

Town of Ridgefield Annual Town Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2024 – 7:30 pm
East Ridge Middle School, O'Shea Auditorium, 10 East Ridge Road

CORRECTED NOTICE – UPDATED LOCATION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD, CONNECTICUT
May 6, 2024

RECEIVED
@ 11:57am
APR 26 2024
Wendy Gannon-Lunetti
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 6, 2024 at 7:30 P.M. (E.T.) at the **East Ridge Middle School, O'Shea Auditorium, 10 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, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025:

Town Expenditures (consisting of Town operating expenditures of \$43,257,080 and debt service of \$7,288,587 on both Town and Education capital projects): \$50,545,667

2. To consider recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to appropriations for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025:

Board of Education Expenditures: \$115,041,000

3. To consider recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to appropriations for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025:

Planning, design, acquisition and construction of various Town road and ADA improvements:
\$2,669,250

4. To consider a Resolution Appropriating \$270,000 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Highway Dump Truck With Plow, \$131,734 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Highway Lowboy Truck, \$498,000 For the Design And Acquisition Of A Highway Vactor Truck And \$150,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Sidewalk Improvements; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,049,734 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 \$150,000 For Sidewalk Improvements).

5. To consider a Resolution Appropriating \$123,000 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Multi-Deck Golf Mower, \$101,177 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Parks And Recreation Mower, \$387,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of New Pickleball Courts, \$120,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Recreation Center Bathroom Renovations, \$163,963 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Installation Of Recreation Center Divider Doors, \$106,370 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Installation Of Recreation Center HVAC Controls, And \$222,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Installation Of A Library Material Handling System; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,223,510 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes.

6. To consider a Resolution Appropriating \$503,000 For The Design And Acquisition Of Portable Police Department Radios, \$134,235 For The Design And Acquisition Of Portable Fire Department Radios, \$190,075 For The Design And Acquisition Of Fire Department Cancer Prevention Equipment And \$401,594 For The Design And Acquisition Of An Ambulance; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,228,904 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes.

7. To consider a Resolution Appropriating \$725,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Mountain Road Bridge Repairs, \$325,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Shadow Lake Dam Repairs, And \$187,500 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Lake Mamasasco Dam Repairs; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,237,500 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 \$500,000 For Mountain Road Bridge Repairs And \$500,000 For Shadow Lake And Lake Mamasasco Dam Repairs).

8. To consider a Resolution Appropriating \$395,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Auditorium Renovations at Veteran's Park Elementary School, \$165,210 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Installation Of District-Wide School Safety And Security Upgrades, \$258,148 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Installation Of District-Wide LED Lighting Upgrades, \$160,000 For The Design And Acquisition Of Classroom Furniture at Ridgefield High School, And \$114,100 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Installation Of District-Wide Visual And Performing Arts Equipment; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,092,458 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 \$390,019 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Cass Gilbert Fountain Repairs, Olmstead Lane Fountain Repairs And Peter Parley School House Grounds Upgrade, \$225,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Installation Of Elementary School ADA Playground Upgrades, And \$400,000 For The Planning, Design And Acquisition Of A Town Road Safety Report; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,015,019 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 \$320,000 For The Town Road Safety Report).

Items 1 through 9 on the call of the Annual Town Meeting will be voted upon by a referendum vote on Tuesday, May 14th, 2024 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 \$1,505,222 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition, Installation And Construction Of Various Public Improvements And Equipment; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,505,222 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes".

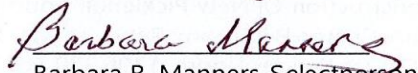
11. To transact any other business proper to come before the meeting.

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.

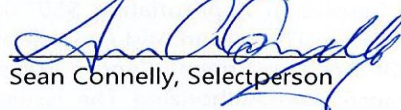
Dated at Ridgefield, Connecticut this 28th day of April, 2024.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS


Rudolph P. Marconi, First Selectperson


Barbara R. Manners, Selectperson

Maureen Kozlark, Selectperson

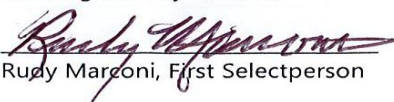

Sean Connolly, Selectperson

Christopher Murray, Selectperson


Wendy Gannon Lionetti, Town Clerk

**CORRECTED NOTICE – UPDATED LOCATION
RETURN OF NOTICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on April 26, 2024, I left a duplicate of the attached warning and notice of the Annual Town 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 News-Times, a newspaper having a general and substantial circulation in said Town, on April 28, 2024.
I FURTHER CERTIFY that on April 26, 2024, 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 6, 2024.


Rudy Marconi, First Selectperson

RECEIVED
@ 12:17 PM
MAY 07 2024
Wendy Gannon Lionetti
BY TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RIDGEFIELD CT

The meeting was called to order by First Selectperson Rudy Marconi and he led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mike Rettger, 25 Fairview Avenue, moved and Andrew Neblett, 31 Ashbee Lane, seconded to choose Sharon Wicks Dornfeld as Moderator. Motion carried unanimously.

Mike Raduazzo, 195 Peaceable St., moved and Colette Kabasakalian, 2 Washington St., seconded to waive the reading of the Notice of the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Moderator Dornfeld stated that said Notice signed by the Board of Selectpersons had been posted in the Office of the Town Clerk on April 26, 2024, and that a copy thereof had been published in The News-Times a newspaper of general circulation in said Town in its April 28, 2024 issue.

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 14, 2024.

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 Monday – Friday from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm beginning May 7 through May 13 as well as Saturday, May 11 from 9 am – 12 pm.

Joe Shapiro, 73 Blackman Road, moved and Andrew Neblett seconded to waive the reading of the letters from the Board of Selectpersons and Board of Finance. Motion carried unanimously. The following letter from the Board of Selectpersons was received, accepted and ordered incorporated in the minutes of the Meeting:

Received

April 16, 2024

2024 MAY -2 AM 11:58

Wendy Gannon Lionetti
Ridgefield CT Town Clerk

To the Legal Voters of the
Town of Ridgefield:

At a meeting of the Board of Selectpersons held April 15, 2024, the following resolutions were adopted to be voted upon by a referendum vote on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 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 \$50,545,667 For Town Expenditures (Consisting Of Town Operating Expenditures Of \$43,257,080 And Debt Service Of \$7,288,587 On Both Town And Education Capital Projects) For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2024 And Ending June 30, 2025, 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 \$115,041,000 For Board Of Education Expenditures For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2024 And Ending June 30, 2025, 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 \$2,669,250 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Various Town Road And ADA Improvements For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2024 And Ending June 30, 2025, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$270,000 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Highway Dump Truck With Plow, \$131,734 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Highway Lowboy Truck, \$498,000 For the Design And Acquisition Of A Highway Vactor Truck And \$150,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Sidewalk Improvements; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,049,734 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 \$150,000 For Sidewalk Improvements)", 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 \$123,000 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Multi-Deck Golf Mower, \$101,177 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Parks And Recreation Mower, \$387,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of New Pickleball Courts, \$120,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Recreation Center Bathroom Renovations, \$163,963 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Installation Of Recreation Center Divider Doors, \$106,370 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Installation Of Recreation Center HVAC Controls, And \$222,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Installation Of A Library Material Handling System; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,223,510 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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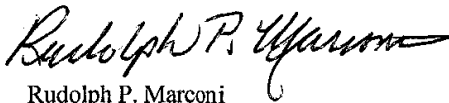
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In addition, at said meeting, the Board of Selectpersons adopted the following resolution to be voted upon at the Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 6, 2024 at 7:30 P.M. (E.T.) at the Ridgefield Playhouse, 80 East Ridge Road, Ridgefield, Connecticut:

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled "Resolution Making Appropriations Aggregating \$1,505,222 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition, Installation And Construction Of Various Public Improvements And Equipment; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,505,222 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

The following letter from the Board of Finance was received, accepted and ordered incorporated in the minutes of the Meeting:

**Town of Ridgefield
Board of Finance**

Received

2024 APR 16 AM 10:24

Wendy Gannon Lionetti
Ridgefield CT Town Clerk

April 15, 2024

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Very truly yours,



Chairman
Board of Finance

Moderator Dornfeld then introduced First Selectperson Rudy Marconi who presented the following:



Board of Selectpersons FY 2025 Budget

Presented by
Rudy Marconi, First Selectperson
May 6, 2024

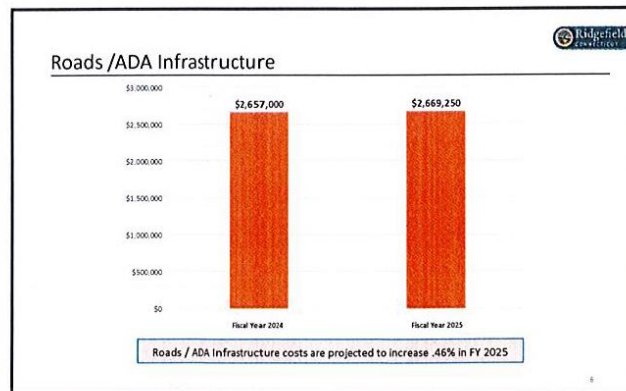
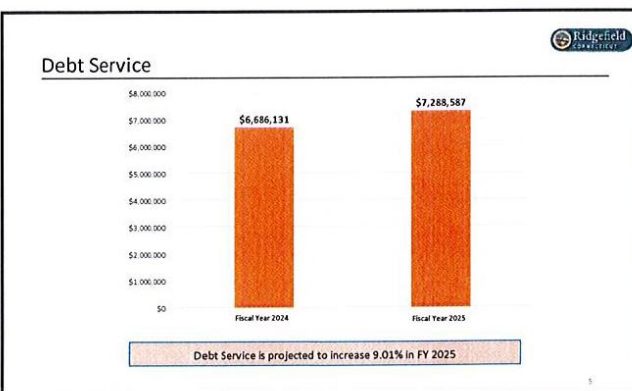
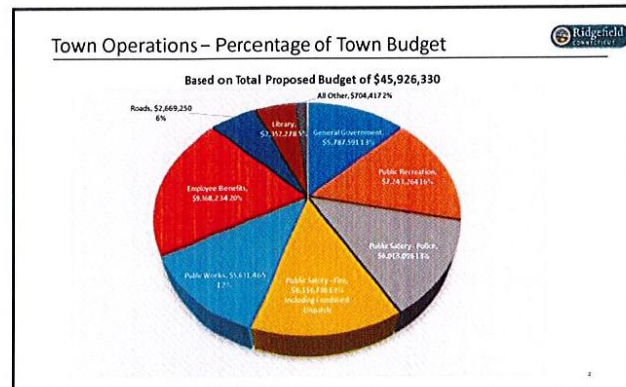
General Town Budget Overview

Expenditures	2024	2025	\$ Change	% Change
Town Operations	\$ 29,749,276	\$ 30,668,924	\$ 1,119,648	3.76%
School Buildings & Grounds	672,666	682,412	9,746	1.45%
Utilities	2,415,133	2,337,510	(77,623)	(3.21%)
Employee Benefits	9,192,279	9,368,234	175,955	1.91%
Subtotal	42,029,354	43,267,080	1,227,726	2.92%
Roads/ADA Infrastructure	2,657,000	2,669,250	12,250	0.46%
Total Town	\$ 44,686,354	\$ 45,926,330	\$ 1,239,976	2.77%

Overall, town expenditures are budgeted to increase by \$1,240K or 2.77%.

Town Operations – Components of Increase

Town Operations	School Buildings & Grounds	Utilities, Heat, Vehicle Fuel	Employee Benefits	Roads ADA Infrastructure
Salary / Outsourcing	\$557,439		Medical/ Dental	\$200,257
Liability Insurance	18,187		Pension	(19,440)
Combined Dispatch Costs	84,067		OPEB – GASB 45	(42,205)
Central Admin Telephones	12,000		Social Security / Medicare	40,772
IT	114,521		Workers Comp/Unemployment Ins	(18,594)
Building Maint	11,207		Elected Officials	918
Vehicle Maint/ Cruisers	31,660		Defined Contribution	9,962
Rec Center – Program Costs	39,556		Compensated Absences	2,265
Tree Warden	20,000			
Operating Transfers	27,000			
Audit Fee	6,113			
Commissions/Committees	9,100			
Assessor	14,900			
Golf & Recreation Ground Care	11,478			
Library	68,513			
All Other	91,707			
Total	\$1,119,648	\$9,746	(\$77,623)	\$175,955
Town Grand Total \$1,239,976				



Capital – Public Recreation

Golf	
Concrete Bridge-Hole #10	\$15,000
Sand Pro	31,000
Multi-Deck Rough Mower	123,000
Parks & Recreation	
Toro 4000 11"	101,177
ADA Compliance – Parking/Walkway	23,092
New Courts – Pickleball Design & Construction	387,000
Parks, Fields & School Grounds Safety Improvements – Fencing/Netting	40,475
Rec Center Building Renovation – Spray Bay Surface	67,788
Rec Center Building Renovation – 4 Bathrooms	120,000
Rec Center Building Repair – Pairing Gym	52,200
Rec Center Building Repair – Divider Doors	163,963
Rec Center Building – HVAC/BMS Controls	106,370
Martin Park – Design & Engineer for Bathroom	10,000
Vanity Building Maintenance/Repair – Floor Resurface	40,000
Total	\$1,281,065

Capital – Public Safety

Police Department	
Portable Radio Replacements	\$503,000
Fire Department	
Portable Radio Replacements	134,235
Firefighter Protective Gear	56,034
CPR Compression Device	19,646
Fire Hose	13,122
Cancer Prevention Equipment	190,075
Public Access Defibrillators	26,464
Ambulance Replacement	401,594
Shift Commander Vehicle	29,248
Total	\$1,373,438

Capital – Public Works



Highway Department

Freightliner Dump Truck w/Plow	\$270,000
Lowboy Dump Truck w/Plow	131,734
Vector Truck	498,000
Boom Mover	80,302
Guardrail Replacements	40,000
	<u>\$1,020,036</u>

9

Capital – Engineer



Town Engineer

Boiler Replacement Design/Installation – Venus Building	\$45,000
Garage Door Replacement, Fire Station #2	25,000
Door Replacement, various locations	60,000
Elementary School ADA Playground Upgrades	225,000
Mountain Road Bridge Repair	225,000
Sidewalk Improvements – Non Bonded portion	-
MS4 Projects – Disconnect/Previous Surfaces	75,000
Shadow Lake Dam Reconstruction/Maintenance	12,500
Lake Mamasco Dam Reconstruction/Maintenance	-
Town Road Safety Report	80,000
	<u>\$747,500</u>

10

General Government



Information Technology

VMWare ESX Server Center	\$75,000
Software Server Replacements	22,000

Library

Technology Upgrades	21,500
Material Handling System Replacement	222,000

Other

Conservation Commission – Ford Maverick Pickup	27,960
Conservation Commission – Brush Hog	6,800
Fountains and Parley Project	390,019
	<u>\$765,279</u>

11

Capital – Education



Education

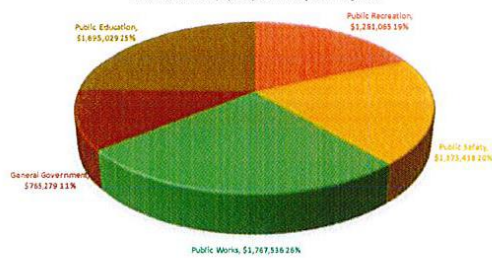
Auditorium Renovations – VP	\$395,000
Student and Staff Bathroom Renovations – B, ER	67,556
Sound Attenuation/Dampening for Cafeteriums – B, F, S, BM	39,340
Main Switchgear Replacement – F	98,530
Network Infrastructure Upgrades/Replacements – D	98,000
Avigilon Server Replacements – D	61,200
School Safety and Security Upgrades – D	165,210
Building – wide LED Lighting Update – VP	258,148
Maintenance EV Cargo Work Van (Energy Task Force) – D	77,945
Classroom Furniture – RH	160,000
Visual & Performing Arts Space Equip Upgrades – D	114,100
Student Locker Replacements – ER	85,000
RHS Auditorium Design/Engineering Costs – RH	75,000
	<u>\$1,695,029</u>

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Capital Improvements

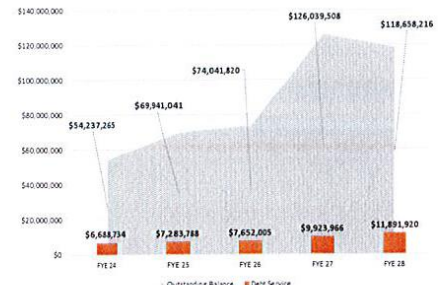


Distribution of \$6,882,347 in Capital Projects



13

Debt Service / Debt Outstanding

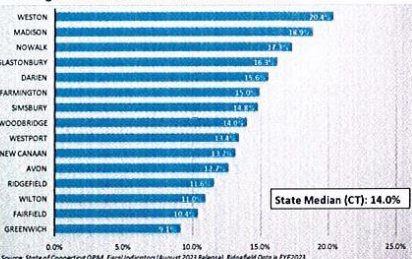


14

Fund Balance Comparison - Select AAA Rated Towns in Connecticut



Unassigned General Fund Balance as % of Revenues



Ridgefield FY24 UNASSIGNED Fund Balance Projection

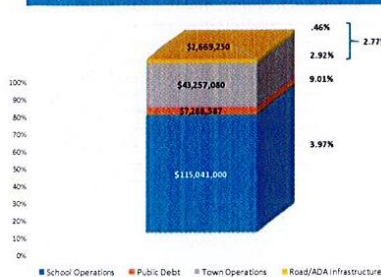
Unassigned Fund Balance – 6/30/23	\$20,440,489
Potential Surplus – FYE 24	2,900,000
Unbonded Off – Cycle Capital	(420,000)
Proposed Use of Fund Balance FYE 25	(2,750,000)
Projected Unassigned Fund Balance 6/30/24	\$20,170,489
Unassigned Fund Balance as a Percentage of Proposed 2025 Expenditures	12.0%

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Summary



Proposed \$168,255,917 Represents a 3.85% Increase



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Annual Budget Referendum is May 14, 2024

Proposed Mill Rate is 26.35 which
represents a 2.09% increase

Please visit our Town website:
www.ridgefieldct.gov

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Capital Items to be Voted on at the Annual Town Meeting

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT – JAKE MULLER		
GUARDRAIL REPLACEMENT	\$40,000	\$80,302
BOOM MOWER		
GOLF – FRANK SERGIOVANNI		
CONCRETE BRIDGE – HOLE #10	\$15,000	
SAND PRO	\$31,000	
PARKS & RECREATION – DENNIS DIPINTO		
ADA COMPLIANCE – PARKING/WALKWAY	\$23,092	
GROUND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS - FENCING /NETTING		\$40,475
RECREATION CENTER - SPRAY BAY SURFACE	\$67,788	
RECREATION CENTER - PAINTING GYM	\$52,200	
MARTIN PARK – DESIGN & ENGINEER FOR BATHHOUSE SITE		\$10,000
YANITY BUILDING – FLOOR RESURFACE	\$40,000	

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Capital Items to be Voted on at the Annual Town Meeting



TOWN ENGINEER – JAKE MULLER		
VENUS BUILDING - BOILER REPLACEMENT DESIGN/INSTALLATION		\$45,000
FIRE STATION #2 - GARAGE DOOR REPLACEMENT	\$25,000	
DOOR REPLACEMENT, VARIOUS LOCATIONS	\$60,000	
MS4 PROJECTS – DISCONNECT/PERVIOUS SURFACES		\$75,000
FIRE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF MYERS		
FIREFIGHTER PROTECTIVE GEAR		\$56,034
CPR COMPRESSION DEVICE	\$19,646	
FIRE HOSE	\$13,122	
PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATORS	\$26,484	
SHIFT COMMANDER VEHICLE	\$29,248	
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – ANDREW NEBLETT		
VMWARE ESX SERVER CENTER		\$75,000
SOFTWARE SERVER REPLACEMENTS		\$22,000

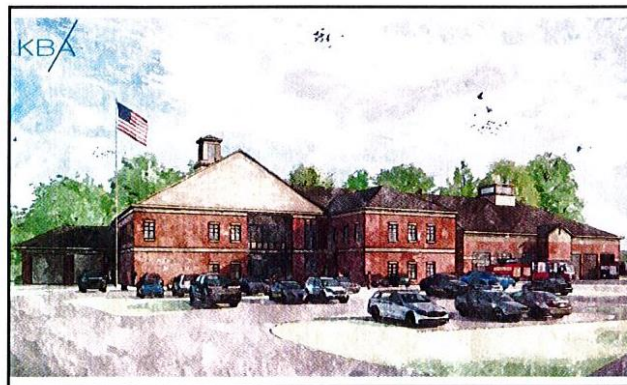
19

Capital Items to be Voted on at the Annual Town Meeting

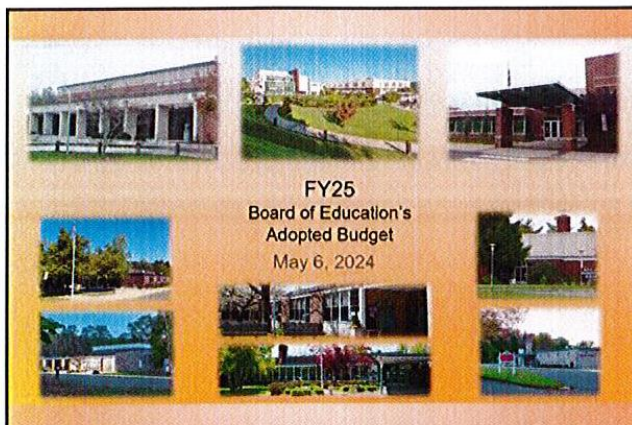


LIBRARY – BRENDA MCKINLEY		
TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES	\$21,500	
EDUCATION		
STUDENT & STAFF BATHROOM RENOVATIONS – B, ER		\$67,556
SOUND DAMPERING FOR CAFETERIUMS - F, B, S, BM		\$39,340
MAIN SWITCHGEAR REPLACEMENT - F		\$98,530
NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES/REPLACEMENTS – D		\$98,000
AVIGILON SERVER REPLACEMENTS – D		\$61,200
MAINTENANCE EV CARGO WORK VAN – D		\$77,945
STUDENT LOCKER REPLACEMENTS – ER		\$95,000
RHS AUDITORIUM DESIGN/ENGINEERING – RH		\$75,000
OTHER		
CONSERVATION COMMISSION – FORD MAVERICK PICK-UP		\$27,960
CONSERVATION COMMISSION – BRUSH HOG		\$6,800
GRAND TOTAL		\$1,505,222

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Susie DaSilva, Superintendent of Schools, then presented the following:





Agenda for this evening

- Who We are Today, and Who We are Tomorrow.
- Current Context
- FY 2025 Budget: A breakdown of the numbers
- Our Horizon: RPS' Outlook and Future Budgets

Actual Enrollment as of 10/1/23 (2023-2024)

School	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
Barlow Mountain	56	61	51	54	61	57								340
Branchville	59	49	50	57	57	67								339
Farmingville	48	44	60	58	62	51								323
Ridgebury	34	57	61	56	63	68								339
Scotland	49	48	52	58	63	67								337
Veterans Park	28	42	54	38	39	40								241
East Ridge							164	163	158					485
Scotts Ridge							177	179	180					536
Ridgefield High										348	355	384	376	1463
RHS 18-22													14	14
Grade Level Totals:	274	301	328	321	345	350	341	342	338	348	355	384	390	4417
School:	BMES	BES	FES	RES	SES	VPES	Total							
PK Enrollment:	41	0	0	14	0	0	55							
														Total PK-12 Enrollment
														4472

Enrollment Projections (Medium) 2024-2025

School	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Barlow Mountain	51	57	64	56	55	61								344
Branchville	50	64	51	50	58	57								330
Farmingville	45	55	47	62	58	63								330
Ridgebury	47	36	60	66	58	63								330
Scotland	48	54	50	53	57	65								327
Veterans Park	40	29	46	57	39	39								250
East Ridge Middle School							156	163	164					483
Scotts Ridge Middle School							198	176	180					554
Ridgefield High School										336	342	338	375	1391
Total	281	295	318	344	325	348	354	339	344	336	342	338	375	4339

When Enrollment Projections Differ

Barlow Mountain Elementary School Narrative

*Graph depicts October 1st student counts.

2023-2024			
Grade	# of Students (prev actual)	# of sections (prev actual)	Avg. class size (prev actual)
K	50.56	3.3	15.67
1	55.62	3.3	18.33
2	48.51	2.3	24.00
3	60.54	3.3	20.00
4	61.61	3.3	20.33
5	58.87	3.3	19.33
Totals	312.10	17.8	17.58

2024-2025			
Grade	# of Students (prev actual)	# of sections (prev actual)	Avg. class size* (prev actual)
K	51	3	17.00
1	57	3	19.00
2	64	3	21.33
3	56	3	18.67
4	58	3	19.33
5	61	3	20.33
Totals	347	18	19.11

What Makes Ridgefield Special?



- The people: Relationships matter- student to teacher, teacher to teacher, and administrator to administrator
- A PK-12 view: curriculum, courses, extracurriculars, athletics, visual performing arts, attention to the individual, etc...
- We reflect, and pay attention to the needs of our students and faculty

Current Context

What is new in this budget and...why, and why now:

- Legislative changes- and its impact (Kindergarten and 18-22)
- Behavioral Support: K-8
- More Professional Development Time for Paraeducators
- Decrease in Pay to Participate costs for families
- Inflation- increase in per pupil
- Expansion of world language
- Continued growth in PreSchool program
- Expansion of current programs for students who receive special education services
- Current and future facility needs
- Leadership models - Elem Level



Special Education Compliance Additions

- ERMS RISE Teacher (1.0) - \$85,773
- VPES PreSchool Teacher (1.0) - \$85,773
- RHS 18-22 Transition Teacher (1.0) - \$85,773
- RES Special Education Teacher (1.0) - \$85,773
- DW PreSchool Supervisor (0.4) - \$60,504
- ERMS Paras for RISE Program (2.0) - \$56,000
- DW Elem Paras for Sp. Education (5.0) - \$168,000

Expansion of Programming

- DW Elem Psychologist (1.0) - \$98,618
- DW Elem World Language Teacher (1.0) - \$85,773
- DW Elem 1:1 Nurse (1.0) - \$65,145
- BMES Elem Asst Principal (0.6) - \$67,510
- DW School Security Officer (1.0) - \$49,295
- DW Elem Student Production Support - \$15,000



Other Budget Additions

- BMES/RES Elementary Custodian (1.0) - \$56,036
- DW Communications Specialist (0.7) - \$53,760
- DW Elem Math Tutors - \$36,000
- DW Elem Essentials Facilitators - \$14,000
- DW Kids in Crisis Partnership - \$90,000
- RHS Course Recovery Summer Prog - \$23,820
- MS Additional Clubs - \$7,112
- Increase to Gen. Supplies, all Schools - \$96,263
- Increased fiber deployment to improve connectivity and resiliency - \$90,000
- Reduce the cost of PTP for families

Other Budget Cost Mitigations

- Repurpose - \$90,000 in Contracted Svcs to support a 1:1 Nurse
- Repurpose - \$48,000 in Contracted Svcs to support a Communications Specialist
- Repurpose - \$66,630 in Contracted Svcs to support an added School Security Officer
- Repurpose - \$60,041 representing a decrease of 0.7 FTE at RHS
- Decrease of 1.0 FTE in Elementary - \$85,773
- Although we have a 5% increase on our health insurance premium renewal, we have 21 fewer active participants on our health plan which has held our budget increase to 1.35% (+\$216,200)
- Advantageous rates for both Electricity and Heating Fuel have resulted in a 10.11% decrease in our Energy costs - \$340,541
- Advantageous claims experience in Workers Compensation - \$157,000

FY 2025 RPS Budget

2024-2025 (FY25) Board of Education's Adopted Budget

\$115,041,000

3.97% Increase

DISTRICTS	Expenditure Per Pupil as of 1.22.24 <small>(See Current Expenditures on the District Website for Current Expenditure Data and Budgets)</small>					Rank of Expenditure Per Pupil in State
DRGA Districts	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023 Out of 166 Districts
Region 9** (9-12)	\$24,759	\$23,264	\$26,067	\$27,691	\$28,981	10
Redding** (K-8)	\$25,051	\$26,030	\$28,627	\$28,325	\$28,642	12
Weston	\$23,170	\$23,992	\$24,065	\$24,715	\$25,581	26
Westport	\$22,774	\$22,790	\$23,869	\$24,869	\$24,763	30
Darien	\$22,095	\$21,805	\$23,163	\$23,555	\$24,065	34
Wilton	\$21,914	\$22,234	\$23,295	\$23,874	\$23,262	41
New Canaan	\$22,569	\$21,985	\$22,905	\$23,264	\$23,073	44
Easton** (K-8)	\$19,241	\$19,091	\$20,605	\$20,108	\$22,941	47
Ridgfield	\$20,130	\$21,019	\$22,355	\$22,793	\$22,716	51
CT Overall AVG	\$17,629	\$17,836	\$19,134	\$20,165	\$21,657	

A Glimpse of Other Districts

SCHOOL DISTRICT	FY25 REQUESTED BUDGET INCREASE
Darien	6.16%
Easton** (K-8)	6.36%
New Canaan	6.50%
Redding** (K-8)	4.65%
Region 9** (9-12)	2.28%
Ridgfield	3.97%
Westport	8.80%
Weston	3.53%
Wilton	5.56%

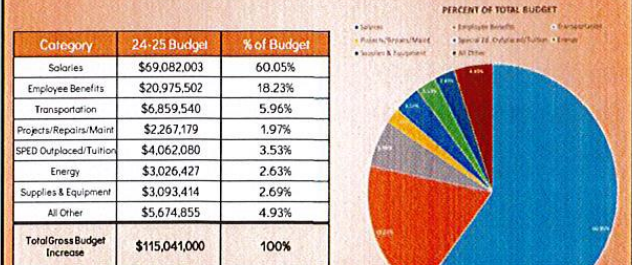
2024-2025 Budget by Major Object

Description	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference	% Increase
Certified Salaries	\$52,899,098	\$54,679,344	\$1,780,246	3.37%
Non-Certified Salaries	\$13,402,123	\$14,402,659	\$1,000,536	7.47%
Employee Benefits	\$20,656,340	\$20,975,502	\$319,162	1.55%
Transportation	\$6,537,227	\$6,859,540	\$322,313	4.93%
Projects/Repairs/Maint	\$2,136,563	\$2,267,179	\$130,616	6.11%
Special Ed Outplace/Tuition	\$3,527,080	\$4,062,080	\$535,000	15.17%
Energy	\$3,366,968	\$3,026,427	-\$340,541	-10.11%
Supplies & Equipment	\$2,955,492	\$3,093,414	\$137,922	4.67%
All Other	\$5,164,109	\$5,674,855	\$510,746	9.89%
Total Gross Budget	\$110,645,000	\$115,041,000	\$4,396,000	3.97%

2024-2025 Budget by Major Object

Description	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference	% of Budget Increase
Certified Salaries	\$52,899,098	\$54,679,344	\$1,780,246	1.61%
Non-Certified Salaries	\$13,402,123	\$14,402,659	\$1,000,536	0.90%
Employee Benefits	\$20,656,340	\$20,975,502	\$319,162	0.29%
Transportation	\$6,537,227	\$6,859,540	\$322,313	0.29%
Projects/Repairs/Maint	\$2,136,563	\$2,267,179	\$130,616	0.12%
Special Ed Outplace/Tuition	\$3,527,080	\$4,062,080	\$535,000	0.48%
Energy	\$3,366,968	\$3,026,427	-\$340,541	-0.31%
Supplies & Equipment	\$2,955,492	\$3,093,414	\$137,922	0.12%
All Other	\$5,164,109	\$5,674,855	\$510,746	0.46%
Total Gross Budget	\$110,645,000	\$115,041,000	\$4,396,000	3.97%

2024-2025 Budget by Major Object



Our Horizon

Our Horizon

- Continued Program Expansion: World Language, Special Education, Gifted and Talented, Curriculum Partnerships (outside the school setting)
- Eye on Facilities/Programing: PreSchool, Alternative High School and 18-22 Transition Program, Direction from our Master Plan
- Space upgrades- and innovations (auditoriums, furniture, LMC, etc.)
- Middle and HS School Pathways

RPS Levels Up!



Thank You.



Scan the QR Code to view the RPS interactive budget website.

David Ulmer, Board of Finance Chairperson, then presented the following:



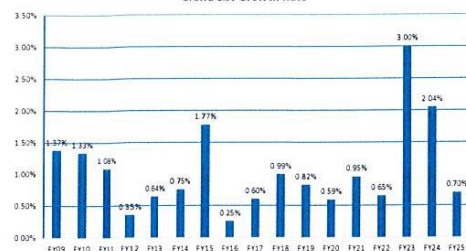
Board of Finance Annual Town Meeting

Presented by
Dave Ulmer, Chairman of the Board of Finance
May 6, 2024

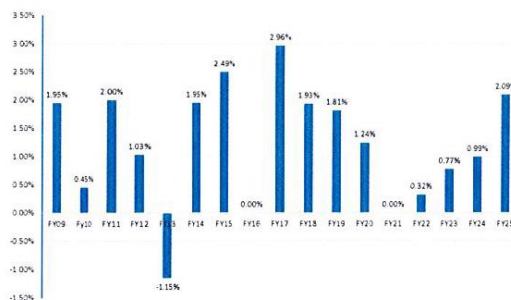
Grand List



Grand List Growth Rate



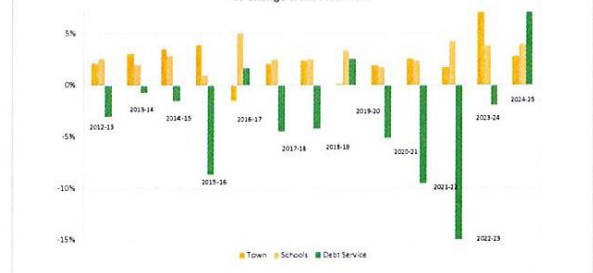
Mill Rate Increases



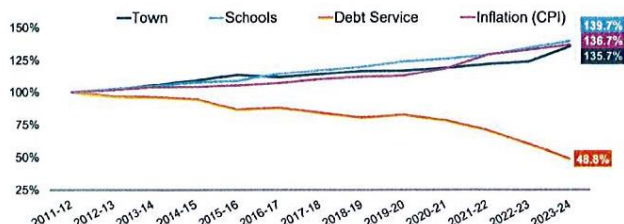
Overall Annual % Change in Budget Totals by Major Components, 2013-2024



% Change from Prior Year



Cumulative Operating Budget Growth FY2012-FY2024



Source: FY 2012-2023 Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports and 2024 Approved Expenses (ridgefieldct.gov)
 Since FY 2014-15, road maintenance costs have been part of the town's operating budget and were previously in the capital budget
 CPI data for FY 2023-24 is estimated based on YTD calendar data through December 2023 and median economist's forecasts as of January 2024

Annual Budget Referendum
 is May 14, 2024

Proposed Mill Rate is 26.35 which represents a
 2.09% increase

Please visit our Town website
www.ridgefieldct.gov

Andrew Neblett moved and Jonathan Paradiso, 386 North Street, seconded a motion to waive reading of the full budget and bond resolutions. Motion passed unanimously. Moderator Sharon Dornfeld introduced and read the following budget resolutions, stating complete copies of the budget and bond resolutions were printed and made available to members of the public attending the meeting:

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE RELATIVE TO THE APPROPRIATION OF \$50,545,667 FOR TOWN EXPENDITURES (CONSISTING OF TOWN OPERATING EXPENDITURES OF \$43,257,080 AND DEBT SERVICE OF \$7,288,587 ON BOTH TOWN AND EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2024 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

Rob Hendrick, 17 East Ridge, moved and Andrew Neblett seconded a motion to approve the resolution;

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE RELATIVE TO THE APPROPRIATION OF \$115,041,000 FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2024 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

Selina Bell, 230 Mountain Road, moved and Mike Rettger, 25 Fairview Avenue, seconded a motion to approve the resolution;

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE RELATIVE TO THE APPROPRIATION OF \$2,669,250 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS TOWN ROAD AND ADA IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2024 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

Selectperson Maureen Kozlark, 24 O'Neill Court, moved and Peter Nichols, 18 Parley Road, seconded a motion to approve the resolution;

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$270,000 FOR THE DESIGN AND ACQUISITION OF A HIGHWAY DUMP TRUCK WITH PLOW, \$131,734 FOR DESIGN AND ACQUISITION OF A HIGHWAY LOWBOY TRUCK, \$498,000 FOR DESIGN AND ACQUISITION OF A HIGHWAY VACTOR TRUCK AND \$150,000 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,049,734 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 \$150,000 FOR SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS)

Selectperson Sean Connelly, 550 Barrack Hill Road, moved and Andrew Neblett seconded a motion to approve the resolution;

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$123,000 FOR THE DESIGN AND ACQUISITION OF A MULTI-DECK GOLF MOWER, \$101,177 FOR THE DESIGN AND ACQUISITION OF A PARKS AND RECREATION MOWER, \$387,000 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PICKLEBALL COURTS, \$120,000 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF RECREATION CENTER BATHROOM RENOVATIONS, \$163,963 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF RECREATION CENTER DIVIDER DOORS, \$106,370 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF RECREATION CENTER HVAC CONTROLS, AND \$222,000 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF A LIBRARY

MATERIAL HANDLING SYSTEM; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,223,510 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATIONS AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSES

Joe Shapiro, 73 Blackman Road, moved and Peter Nichols seconded a motion to approve the resolution;

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$503,000 FOR THE DESIGN AND ACQUISITION OF PORTABLE POLICE DEPARTMENT RADIOS, \$134,235 FOR THE DESIGN AND ACQUISITION OF PORTABLE FIRE DEPARTMENT RADIOS, \$190,075 FOR THE DESIGN AND ACQUISITION OF FIRE DEPARTMENT CANCER PREVENTION EQUIPMENT AND \$401,594 FOR THE DESIGN AND ACQUISITION OF AN AMBULANCE; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,228,904 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATIONS AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSES

Sean Connelly moved and Rob Hendricks seconded a motion to approve the resolution;

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$725,000 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF MOUNTAIN ROAD BRIDGE REPAIRS, \$325,000 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION SHADOW LAKE DAM REPAIRS, AND \$187,500 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF LAKE MAMANASCO DAM REPAIRS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,237,500 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 \$500,000 FOR MOUNTAIN ROAD BRIDGE REPAIRS AND \$500,000 FOR SHADOW LAKE AND LAKE MAMANASCO DAM REPAIRS)

Mike Rettger moved and Jonathan Paradiso seconded a motion to approve the resolution;

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$395,000 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF AUDITORIUM RENOVATIONS AT VETERAN'S PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, \$165,210 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF DISTRICT-WIDE SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY UPGRADES, \$258,148 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF DISTRICT-WIDE LED LIGHTING UPGRADES, \$160,000 FOR THE DESIGN AND ACQUISITION OF CLASSROOM FURNITURE AT RIDGEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL, AND 114,100 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF DISTRICT-WIDE VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS EQUIPMENT; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,092,458 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATIONS AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSES

Sean Connelly moved and Chris Murray, 124 Ivy Hill Rd, seconded a motion to approve the resolution;

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$390,019 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF CASS GILBERT FOUNTAIN REPAIRS, OLMSTEAD LANE FOUNTAIN REPAIRS AND PETER PARLEY SCHOOL HOUSE GROUNDS UPGRADE, \$225,000 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ADA PLAYGROUND UPGRADES, AND \$400,000 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN AND ACQUISITION OF A TOWN ROAD SAFETY REPORT; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,015,019 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 \$320,000 FOR THE TOWN ROAD SAFETY REPORT)

Andrew Neblett moved and Sean Connelly seconded a motion to approve the resolution;

After discussion on the Town budget and the proposed bond resolutions, **a motion was made by Maureen Kozlark and seconded by Chris Murray that the First Selectperson be authorized and directed to call a referendum to be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 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, the reading of which was waived. Motion passed unanimously.

**TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD
NOTICE OF REFERENDUM
TO BE HELD MAY 14, 2024**

@ 8:30am
MAY 09 2024
Wendy Gannon-Lonetti
BY TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RIDGEFIELD CT

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 14, 2024 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 \$50,545,667 for Town expenditures (consisting of Town operating expenditures of \$43,257,080 and debt service of \$7,288,587 on both Town and Education capital projects) for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, 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 \$50,545,667 for Town expenditures (consisting of Town operating expenditures of \$43,257,080 and debt service of \$7,288,587 on both Town and Education capital projects) for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, be approved? YES/NO"

2. "Shall the recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to the appropriation of \$115,041,000 for Board of Education expenditures for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, 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 \$115,041,000 for Board of Education expenditures for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, be approved? YES/NO"

3. "Shall the recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to the appropriation of \$2,669,250 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of various Town road and ADA improvements for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, 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 \$2,669,250 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of various Town road and ADA improvements for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, be approved? YES/NO"

4. "Shall the Resolution Appropriating \$270,000 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Highway Dump Truck With Plow, \$131,734 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Highway Lowboy Truck, \$498,000 For the Design And Acquisition Of A Highway Vector Truck And \$150,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Sidewalk Improvements; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,049,734 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 \$150,000 For Sidewalk Improvements), be approved?"

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

"Shall the resolution appropriating \$270,000 for the design and acquisition of a highway dump truck with plow, \$131,734 for the design and acquisition of a highway lowboy truck, \$498,000 for the design and acquisition of a highway vector truck and \$150,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of sidewalk improvements; and authorizing the issuance of \$1,049,734 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 \$150,000 for sidewalk improvements), be approved? YES/NO"

5. "Resolution Appropriating \$123,000 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Multi-Deck Golf Mower, \$101,177 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Parks And Recreation Mower, \$387,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of New Pickleball Courts, \$120,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Recreation Center Bathroom Renovations, \$163,963 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Installation Of Recreation Center

Divider Doors, \$106,370 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Installation Of Recreation Center HVAC Controls, And \$222,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Installation Of A Library Material Handling System; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,223,510 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 \$123,000 for the design and acquisition of a multi-deck golf mower, \$101,177 for the design and acquisition of a parks and recreation mower, \$387,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of new pickleball courts, \$120,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of recreation center bathroom renovations, \$163,963 for the planning, design, acquisition and installation of recreation center divider doors, \$106,370 for the planning, design, acquisition and installation of recreation center HVAC controls, and \$222,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and installation of a library material handling system; and authorizing the issuance of \$1,223,510 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"

6. "Shall the Resolution Appropriating \$503,000 For The Design And Acquisition Of Portable Police Department Radios, \$134,235 For The Design And Acquisition Of Portable Fire Department Radios, \$190,075 For The Design And Acquisition Of Fire Department Cancer Prevention Equipment And \$401,594 For The Design And Acquisition Of An Ambulance; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,228,904 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 \$503,000 for the design and acquisition of portable Police Department radios, \$134,235 for the design and acquisition of portable Fire Department radios, \$190,075 for the design and acquisition of Fire Department cancer prevention equipment and \$401,594 for the design and acquisition of an ambulance; and authorizing the issuance of \$1,228,904 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"

7. "Shall the Resolution Appropriating \$725,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Mountain Road Bridge Repairs, \$325,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Shadow Lake Dam Repairs, And \$187,500 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Lake Mamasasco Dam Repairs; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,237,500 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 \$500,000 For Mountain Road Bridge Repairs And \$500,000 For Shadow Lake And Lake Mamasasco Dam Repairs), be approved?"

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

"Shall the resolution appropriating \$725,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of Mountain Road bridge repairs, \$325,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of Shadow Lake dam repairs, and \$187,500 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of Lake Mamasasco dam repairs; and authorizing the issuance of \$1,237,500 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 \$500,000 for Mountain Road bridge repairs and \$500,000 for Shadow Lake and Lake Mamasasco dam repairs), be approved? YES/NO"

8. "Shall the Resolution Appropriating \$395,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Auditorium Renovations at Veteran's Park Elementary School, \$165,210 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Installation Of District-Wide School Safety And Security Upgrades, \$258,148 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Installation Of District-Wide LED Lighting Upgrades, \$160,000 For The Design And Acquisition Of Classroom Furniture at Ridgefield High School, And \$114,100 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Installation Of District-Wide Visual And Performing Arts Equipment; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,092,458 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 \$395,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of auditorium renovations at Veteran's Park Elementary School, \$165,210 for the planning, design, acquisition and installation of District-wide school safety and security upgrades, \$258,148 for the planning, design, acquisition and installation of District-wide LED lighting upgrades, \$160,000 for the design and acquisition of classroom furniture at Ridgefield High School, and \$114,100 for the planning, design, acquisition and installation of District-Wide visual and performing arts equipment; and authorizing the issuance of \$1,092,458 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 Appropriating \$390,019 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Cass Gilbert Fountain Repairs, Olmstead Lane Fountain Repairs And Peter Parley School House Grounds Upgrade, \$225,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition and Installation Of Elementary School ADA Playground Upgrades, And \$400,000 For The Planning, Design And Acquisition Of A Town Road Safety Report; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,015,019 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 \$320,000 For The Town Road Safety Report), be approved?"

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

"Shall the resolution appropriating \$390,019 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of Cass Gilbert Fountain repairs, Olmstead Lane Fountain repairs and Peter Parley School House grounds upgrade, \$225,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and installation of elementary school ADA playground upgrades, and \$400,000 for the planning, design and acquisition of a Town road safety report; and authorizing the issuance of \$1,015,019 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 \$320,000 for the Town road safety report), 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:

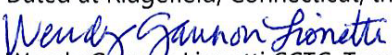
Yaniry Gym, 60 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut

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 9th day of May, 2024.


Wendy Gannon Lionetti CCTC, Town Clerk

RETURN OF NOTICE

RECEIVED
@ 12:32 PM
MAY 09 2024
Wendy Gannon Lionetti
BY TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RIDGEFIELD CT

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on May 9, 2024, I left a duplicate of the attached warning and notice of the Referendum 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 May 9, 2024.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that on May 9, 2024, 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 Referendum on May 14, 2024.

Wendy Gannon Lionetti
Wendy Gannon Lionetti, CCTC - Town Clerk

Maureen Kozlark moved and Chris Murray seconded that said resolution be adopted as introduced and read. Motion carried unanimously. The resolution was adopted.

Mike Rettger moved and Maureen Kozlark seconded the motion to approve the following resolution and waived the reading of the full resolution.

Moderator Dornfeld introduced and read the following resolution and each item listed for approval:

RESOLUTION MAKING APPROPRIATIONS AGGREGATING \$1,505,222 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION, INSTALLATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,505,222 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATIONS AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSES

RESOLVED:

Section 1. That the aggregate sum of \$1,505,222 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 or any and all federal and state grants-in-aid thereof:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Estimated Amount</u>
<u>Highway Department</u>	
Boom Mower	\$80,302
Guardrail Replacements	40,000
<u>Golf</u>	
Concrete Bridge – Hole #10	15,000
Sand Pro	31,000
<u>Parks & Recreation</u>	
ADA Compliance – Parking/Walkway	23,092
Parks, Fields & School Grounds Safety Improv. – Fencing/Net	40,475
Recreation Center Building Renovation – Spray Bay Surface	67,788
Recreation Center Building Repair – Painting Gym	52,200
Martin Park – Design & Engineer for Bathhouse/Site	10,000
Yanity Building Maintenance/Repair – Floor Resurface	40,000
<u>Town Engineer</u>	
Boiler Replacement Design/Installation – Venus Building	45,000

Garage Door Replacement – Fire Station #2	25,000
Door Replacement – Various Locations	60,000
MS4 Projects – Disconnect/Pervious Surfaces	75,000
<u>Fire Department</u>	
Firefighter Protective Gear	56,034
CPR Compression Device	19,646
Fire Hose	13,122
Public Access Defibrillators	26,484
Shift Commander Vehicle	29,248
<u>Information Technology</u>	
VMWare ESX Server Center	75,000
Software Server Replacements	22,000
<u>Library</u>	
Technology Upgrades	21,500
<u>Education</u>	
Student and Staff Bathroom Renovations – B, ER	67,556
Sound Attenuation/Dampening for Cafetorium – B, F, S, BM	39,340
Main Switchgear Replacement - F	98,530
Network Infrastructure Upgrades/Replacements - D	98,000
Avigilon Server Replacements - D	61,200
Maintenance EV Cargo Work Van	77,945
Student Locker Replacements - ER	85,000
RHS Auditorium Design/Engineering Costs - RH	75,000
<u>Other</u>	
Conservation Commission – Ford Maverick Pickup	27,960
Conservation Commission – Brushhogs	6,800
Total	<u>\$1,505,222</u>

Section 2. That the Town issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$1,505,222 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.

Following discussion and a vote by show of hands, the Moderator reported that there was unanimous approval of the adoption of the resolution. The Moderator thereupon declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted.

There being no further business, **Andrew Neblett moved and Marge Davidson, 77 Sunset Lane, Unit 5, seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 pm in accordance with Section 10-1c of the Town Charter to a paper ballot vote of Resolutions 1-9 at a Referendum to be held Tuesday, May 14, 2024 from 6 am-8 pm at Yanity Gym, 60 Prospect Street, Ridgefield CT and to reconvene at Ridgefield Town Hall large conference room after such balloting to consider and act upon the setting of the tax levy. Motion carried unanimously.**

Reconvened Annual Town Meeting May 14, 2024

First Selectperson Marconi reconvened the Annual Town Meeting of May 6, 2024 in the large conference room of Town Hall at 9:03 p.m.

The first order of business was to elect a Moderator. **Andrew Okrongly, 32 Tanglewood Court, moved and Mike Rettger, 25 Fairview Avenue, seconded the motion to appoint Sharon Wicks Dornfeld as Moderator. Unanimously approved.**

The Moderator asked the Head Moderator of the Referendum, Kent Rohrer, to announce the results. Kent Rohrer stated of the total 17, 806 number of registered voters, 1,080 voted by tabulator (in person); 6 were grand list voters; and 12 voted by absentee ballot, for a total of 1,097 voters. K. Rohrer then read the results, shown below. All questions were approved.

The Moderator recessed the meeting in order that the Board of Finance could meet and set the mill rate. After the Board of Finance met, David Ulmer, BOF Chairman, announced the new mill rate—26.35.

The Moderator then called the meeting back to order and asked for a motion to adjourn.

Colette Kabasakalian, Two Washington Street, moved and Greg Kabasakalian, Two Washington Street, seconded the motion to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting at 9:08 pm. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Gannon Lionetti, Town Clerk

TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD RESULTS OF REFERENDUM VOTE

At a referendum vote held on May 14, 2024 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 \$50,545,667 for Town expenditures (consisting of Town operating expenditures of \$43,257,080 and debt service of \$7,288,587 on both Town and Education capital projects) for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, be approved?"

_____ 879 _____ YES _____ 214 _____ NO

2. "Shall the recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to the appropriation of \$115,041,000 for Board of Education expenditures for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, be approved?"

_____ 801 _____ YES _____ 293 _____ NO

3. "Shall the recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to the appropriation of \$2,669,250 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of various Town road and ADA improvements for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, be approved?"

_____ 953 _____ YES _____ 139 _____ NO

4. "Shall the resolution appropriating \$270,000 for the design and acquisition of a highway dump truck with plow, \$131,734 for the design and acquisition of a highway lowboy truck, \$498,000 for the design and acquisition of a highway vector truck and \$150,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of sidewalk improvements; and authorizing the issuance of \$1,049,734 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 \$150,000 for sidewalk improvements), be approved?"

866 YES 224 NO

5. "Shall the resolution appropriating \$123,000 for the design and acquisition of a multi-deck golf mower, \$101,177 for the design and acquisition of a parks and recreation mower, \$387,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of new pickleball courts, \$120,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of recreation center bathroom renovations, \$163,963 for the planning, design, acquisition and installation of recreation center divider doors, \$106,370 for the planning, design, acquisition and installation of recreation center HVAC controls, and \$222,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and installation of a library material handling system; and authorizing the issuance of \$1,223,510 bonds of the Town to meet said appropriations and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purposes, be approved?"

777 YES 313 NO

6. "Shall the resolution appropriating \$503,000 for the design and acquisition of portable Police Department radios, \$134,235 for the design and acquisition of portable Fire Department radios, \$190,075 for the design and acquisition of Fire Department cancer prevention equipment and \$401,594 for the design and acquisition of an ambulance; and authorizing the issuance of \$1,228,904 bonds of the Town to meet said appropriations and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purposes, be approved?"

925 YES 161 NO

7. "Shall the resolution appropriating \$725,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of Mountain Road bridge repairs, \$325,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of Shadow Lake dam repairs, and \$187,500 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of Lake Mamanasco dam repairs; and authorizing the issuance of \$1,237,500 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 \$500,000 for Mountain Road bridge repairs and \$500,000 for Shadow Lake and Lake Mamanasco dam repairs), be approved?"

884 YES 194 NO

8. "Shall the resolution appropriating \$395,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of auditorium renovations at Veteran's Park Elementary School, \$165,210 for the planning, design, acquisition and installation of District-wide school safety and security upgrades, \$258,148 for the planning, design, acquisition and installation of District-wide LED lighting upgrades, \$160,000 for the design and acquisition of classroom furniture at Ridgefield High School, and \$114,100 for the planning, design, acquisition and installation of District-Wide visual and performing arts equipment; and authorizing the issuance of \$1,092,458 bonds of the Town to meet said appropriations and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purposes, be approved?"

847 YES 241 NO

9. "Shall the resolution appropriating \$390,019 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of Cass Gilbert Fountain repairs, Olmstead Lane Fountain repairs and Peter Parley School House grounds upgrade, \$225,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and installation of elementary school ADA playground upgrades, and \$400,000 for the planning, design and acquisition of a Town road safety report; and authorizing the issuance of \$1,015,019 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 \$320,000 for the Town road safety report), be approved?"

865 YES 222 NO

(seal)

Wendy Gannon Lionetti, Town Clerk