



Town of Ridgefield

Form of Government Committee Approved Meeting Minutes Meeting of June 2, 2025

1. Call to Order

The Form of Government Committee meeting convened at 7:00PM on Monday, June 2, 2025 in the Town Hall Main Conference Room.

Members present: Laurie Christiansen, Michael Rettger, Charles Robbins, Todd Zagorec, Dennis Tracey, Robert Hendrick

Members absent: Jonathan Seem, Steve Zemo, Rachel Sondheimer

2. Public Comments

None

3. Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2025 meeting by Mr. Tracey. Seconded by M. Robbins. All in favor.

4. Work Plan

Mr. Rettger proposed a change to the recommendations of the report. He noted that upon reflection, the proposed shift in authority from the Town Meeting to the Board of Selectpersons regarding applications for grants involved a significantly larger dollar threshold than was being proposed in the other budget-related changes. As this action was a very rare occurrence in general for the town, he suggested removing this recommendation from the report. After discussion,

Motion by Mr. Rettger to remove recommendation 3B concerning the proposed transfer of Town Meeting authority to the Board of Selectpersons with regard to applications for state and federal grants, in the Legislative Authority section of the report. Seconded by Mr. Tracey. All in favor.

Mr. Zagorec reviewed proposed changes to several sections of the report, which included:

- Eliminating the Communication section discussed at the last meeting, replacing that with copies of the various communications to the public that have been used by the committee;

- Moving the information about electronic voting from a separate appendix document and instead having it directly in the body and footnotes in the main report;
- Simplifying the Appendix and Bibliography of the report, and providing the material as electronic links rather than as hard copy exhibits.

It was suggested that there should be one set of physical copies of the main portions of the Appendix materials, to accompany the physical copies of the main report that will be available in Town Hall and at the Library. After discussion,

Motion by Mr. Rettger to accept proposed structural changes to the draft committee report as outlined in item 4a of the committee agenda. Seconded by Mr. Hendrick. All in favor.

The members then reviewed the body of the report in detail and discussed a number of questions, some of which resulted in specific editorial changes to wording in the draft report to clarify various points. After discussion,

Motion by Mr. Zagorec to accept various editorial changes to the content of the draft committee report as discussed in the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Robbins. All in favor.

Following completion of the review of proposed changes, it was agreed the report was ready for distribution to the public.

Motion by Mr. Zagorec to approve the draft committee report as amended for release to the public in advance of the committee's June public hearings. Seconded by Mr. Tracey. All in favor.

5. Communications

Ms. Christiansen reported that flyers about the June public hearings were being posted around town this coming week. She has also distributed the press release about the hearings and has seen several publications pick it up. She will be preparing six copies each of the main report for distribution at Town Hall and the Library for residents who want a hard-copy version rather than the electronic version that will be posted on the Town web site. There will also be six copies available at the hearings. Based on the experience of the 2023 Charter Revision Commission with its draft report, this should be a sufficient number. Members also discussed the plan for the public hearings, including the summary presentation that will be made by Mr. Zagorec. Members also discussed the timeline of remaining planned meetings of the committee through the end of June.

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:15 PM by Mr. Rettger. Seconded by Mr. Robbins. All in favor.

Submitted by
Michael Rettger