



Town of Ridgefield
BOF Approved Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 25, 2025

I. Call to order

Mike Rettger called the BOF meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 in the Town Hall Large Conference Room. Members Mike Rettger, Dave Ulmer, Greg Kabasakalian, Andrew Okrongly, Joe Shapiro present.

Others Present: Rudy Marconi, First Selectperson; BOS members Maureen Kozlark, Sean Connelly and Chris Murray; Kevin Redmond, Controller.

II. Budget Deliberations - Town Operating and Capital Budgets

Mr. Marconi reviewed the proposed FY 2025-2026 Operating and Capital budgets for the Town. The roads operating budget was discussed. An additional FD hire to fill out shift requirements was also discussed. BOF members each contributed to the discussion, with questions about IT, debt service, library, part-time wage increases due to minimum wage increase, roads and work needed on tertiary roads, volunteer fire training, tree warden, police matters, fire department matters, and expenditure for snow removal. The State of Connecticut Town Aid Road (TAR) program funding may be used to partially offset budget overages for snow removal.

Areas of discussion regarding the capital budget included a grant for a new town bus, golf and new tee boxes, Parks & Rec, postponement of resurfacing of the Ballard Park playground, police tasers, FD heart monitors, public works, engineering, sidewalk improvements, and RPS LED lighting which substantially reduces energy usage and costs.

Mr. Marconi provided an update on the contemplated public safety building. Conceptual engineering work is being done to reduce the capital cost from the amount that went to referendum in February. The new work preliminarily includes a \$6 million reduction in site work and some associated reconfiguring of the building to accommodate a different topography. Also, the Town is currently considering a 4,000 square foot reduction in the size of the building.

Mr. Marconi also addressed work on school auditoriums, athletic fields and facilities.

III. General Budget Discussion

Following the presentations, BOF members had a general discussion with Mr. Marconi and the other BOS members present about various elements of the proposed budgets, including the BOS nonbinding recommendation on the BOE-adopted operating budget.

IV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. by Mr. Okrongly seconded by Mr. Ulmer. All in favor.

Next meeting March 26, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted by
Mia Belanger