental costs, equipment, materials, architectural, engineering and other consultant fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the Projects and their financing. The appropriation is inclusive of any and all federal and state grants-in-aid thereof:

| <u>Project</u> | <u>Estimated Amount</u> |
|---|-------------------------|
| <u>Information Technology</u> | |
| VMWare to PROMOX Conversion | \$41,248 |
| Building Connectivity Switches | 99,473 |
| | |
| <u>Golf</u> | |
| Range Net Replacement with Tree Work | 65,000 |
| Tow-Behind Blower | 12,000 |
| Utility Carts | 30,000 |
| | |
| <u>Parks & Recreation</u> | |
| One Ton Pick Up Truck & Plow | 72,417 |
| Mowers – 2x with Trailer | 49,053 |
| Field Conditioner with Trailer | 61,814 |
| Field Conditioner Attachments – 3x | 27,898 |
| Electric Cart | 17,586 |
| Trash Picker | 31,034 |
| ADA Maint. / Compliance (Rec. Center & Gov. Park) | 40,703 |
| Parks, Fields & School Grounds – Fencing VP/ERMS | 57,117 |
| Recreation Center – Wellness Design Phase | 27,780 |
| Recreation Center – Divider / Exterior Painting | 77,150 |
| Field Irrigation – Design Phase RHS Upper Field | 16,000 |
| Martin Park – Strategic Design | 18,500 |
| | |
| <u>Police Department</u> | |
| I-Record System | 15,849 |
| | |
| <u>Fire Department</u> | |
| Fire Protective Gear – 15x | 99,120 |
| Radio Equipment | 68,022 |
| Cardiac Monitor | 54,956 |
| | |
| <u>Emergency Communications Center</u> | |
| Digital Emergency Protocols | 40,000 |
| KVM Switching W/ 911 | 12,000 |
| | |
| <u>Public Works</u> | |
| Guardrail Replacements | 40,000 |

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| <u>Town Engineer</u> | |
| Garage 1 Renovations & Painting | 45,000 |
| Former Schlumberger Site Electrical Study & Repairs | 45,000 |
| Door Replacement – Various Locations | 60,000 |
| Water Main Extension – Branchville School | 60,000 |
| Recreation Center Traffic Light – Engineering Design | 41,000 |
| Building Maint. Vehicle Replacement (EV Van) | 52,880 |
| MS4 Projects – Disconnect / Pervious Surfaces | 75,000 |
| | |
| <u>Police and Fire Infrastructure</u> | |
| Police - Drainage | 95,250 |
| | |
| <u>Education</u> | |
| Large Group Instruction Space Renovation - SR | 94,170 |
| Student and Staff Bathroom Renovations - S | 87,293 |
| Staff Bathrooms Renovation – F | 75,000 |
| Sound Attenuation/Dampening for Cafeteriums – BM | 65,000 |
| Exterior Electrical Distribution Expansion – RH | 95,507 |
| Collaborative Classroom Furniture Changeout – RH | 61,941 |
| Classroom Casework / Fixture Replacements – RH | 51,631 |
| | |
| <u>Library</u> | |
| Flooring | 22,000 |
| Masonry | 18,000 |
| HVAC Phase Monitors | 17,000 |
| Technology Upgrades (Computers) | 28,000 |
| Security Camera System Server | 12,000 |
| | |
| <u>Other</u> | |
| Conservation Commission – Riding Mower | 6,610 |
| Tree Committee – New Trees on Town Roads | 25,000 |
| Graveyard – Olde Town Repair Crypt Ceiling | <u>25,000</u> |
| | |
| Total | <u>\$2,233,002</u> |

Section 2. That the Town issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$2,233,002 to finance the appropriations for the Projects, provided such bonds shall be issued maturing not later than the maximum maturity permitted by the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended (the "General Statutes"). Said bonds may be issued in one or more series as determined by the First Selectperson, in consultation with the Board of Selectpersons and the Board of Finance, in the amount necessary to meet the Town's share of the cost of the Projects determined after considering the estimated amount of any Federal and State grants-in-aid for the Projects, or the actual amount thereof if ascertainable, and the anticipated times of the receipt of the proceeds thereof, provided that the total amount of bonds to be issued shall not be less than an amount which will provide funds sufficient with other funds available for such purpose to pay the principal of and the interest on all temporary borrowings in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of said bonds outstanding at the time of the issuance thereof, and to pay for the administrative, financing, legal and other costs of issuance of such bonds. The bonds shall be in the denomination of \$5,000 or a whole multiple thereof, be issued on fully registered form, be executed in the name and on behalf of the Town by the facsimile or manual signature of the First Selectperson, bear the Town seal or a facsimile thereof, be certified by a bank or trust company, which bank or trust company may be designated the registrar and transfer agent, be payable at a bank or trust company, and be approved as to their legality by Pullman & Comley, LLC. The bonds shall be general obligations of the Town and each of the bonds shall recite that every requirement of law relating to its issuance has been duly complied with, that such bond is within every debt and other limit prescribed by law, and that the full faith and credit of the Town are pledged to the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon. The aggregate principal amount of the bonds of each series to be issued, the annual installments of principal, redemption provisions, if any, the certifying agent, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent, the date,

time of issue and sale and other terms, the details and particulars of such bonds, including the approval of the rate or rates of interest, shall be determined by the First Selectperson in the best interest of the Town and in accordance with the General Statutes. The amount of the bonds issued shall be reduced by the amount of grants or other funds, if any, received by the Town for any of the Projects and not separately appropriated to pay additional costs of the relevant Project.

Section 3. That the bonds of each series shall be sold by the First Selectperson, in consultation with the Board of Selectpersons and the Board of Finance, in a competitive offering or by negotiation, in his or her discretion. If sold in a competitive offering, the bonds shall be sold at not less than par and accrued interest on the basis of the lowest net or true interest cost to the Town. A notice of sale or a summary thereof describing the bonds and setting forth the terms and conditions of the sale shall be published in advance of the sale in a recognized publication carrying municipal bond notices and devoted primarily to financial news and the subject of state and municipal bonds. If the bonds are sold by negotiation, the purchase agreement shall be approved and signed by the First Selectperson.

Section 4. That the First Selectperson is authorized to make temporary borrowings in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of said bonds. Notes evidencing such borrowings shall be executed in the name and on behalf of the Town by the facsimile or manual signature of the First Selectperson, bear the Town seal or a facsimile thereof, be payable at a bank or trust company designated by the First Selectperson, be approved as to their legality by Pullman & Comley, LLC, and be certified by a bank or trust company designated by the First Selectperson pursuant to Section 7-373 of the General Statutes. The notes shall be issued with maturity dates which comply with the provisions of the General Statutes governing the issuance of such notes. The notes shall be general obligations of the Town and each of the notes shall recite that every requirement of law relating to its issuance has been duly complied with, that such note is within every debt and other limit prescribed by law, and that the full faith and credit of the Town are pledged to the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon. The net interest cost on such notes, including renewals thereof, and the expense of preparing, issuing and marketing them, to the extent paid from proceeds of such renewals or said bonds, may be included as a cost of the Project. Upon the sale of the bonds, the proceeds thereof, to the extent required, shall be applied forthwith to the payment of the principal of and the interest on any such notes then outstanding or shall be deposited with a bank or trust company in trust for such purpose. The amount of the notes issued shall be reduced by the amount of grants or other funds, if any, received by the Town for any of the Projects and not separately appropriated to pay additional costs of the relevant Project.

Section 5. That the appropriations in Section 1 hereof may be transferred by the Board of Selectpersons among the Projects upon a finding that the appropriation or portion thereof is not needed for its respective purpose.

Section 6. That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulations Section 1.150-2 that costs for the Projects may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the Projects. The First Selectperson is authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as he or she may deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as he or she may deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds, notes or temporary notes authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

Section 7. That the First Selectperson is hereby authorized, on behalf of the Town, to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the aforesaid bonds, notes or temporary notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds, notes or temporary notes.

Section 8. That the First Selectperson is hereby authorized, on behalf of the Town, to enter into any other agreements, instruments, documents and certificates, including tax and investment agreements, for the

consummation of the transactions contemplated by this resolution. The First Selectperson is hereby authorized, on behalf of the Town, to apply for and accept any and all federal and state loans and/or grants-in-aid for any of the Projects, to expend said funds in accordance with the terms hereof, and in connection therewith to contract in the name of the Town with engineers, contractors and others.

Section 9. That the First Selectperson, Town Treasurer, Controller, and other proper officers and officials of the Town are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to complete the Projects and to issue bonds, notes or temporary notes and obtain other funding to finance the aforesaid appropriations.

Rudy Marconi presented the capital items under \$100,000 listed by department and took questions from residents. After reviewing the Highway Department items, resident Vincent Giordano, Fairview Avenue, stated appreciation to the Town for switching out to electric vehicles and then asked whether the Town would be benefitting from the VW settlement and change more vehicles to electric? Jake Muller stated we did look at that but we don't have any vehicles that meet the criteria to take advantage of it.

Joe Adams, Langstroth Drive, asked what will happen after the traffic study at the P&R driveway on Danbury Road? Jake Muller stated the traffic study will be completed by end of year and then typically a light could be a two-year process. R. Marconi stated that the Town is using TAR (town aid road) money for the traffic study because the state would not get to it until 2030.

Kirk Carr, Prospect Ridge, stated all these are great items, but we can't do everything. The operating budget is squeezed due to an increase in our debt service. We approved roofs and the AHS/transition building off-cycle last year. I will be voting no. The BOF and BOE should trim this budget down.

Vincent Giordano, Fairview Avenue, wants to know what is being considered when Parks & Recreation is looking at mowers and other equipment? We don't want to miss an opportunity to move away from gas-powered equipment.

Rudy Marconi continued to review all items by department. After review, votes were taken by department group:
Public Works & Town Engineer: Geoffrey Morris moved; Andrew Neblett seconded. Motion carried 73 yes; 2 no
Parks & Recreation: Geoffrey Morris moved; Vince Giordano seconded. Motion carried 73 yes; 2 no
Golf items: Greg Kabasakalian moved; Colette Kabasakalian seconded. Motion carried 74 yes; 1 no
Fire Department items: Jon Paradiso moved; Andrew Neblett seconded. Motion carried 74 yes; 1 no
Police Department items: Andrea Beebe moved; Joseph Adams seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
Emergency Communications Center items: Terry Bearden-Rettger moved; Christine More seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Information Technology items: Sean Connelly moved; Mike Rettger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
Library items: Vince Giordano moved; tom Madden, Madeline Drive seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
Education items: Dawn-Marie Callahan moved; Christine More seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
Other items: Tom McManus, West Lane moved; Sean Connelly seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Geoffrey Morris moved and Rob Kinnaird a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD RESULTS OF REFERENDUM VOTE

At a referendum vote held on May 12, 2026 in the Town of Ridgefield, Connecticut, the following vote was taken on the following questions, viz.:

1. "Shall 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?"

1,424 YES 724 NO

2. "Shall 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?"

1,351 YES 805 NO

3. "Shall 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?"

1,636 YES 513 NO

4. "Shall the 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 \$1,756,400 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), be approved?"

1,393 YES 752 NO

5. "Shall the 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), be approved?"

1,357 YES 752 NO

6. "Shall the 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), be approved?"

1,581 YES 572 NO

7. "Shall the 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), be approved?"

1,374 YES 765 NO

8. "Shall the 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, be approved?"

1,526 YES 624 NO

9. "Shall the 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), be approved?"

1,434 YES 720 NO

Wendy Gannon Lionetti CMC, CCTC
Town Clerk