

NOTICE OF A  
PUBLIC HEARING & SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD, CONNECTICUT  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024 AT 7:30 PM

RECEIVED  
10:01 AM  
DEC 09 2024  
Wendy Gannon Lionetti  
BY TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
RIDGEFIELD CT

Notice is hereby given that a formal Public Hearing & Special Town Meeting for residents will be held on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 7:30 pm in the Town Hall Large Conference Room located at 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877 to hear & vote on the following item:

The Resolution appropriating \$275,000 for the costs related to design and planning of a new Alternative High School and Transition Program Building:

**RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$275,000 FOR THE COSTS RELATED TO DESIGN AND PLANNING OF A NEW ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL AND 18-22 TRANSITION PROGRAM BUILDING; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$275,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE**

The full Resolution can be found on the Town Calendar [www.ridgefieldct.gov](http://www.ridgefieldct.gov).



TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD  
Office of the First Selectperson

RECEIVED  
2:03 PM  
DEC 20 2024  
Wendy Gannon Lionetti  
BY TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
RIDGEFIELD CT

December 20, 2024

Wendy Gannon Lionetti  
Town Clerk

This letter is to affirm that the legal public notices for the Special Town Meeting held on December 18, 2024, appeared in the *Ridgefield Press* on Thursday, December 12th, 2024.



Amy Escribano  
First Selectperson's Office

Special Town Meeting December 18, 2024

First Selectperson Rudy Marconi asked the audience to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance at 8:45 pm (after the Public Hearing), after which he stated that the first order of business was to appoint a Moderator. **Selectperson Maureen Kozlark moved and Selectperson Chris Murray seconded the motion to appoint Ed Tyrrell Moderator for the Special Town Meeting. The "Aye" votes were unanimous and Ed Tyrrell was appointed Moderator.**

Moderator Ed Tyrrell called the meeting to order and requested a motion to appoint a secretary. **Selectperson Sean Connelly moved and Maureen Kozlark, seconded the motion to appoint Wendy Gannon Lionetti, Town Clerk, secretary. The "Aye" votes were unanimous and Wendy Gannon Lionetti was appointed secretary.**

According to the Registrars of Voters, there were 11 nonvoters and 67 eligible voters in attendance at the Special Town Meeting.

Moderator Ed Tyrrell read the legal notice of the meeting that appears on page 87 of the Volume 20 STM minutes book.

The Moderator then asked for a motion to approve the resolution. **Andrew Sternlieb, 62 Ridgecrest Drive moved and Selectperson Chris Murray seconded the motion to approve appropriating \$275,000 for the costs related to the design and planning of a new AHS and 18-22 transition program building; and authorizing the issuance of \$275,000 bonds of the Town to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose.**

- John Tartaglia, 638 Danbury Road, stated this has been a very confusing process. I don't have the confidence that this procedure was conducted correctly like a proper site selection process. I say no. Give yourself the flexibility and don't lock yourself in like this.
- Mike Raduazzo, 195 Peaceable Street, stated the resolution appropriating 275,000 is too much and there is not vehicle to appropriate those dollars not spent on something else.
- Andrew Sternlieb, 62 Ridgecrest Drive, stated the money that is not spent will be designated elsewhere. It doesn't go away.
- Debra Franceschini, 72 Spire View Road, stated she would like a paper vote on the matter.
- Sean Archambeault, 85 Ramapoo Road, stated there are probably other options. It is not correct to appropriate that money for this particular site. Vote no tonight—need more time to look at other options.
- John Collins, 34 Langstroth Drive, stated this is a 15-year journey for me and I totally trust the people who are working on this. I don't agree with every decision, but I respect and trust them. A no vote will postpone this. We need to be fiscally responsible. I am a hard yes.

**Rudy Marconi motioned to waive the reading of the full resolution; seconded by Kirk Carr. The “Aye” votes were unanimous and the motion carried.**

- Debra Franceschini, 72 Spire View Road, stated that she would like the vote to be held via paper ballot because she cannot speak out loudly. Moderator Ed Tyrrell responded that she would be allowed to vote via paper ballot.
- Aimee Cohen, 76 Florida Hill Road, stated the plan does not include a gym, music, art room, school nurses. The building is illegal; vote no. Transition program is fine—they can attend this new building; Alternative school kids need to be somewhere near the high school.
- Andrew Terzis, 9 Palmer Court, echoed the words of John Collins, commending the educators and board. Time is of the essence; we want this built. I'll vote yes, we need this facility. It's time.
- Cheryl Boyd, 9 Ridgewood Road, stated I am a hard no because of my experience with the Alternative High School. The school should be closer to Ridgefield High School.
- Kirk Carr, 62 Prospect Ridge, stated I will be voting no tonight. Last week the parents from Ridgebury Elementary and one from Barlow Mountain were here because their roofs have been leaking. We aren't fixing their roofs and now we are considering building another building that eventually will have a leaky roof. I will vote no.

**Mr. Tyrrell called for a vote on the motion to approve the resolution, stating that one person would be voting via paper ballot . It was not clear based on voice vote which had the majority; therefore, Mr. Tyrrell then asked those who were voting in support of the resolution to stand. It was determined that 45 attendees voted “Aye”. Mr. Tyrrell asked those opposed to the resolution to stand and it was determined 16 attendees voted “Nay.”; the motion was approved.**

**Selectperson Maureen Kozlark moved and Selectperson Sean Connelly, seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 pm. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Gannon Lionetti, Town Clerk