



Town of Ridgefield
BOF Approved Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 17, 2025
APPROVED

I. Call to order

Mike Rettger called the Board of Finance meeting to order at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 in the Town Hall large conference room. Board Members Mike Rettger, Dave Ulmer, Greg Kabasakalian and Joe Shapiro present, Andrew Okrongly present via telephone.

Others Present: Jill Browne, RPS Director of Finance; Jane Berendsen-Hill, Tax Collector

II. Comments from Public

None.

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Ulmer, seconded by Mr. Rettger to approve the minutes of May 13, 2025 meeting and the May 27, 2025 special meeting. All voted in favor.

IV. BOE Financial Report

Ms. Browne presented the highlights of the BOE Report as of May 31, 2025**. As of the end of May, the district has expended and/or obligated \$114,098,049 of the approved \$115,041,000 general fund budget, representing 99.2% of the total appropriation. Ms. Browne reported that a special education Excess Cost Reimbursement was received in May and an additional Excess Cost Reimbursement of \$223,339 was anticipated for June. That will leave a shortfall from budget of \$116,398, which is better than had been anticipated. Ms. Browne reported that, at this time, RPS expects to close the fiscal year with a modest surplus, currently estimated to be between \$450,000 and \$600,000. Ms. Browne answered questions by BOF members.

V. Treasurer's Report

The members reviewed and discussed the Treasurer's Report as of May 31, 2025**.

VI. Tax Collector's Report

The members reviewed and discussed the Tax Collector's Report**. Ms. Berendsen-Hill noted that the report had not significantly changed. She reported that she is working on getting tax bills organized and mailed in a timely manner prior to the start of the new fiscal year.

VII. Controller's Report

The members reviewed and discussed the Controllers report**. Road maintenance is now over budget and will be brought within budget using TAR funds. It was noted that the total revenue surplus expected for the current fiscal year is now \$1,512,065, which is higher than the \$1,321,485 projection at the time that the Board of Finance held its 2025-2026 budget meetings.

VIII. Old Business

- The 217 Danbury Road appraisal has been received.
- Mr. Okrongly provided an update on the work of the Senior Tax Committee. He reported that the committee's recommendation is anticipated to include a policy component and a revenue component. He briefly discussed the committee's next steps internally within Town government, the staging of changes to reduce single-year effects on the mill rate, the history of the senior tax credit in Ridgefield, as well as comparisons of the tax benefits to seniors in Ridgefield with those in other communities.

IX. New Business

- Mr. Rettger reported that a high school intern is searching the unclaimed property list for unclaimed property of the Town and of RPS. It is being compared to last year's list.
- The members noted the letter of June 3, 2025 from the Town's auditors, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, regarding the audit for the year ending June 30, 2025.
- Mr. Rettger reported on his efforts to arrange a meeting with the BOE and BOS, potentially for late August, to review how possible operating and capital spending may affect long-term financial and property tax projections for the Town.

X. Communications & Correspondence

Mr. Rettger reported on comments in email to the BOF from Rich Fasanelli expressing concern about the size of the budget.

XI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. by Mr. Ulmer, seconded by Mr. Shapiro. All in favor.

Next BOF meeting August 19, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Mia Belanger

** Materials that were distributed to BOF members in advance of the meeting are maintained on file in the Controller's office.