

TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD

RIDGEFIELD FIRE COMMISSION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 2, 2026 | 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Ridgefield Library, Meeting Room, Ridgefield, Connecticut

I. ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present: Rudy Marconi, Chair; Barbara Manners; Maureen Kozlark; Sean Connelly; and Geoffrey Morris.

Commissioners Absent: None.

Department Representatives Present: Fire Chief Rommie L. Duckworth; Assistant Chief Tony Cerulli; Ridgefield Volunteer Fire Department Deputy Chief Tim Pambianchi; and Ridgefield Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Chief Michael Gabbianelli.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

III. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Fire Department Strategic Planning

Chief Duckworth presented the Fire Department's strategic-planning framework and the factors driving future service needs. The presentation was organized around four pillars:

Facilities: Current repairs and upgrades, participation by the RFD internal facilities workgroup, and monitoring of development, including Branchville, for effects on future facility needs.

Apparatus and Equipment: Twenty-year capital planning for routine replacement rather than fleet expansion, with new tools considered as needs and opportunities arise, funded under operations with support from grants and donations.

Administration: Policies and procedures, data analysis, professional development, delegation, and succession planning.

Personnel: Rising EMS demand and complexity, loss of experience, paramedic recruitment challenges, and need for consistent command coverage and future needs for ambulance capacity.

Commissioners Kozlark and Manners and Chair Marconi asked questions about specific initiatives, including the blood-product administration pilot program and the point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) program. The Commission discussed these projects.

Follow-up: Commissioner Connelly requested a future Fire Department call-volume projection from Chief Duckworth.

2. Report on Equipment and Overtime

Chief Duckworth reported that all fire engines were in service. Ambulance operations continued, with ongoing challenges obtaining parts for older ambulances while delivery of new ambulances was delayed.

Chief Duckworth further reported that, following the hiring of additional firefighters, Fire Department overtime expenditures for July and August of FY2027 totaled \$60,858, less than half the \$135,222 spent during the same months of FY2026, primarily due to a hiring initiative.

3. Building Discussion

Chief Duckworth reported that the Fire Department Facilities Internal Workgroup had been reactivated. The workgroup includes both career and volunteer representatives, reflecting participation from both sides of the combination department, and was awaiting additional information regarding recommendations from the Town Public Safety Facilities Committee.

IV. MOTIONS AND VOTES

No motions were made and no votes were taken during the meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Marconi adjourned the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Minutes prepared by Chief Rommie L. Duckworth, Ridgefield Fire Department.

These minutes constitute an official public record of the Ridgefield Fire Commission and are subject to disclosure under the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act.