



**Town of Ridgefield**  
**Board of Finance**  
**Approved Public Hearing Minutes**  
Monday, March 24, 2025

**I. Call to order**

BOF Chair Mike Rettger called the Board of Finance Public Hearing meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 24, 2025 at East Ridge Middle School. BOF Members Mike Rettger, Dave Ulmer, Greg Kabasakalian, Andrew Okrongly, Joe Shapiro present.

**II. Presentation by First Selectperson**

First Selectperson Rudy Marconi provided an overview of the proposed FY 2025-2026 Town Operating budget and Capital budget. The total operating budget request, including debt service and Ridgefield Public Schools, was \$174,901,754, a 3.95% increase.

**III. Presentation by School Superintendent**

Superintendent of Schools Susie Da Silva provided an overview of the proposed BOE-adopted Operating budget for FY 2025-2026. Fiscal year request of \$119,885,958, a 4.21% increase.

**IV. Presentation by Chair of Board of Finance**

BOF Chair Mike Rettger presented an overview of the annual Town budget process, BOF primary responsibilities and guidelines, relevant financial information including factors affecting budgets, and the BOF schedule for the budget meetings.

**V. Public Hearing**

The following residents commented regarding the proposed budgets in person and/or in writing by email, with substance briefly noted below.

Gave Comment at Public Hearing in Favor of the BOE-Adopted Operating Budget:

Mary Ellen Foley

Barry Avenue

Liz Karlan

Mallory Hill Road

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Emily Fernandez	Ridgebury Road
Juan Salgado	Nod Hill Road
Kevin Conroy	Tackora Trail
Jonathan Paradiso	North Street
Seth Kinast	Pump Lane
Andy Sternlieb	Ridgecrest Drive
Rebecca Avallone	Tanton Hill Road
Julie Reynolds	Old Town Road
Chris McLeavey	Eustis Lane
Tiffany Barrett	Laurel Lane
Jenna Clay	Titicus Court
Farah Fahring	Wilton Road West
Caitlin Kinast	Pump Lane
Mary Salgado	Nod Hill Road

Gave Comment at Public Hearing in Favor of a 4.44% Increase in BOE Operating Budget:

Rachel Ruggeri	Lincoln Lane
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Gave Comment at Public Hearing Consisting of a General Critique of the Budgets:

Kirk Carr	Prospect Ridge
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Provided Comment by Email, All in Favor of BOE-Adopted Operating Budget

Lisa Sauer	NAP (no address provided)
Christine Barresi	NAP
Stacey Gifford	Old Washington Road
Angela Rice	Branchville Road
Sarah Panagiotidis	NAP
Morgan Cottrell	NAP
RoseAnne Nagle	Shady Lane
Kirsten Tuohy	NAP
David Clay	Titicus Court
Kelsey DePalo	NAP
Ashley Chanter Rizzo	NAP
Jennifer Tejada	NAP
Kathy Ruscoe	NAP
Kaylee Grant	NAP
Michelle Pambianchi	NAP
Jill Cosgrove	NAP
Ari Bauer	NAP
Beth Ingram	Bennetts Farm Road
Kate Loewengart	Dlhy Court
Saasha Sutura-Hogan	Benson Road

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Eon Nichols	NAP
Artie Koellmer	NAP
Sari Yaffee	NAP
Ali Sisca	North Street
Kristen Tison	NAP
JoAnna Kelly	NAP
Joe Grabowski	Lewis Drive
Carla Velasco	NAP
Tara McCarthy	NAP
Kara Matz	Golf Court
Julia Teitelbaum	Barnum Place
Sue Safianoff	NAP
Amber VandeKerhoff	Stonecrest Road
Michelle Colletti	Sarah Bishops Road
Jessica Landy	NAP
Alison Pratt	Lewis Drive
Jenna Clay	Titicus Court
Emily Fernandez	Ridgebury Road
Rebecca Avallone	Tanton Hill Road
Kevin Conroy	Tackora Trail

## **VI. Adjournment**

**Motion** to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. by Mr. Kabasakalian, seconded by Mr. Ulmer. All in favor.

Next BOF meeting March 25, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Mia Belanger