



Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectpersons Meeting Minutes
UNAPPROVED

April 24, 2024 at 6:30pm

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

Present: Rudy Marconi, Sean Connelly, Chris Murray, Maureen Kozlark, Barbara Manners

1. Parking Authority

Jessica Wilmot and Ellen Burns from the Parking Authority discussed increasing parking permit fees from \$75/6 months to \$100/6 months and implementing violations at EV Charging Stations.

The Authority is proposing a fine for parking a non-EV/hybrid vehicle in an EV Charging parking spot and for parking in an EV Charging parking spot while not charging. Both Barbara Manners and Chris Murray disagreed with implementing fines. Barbara Manners commented that parking is already limited so if a charging spot is open, any vehicle should be able to park in it. Sean Connelly commented that it is frustrating if you need to charge and there is a non-EV/hybrid vehicle in the charging station.

Vincent Giordano, 28 Fairview Drive, suggested labeling the spots with EV only signs first and then start with fines if the signs are being ignored.

Tom McManus, 310 West Lane, commented that the EV Charging Station spots at the mall are the furthest from the entrances to deter others from parking there. *Sean Connelly moved to approve an EV Charging Station violation warning trial for two months, effective when the "EV Only" signs are in place and the EV stations are up and running. Warnings will be given to vehicles that are parked at EV charging stations but are not EV or Hybrid, and also for EV vehicles that are parked in those spots but are not charging. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Chris Murray and Barbara Manners opposed. Motion carries 3-2.*

Maureen Kozlark moved to approve an increase in price for parking passes issued from the Town from \$75 to \$100. Barbara Manners seconded the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

2. College Creamery Permit Renewal

College Creamery Ice Cream truck is in its 3rd season and is up for a permit

renewal. They cover private parties, town events, and school events.

Barbara Manners moved to approve the vender permit renewal for another year for College Creamery. Sean Connelly second the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

3. Appointment of 250th American Anniversary Committee

America's 250th Anniversary is in 2026. The BOS will appoint an 11-person committee for event planning. Pamme Jones, director of the Theater Barn, and ECDC member Geoffrey Morris are the Co-Chairs of the Committee. Once the Committee is formed, they will advertise for volunteers to help with the events, which will begin July 4, 2025 and continue throughout the year concluding on July 4, 2026 with a big town wide celebration.

Sean Connelly moved to approve the formation of a 250th American Anniversary Committee that will be co-chaired by Geoffrey Morris and Pamme Jones. Barbara Manners seconded the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

4. ACO Town Vehicle Policy

There is currently a Town Vehicle Policy that allows certain employees to bring their work vehicles home. Kris Zuleski, Ridgefield's Animal Control Officer, requested to amend the policy to include his work vehicle in order to more efficiently answer after hours and weekend calls.

Chris Murray moved to approve an amendment to the Town Vehicle Policy to include the Animal Control vehicle. Barbara Manners seconded the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

5. Commission on Aging Update

The Commission on Aging provided an update to the BOS regarding their findings on behavioral health matters. Ridgefield's seniors are receiving free behavioral health services through the state which includes four hours of counseling per month. In addition, the Commission is piloting two new programs to help with social isolation and digital divide. The first is a group breakfast at local breakfast spots to get seniors together and build relationships. The second is a program where schools donate the Chromebooks and iPads that are no longer in use to the Ridgefield Library where seniors can have access to them. A high school student will then help teach seniors how to use the devices.

The BOS broke for the Public Hearing at 7:35pm.

The meeting resumed at 8:09pm.

6. Tax Collector Refunds

Barbara Manners moved to approve the Tax Collector Refunds in the amount of \$7,736,039. Maureen Kozlark seconded the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

7. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Sean Connelly moved to approve the BOS Special Meeting Minutes from April 15, 2024. Barbara Manners seconded. Maureen Kozlark and Chris Murray abstained. Motion carries 3-0-2

Maureen Kozlark moved to approve the BOS Meeting Minutes from April 10, 2024 as modified. Sean Connelly seconded the motion. Chris Murray abstained. Motion carries 4-0-1.

8. Selectperson's Report

Pride of Ridgefield has asked for the Pride Flag to be flown on the flagpole in front of Town Hall during the month of June, however the Town Flag Policy prohibits any flag other than the American, State, POW-MIA and GRADD flags to fly on the flagpole. The Board all agreed that the Policy is in place for a reason and exceptions cannot be made for one group.

The EPA has issued new stronger limits for PFAs and PFOs. The limit will lower from 14 parts per trillion to 4 parts per trillion in drinking water. The compliance time is five years.

29 Lakeview Drive has been an ongoing blight complaint and legal battle between the Town and the property owner. The Town is continuing to pursue foreclosure. The property owner has until May 15th to clean up the property or else the Town will move to direct foreclosure.

Chris Murray has been monitoring the housing legislation. He asked that the Board take a look at Bill 5473 regarding sewage for multifamily homes.

9. Executive Session – Interviews for Leafblower/Noise Committee

The BOS entered into executive session at 8:30pm.

10. The Board returned to public ant 9:35pm.

No vote was taken.