



**Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectpersons Meeting
Minutes
APPROVED**

December 10, 2025 at 6:30pm

Town Hall – Large Conference Room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

Present: Sean Connelly, Maureen Kozlark, Barbara Manners, Rudy Marconi, Geoffrey Morris
Absent: None

Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

1. Public Comment

No comments

2. Year-end transfers – Kevin Redmond, Finance Director

- The BOS reviewed the transfer list provided by Mr. Redmond. The listed cost centers had expenses that exceeded the budget. These transfers are required so that the cost center doesn't close out the year overbudget.
- Sean Connelly asked if Mr. Redmond has observed any trends to be aware of as the BOS prepares to go into budget season. He responded that there is a trend with legal and an increasing trend with IT and cybersecurity, neither of which can be limited.
- Sharon Dornfeld, Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners, added that an officer is usually in the Dispatch building as a resource.
- The BOS reviewed each transfer item.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to approve the transfers 25-1 through 25-7 as recommended by the finance director. Geoffrey Morris seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Appointments and Reappointments

a. Paul Payne, Joe Fossi – Building Code Board of Appeals Reappointment

Both were present. They explained that the appeals board is statutorily required but they only meet when an appeal is brought forward.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to reappoint Paul Payne Jr. And Joe Fossi to the Building Code Board of Appeals. Sean Connelly seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

b. Sandya Narasimha – Youth Commission Appointment

She introduced herself stating that she feels it's important for people her age to be involved in the community especially with issues that directly affect them. She attended a few meetings and appreciated that everyone contributes according to their strengths. She observed that most of the youth on the commission are seniors. She would bring a fresh perspective and continuity for the commission as the seniors graduate and leave. She shared that the commission is working on a project to encourage respectful discourse of differing opinions. She added that she hopes to recruit more young people as the seniors will be leaving several vacancies.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to appoint Sandya Narasimha to the Youth Commission. Geoffrey Morris seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

c. Rudy Marconi, signing member; Maureen Kozlark, alternate – HRRA

Rudy Marconi stated that he attends all the meetings. The HRRA deals with all the mass solid waste garbage and recycling programs in the area with 14 towns as members.

Sean Connelly motioned to reappoint Rudy Marconi and signing member, and Maureen Kozlark as alternate. Barbara Manners seconded. Motion carried 3-0-2 (Marconi and Kozlark abstained).

d. Robert Salaga – Ridgefield 250 Committee Appointment

Robert Salaga reported that the activities are on-going throughout the year culminating with the Liberty Ball next summer. Few municipalities are celebrating, but Ridgefield committed to the celebration a few years ago. The volunteers have been fundraising. The committee is currently determining whether to enhance existing events or create new events. The celebration was meant to go on for the entire year so now they are looking at net new events

Sean Connelly motioned to appoint Robert Salaga to the Ridgefield 250 Committee. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Jennifer Zbell – BOS interview

Rudy Marconi introduced Jennifer Zbell as the new Director of Health. Rudy Marconi asked Jennifer Zbell what major health issues exist in Ridgefield. She explained that there aren't any major concerns. She is interested in enhancing mental health advocacy in the community by partnering with other groups. Traditionally, the health department deals with food safety and related land use, and food health and safety inspections. Recently, a Fairfield County Measles case has surfaced that will require some involvement. She also wants to address alcohol uptake in the youth. There are no vaccine clinics in Ridgefield, so she wants to set up a flu clinic next year. She also wants to go into the community with health education.

No action taken as she was previously approved as the new health director.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm to go into the Town Meeting.

The Town meeting business was completed and meeting adjourned at 7:46pm to return to the BOS meeting.

5. Proposed amendment of current Ridgefield Historic District ordinance

Daniel O'Brien, chair, was present and led the Historic District Commission presentation. He explained that in 1708 the town founders designed the town center to be at High Ridge, Main Street, and East Ridge. When the Historic District Commission was established, East Ridge was not included in the historic designation. The residents are in support of declaring East Ridge an Historic District as defined in the Connecticut statutes. The state has approved as well as local agencies. The secret ballot among East Ridge residents provided 10 yes votes from 15 total residents. The next step is approval by the legislative body to approve the study report and adopt the ordinance language to include the East Ridge area in the Historic District. The designation as an historic district will not impede any progress planned for the buildings. Sean Connelly asked if the historic designation would prioritize form over function. Mr. O'Brien explained that some issues require pragmatism. He will craft a letter from the commission to address these concerns. The BOS will set a public hearing and town meeting for this purpose.

Sean Connelly motioned to set a Public Hearing for January 7 and a Town Meeting on January 21. Geoffrey Morris seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

6. PD/FD Building Committee discussion

- a. Interviews – Deadline to submit interest will be Monday, December 15. Candidates to be considered by the BOS in executive session. There will be 7 - 9 members on the committee who should understand the time commitment to serve on the committee. Each BOS will select 10 candidates from the complete pool of candidates. The BOS will meet in closed session on December 30, 9am, to review the list and narrow down to 20 interviews. The list of 20 names will be made public. The Police Commission is tasked to suggest criteria and skillsets for committee members.
- b. Charge – Written draft reviewed and presented for BOS consideration

7. Tax refunds

Sean Connelly motioned to approve the tax refunds of \$24,538.87. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

8. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. September 24, 2025 BOS Special Meeting minutes

Sean Connelly motioned to approve the minutes from the September 24, 2025 Board of Selectpersons Meeting. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1 (Morris abstained).

- b. October 8, 2025 Public Hearing minutes

Sean Connelly noted several corrections.

Sean Connelly motioned to approve the minutes from the October 8, 2025 Public Hearing Meeting, as amended. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

- c. **November 14, 2025 BOS Special Meeting minutes**
Sean Connelly and Maureen Kozlark submitted corrections

Maureen Kozlark motioned to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2025 Board of Selectpersons Special Meeting, as amended. Sean Connelly seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1 (Morris abstained).

- d. **November 18, 2025 Tri-board Meeting (BOS, BOF, BOE)**

Sean Connelly motioned to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2025 Tri-Board Meeting, as amended to reflect that these are not a complete record of that meeting. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 3-0-2 (Manners and Morris abstained).

- e. **November 19, 2025 BOS meeting minutes**

Sean Connelly motioned to approve the minutes from the November 19 2025 Board of Selectpersons Meeting. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1 (Morris abstained).

- f. **November 24, 2025 BOS Special Meeting minutes**

Maureen Kozlark motioned to approve the minutes from the November 24, 2025 BOS Special Meeting minutes. Geoffrey Morris seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

9. Selectpersons Report

Rudy Marconi shared a follow-up letter regarding OPM.

Next step in senior tax credit is notification to all Ridgefield residents over 64 and all property owners over 64. But first, the BOS will discuss philosophical position before budget discussions.

A radio station is interested in taking over the lease of a radio antenna. The BOS will discuss and consider reassignment of that lease.

Form of Government Committee submitted examples requested for BOS review.

The Leaf Blower Committee is still open.

148 High Ridge is progressing with discussions with DEEP and DPH. 12/31 is the deadline for a progress report from the current owner to DEEP.

Veteran's Exemption requires an amendment to the ordinance.

Verizon is requesting approval to install a tower at the transfer station or the rec center but there aren't any reported signal issues in those areas

***Sean Connelly motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:12pm. Maureen Kozlark seconded.
Motion carried 5-0.***