



**Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectpersons Meeting
Minutes
UNAPPROVED
September 16, 2026 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, Rudy Marconi, Geoffrey Morris

Absent: Barbara Manners

Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order.

Sean Connelly motioned to add to the agenda item 2a to update the Public Safety Facilities Committee charge. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 4-0 (Manners absent).

1. Public Comment

Chris Ingram, 227 Bennetts Farm Road, read his letter to the BOS sharing the drainage failure in their subdivision development leading to major flooding of their property and losses totaling over \$100,000. He outlined the legal documents referencing various responsibilities of the town and agencies. Rudy Marconi will address the matter with Planning and Zoning and Inland Wetland.

2. Appointments and Reappointments

a. Public Safety Facilities Committee appointment – Next phase; Pamela Dunaway, Ed Tyrrell, Steven Scalzo, Adam Safir, David Brickley

The BOS thanked the committee for their eight months of weekly meetings. Maureen Kozlark and Sean Connelly asked about a comparison chart that uniformly measures the various possibilities. Geoffrey Morris asked for a page instead of a chart for each option. The BOS and candidates discussed the level of public education needed. The objective is to provide sufficient information to ensure the community's understanding of the options. The BOS also discussed the possibility of hiring a public relations firm.

Andrea Beebe suggested a hard copy document is mailed to all the community.

The charge was discussed but no action was taken.

Geoffrey Morris motioned to appoint Pamela Dunaway, Ed Tyrrell, Steven Scalzo, Adam Safir, and David Brickley to the Public Safety Facilities Committee. Sean Connelly seconded. Motion carried 4-0 (Manners absent).

b. Ridgefield Housing Authority appointment – Ann O’Brien

Incoming Chair, Derrick Schirm, introduced Ann O’Brien. He shared that three worthy candidates were considered but Ms. O’Brien’s unique background would be an invaluable asset to the RHA. Geoffrey Morris asked what contribution she hopes to make. She would like to focus on stability with a solid assessment for future potential based on need. Maureen Kozlark asked if Ms. O’Brien has a role in mind. Ms. O’Brien explained that she is a utility player due to her experience running non-profits. Sean Connelly asked how her experience with refugee resettlement can tie in to work on the RHA. She explained that her experience supporting refugees finding work and housing is foundational to support the RHA mission.

Sean Connelly motioned to appoint Ann O’Brien to the Ridgefield Housing Authority. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 4-0 (Manners absent).

c. Board of Ethics reappointment – Michelle E. Pallai

Ms. Pallai shared that she has lived in Ridgefield for 36 years. She has served the Board of Ethics for 9 years. She feels she is objective and can see all sides of a claim or complaint. She appreciates the diverse viewpoints on the board which do create an environment for healthy discussion. Rarely do parties bring attorneys to a hearing. When complaints are raised that do not violate any charter provisions, the parties are notified.

Maureen Kozlark motioned to reappoint Michelle e. Pallai to the Board of Ethics. Geoffrey Morris seconded. Motion carried 4-0 (Manners absent).

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. August 31, 2026 BOS and Board of Police Commissioners Special Meeting

Sean Connelly and Maureen Kozlark submitted corrections.

Sean Connelly motioned to approve the minutes from the August 31, 2026 Board of Selectpersons and Board of Police Commissioners Special Meeting, as modified. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 4-0 (Manners absent).

b. September 2, 2026 BOS Meeting

Sean Connelly motioned to approve the minutes from the September 2, 2026 Board of Selectpersons Meeting, as presented. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 4-0 (Manners absent).

c. September 2, 2026 Public Hearing

The BOS made several corrections.

Sean Connelly motioned to approve the minutes from the September 2, 2026 Public Hearing as modified. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 4-0 (Manners absent).

d. September 8, 2026 BOS Special Meeting

Sean Connelly motioned to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2026 Board of Selectpersons Special Meeting, as presented. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 4-0 (Manners absent).

e. September 10, 2026 BOS Special Meeting

Sean Connelly motioned to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2026 Board of Selectpersons Special Meeting. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 4-0 (Manners absent).

4. Selectpersons Report

Geoffrey Morris stated that he finds no conflict of interests with serving the Ridgefield Herald and the BOS. Rudy Marconi shared that a complaint of a potential conflict of interests was submitted to him regarding Geoffrey Morris and Barbara Manners' involvement with the Ridgefield Herald. Rudy Marconi consulted with Town Counsel who verbally stated that while he doesn't see a legal conflict, he cannot provide a written opinion because if the complaint is filed with the Ethics Commission, then Town Counsel would represent the board.

Branchville is being considered for a new Planning and Zoning district.

Dredging at a specific parcel has been interrupted due to rain.

Main Street property is pending National Battlefield Foundation and Historical Society funding action.

The Board of Education had 2026 invoices moved to the 2027 budget. This doesn't follow accounting standards and principles. The BOE Superintendent is discussing it with the Board of Finance. The solution may require a special appropriation.

Geoffrey Morris motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:05pm. Maureen Kozlark seconded. Motion carried 3-0 (Connelly and Manners absent).