



**Town of Ridgefield
Public Safety Facilities Committee
Minutes
APPROVED**

May 14, 2026 at 7PM

ANNEX, Large conference room, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, CT

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

Committee Members Present: Pamela Dunaway, Denis Graves, Wally Martinez, Adam Safir, Ed Tyrrell

Committee Members Absent: David Brickley, Stephen Scalzo

Presenters in Attendance: None

Wally Martinez called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

1. **Public Comment** – None.
2. **Working Group Progress Updates** – Adam Safir and Pamela Dunaway reported that the Site Assessment Working Group has broken down the square footage needed for each department, Police and Fire, and shared it with the respective tiger team (Ed Tyrrell and Denis Graves). They have requested the actual spreadsheets, instead of PDFs, of data regarding the town owned parcels to allow for easier data management. They are creating a database of comparable towns showing data such as 911 call volume, department size, population, etc. There is a risk of false equivalencies if comparisons are made to towns that don't match the Ridgefield characteristics. For example, the Weston and Ridgefield dispatch centers can't be compared because, although the towns seem similar, the Ridgefield Dispatch is three times as large with 58% of Ridgefield motor vehicle citations involving non-residents. Ed Tyrrell and Pamela Dunaway reported that the Community Engagement Working Group has no new statistics but they continue to compile information to share with the community when this committee holds community forums.
3. **Tiger Team Updates** – Wally Martinez reported that he and Steve Scalzo are working on the scenario for two separate new construction projects. They established several premises. First, there are 52,000 fire and 18,000 police stations. Second, creativity is needed and solutions will have multiple variables. They have driven many miles in

Ridgefield exploring parcels. They have learned the tax assessor's software, and the UCONN wetlands software. They have educated themselves on Connecticut environmental laws. They hope to propose a scenario that will be palatable to the town, the selectpersons, and the departments. Ed Tyrrell and Denis Graves are working on the scenario to remodel existing buildings and reported that they met with Jake Muller to discuss town-owned buildings. Adam Safir reported that his team worked on the scenario of a combined facility whether on town land or commercial land.

4. **Future meeting schedule during working phase** – The committee cancelled the next two meetings to advance working group and tiger team efforts.
5. **General discussion** – Pamela Dunaway asked that tiger teams be restated to ensure clarity. Pamela Dunaway and Adam Safir (combined facilities); Wally Martinez and Steve Scalzo (new separate structures on either town or commercial land), and Denis Graves and Ed Tyrrell (renovating existing town-owned structures). The committee discussed operations and operational effectiveness and efficiency as it relates to each scenario proposed. Each scenario will be discussed with and approved by the departments before bringing forth to the board or town. Adam Safir reminded the committee that national expert, Jake Davis, offered to be a resource. Pamela Dunaway asked if the committee could reach a consensus on criteria by which to compare and contrast the different scenarios proposed. She and David Brickley have developed a comprehensive chart that identifies different factors and could be used as variables to quantify the viability of each scenario. Adam Safir suggested that it may be too early to set the benchmarks. Cost is most critical as is a solution that meets the service needs of the town.
6. **Possible Agenda Items for Next Meeting** – Committee members will request agenda additions to Secretary Tyrrell.
7. **Adoption of meeting minutes** – *Wally Martinez motioned to approve the April 30, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Adam Safir seconded. The motion carried 5-0 (Brickley, Scalzo absent).*
8. **Wally Martinez motioned to adjourn the Public Safety Facilities Commission meeting at 8:35 PM. Ed Tyrrell seconded. The motion carried 5-0 (Brickley, Scalzo absent).**

Respectfully submitted by,
Etna Monsalve