Town of Ridgefield
Public Safety Facilities Committee
Minutes
APPROVED
July 23, 2026, at 7PM
ANNEX, Large conference room, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, CT

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

Committee Members Present: David Brickley, Pamela Dunaway (via telephone), Wally Martinez, Adam Safir, Stephen Scalzo, Ed Tyrrell
Committee Members Absent: Denis Graves
Presenters in Attendance: None

Wally Martinez called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

1. **Public Comment –** Kirk Carr, 62 Prospect Ridge, shared that he emailed the members and sent videos. He is concerned that there has been much discussion about a site but no discussion about the structure.

2. **Tiger Team Proposals Status Update –** Adam Safir and Pamela Dunaway reported that they are researching about three to five alternatives for the combined facility. Pamela Dunaway explained that while they have completed a great deal of research, they haven't had any of their alternatives assessed by KBA until the committee approves the KBA assessment of any proposals. She stressed the importance of sensitivity toward spending on proposals that wouldn't meet favorable committee support. The committee then discussed whether the September 15 deadline is fixed or flexible. Ed Tyrrell and Denis Graves reported that their proposal from a few weeks ago remains the same, to build a police station atop the mountain on the Schlumberger property. They do not have a solution for the fire station because their charge was to look only at solutions utilizing town-owned property and they found no other suitable town-owned property that could accommodate the fire station. Ed Tyrrell added that the bond for voters should not exceed $50 million. Pamela Dunaway clarified that the committee charge didn't include a financial parameter. Steve Scalzo and Wally Martinez reminded the committee that they presented their proposal last week. David Brickley asked that all tiger teams use a uniform square footage for their proposals because they should be

working with a target square footage based on operational needs, otherwise they are comparing apples to oranges. Wally Martinez commented that they could explore all the options regardless of square footage and let the costing be the factor by which options are removed from consideration. Pamela Dunaway added that the committee can also submit multiple proposals of varying square footage to the BOS. The committee further debated if all proposals cover operational needs square footage or another square footage that isn't confirmed to meet operational needs.

3. **Scoring Matrices –** Pamela Dunaway and Steve Scalzo presented two versions for committee consideration and vote. Pamela Dunaway suggested editing some of the language of Steve Scalzo's version if the board wants to vote to approve that one. She also suggested deleting from both versions any language that is not aligned with the committee charge and editing language to be lay terminology. Ed Tyrrell suggested using neither tool and instead using a few sentences to explain why a scenario was disqualified. Pamela Dunaway expressed that the tools are helpful to show the community all the work that the committee has done to research and consider several possibilities.

Steve Scalzo motioned to adopt Pamela Dunaway's proposed scoring matrix with the edits she suggested. Adam Safir seconded. Motion carried 5-1 (Tyrrell opposed, Graves absent).

4. **Executive Session to discuss privately owned real property –** moved to the end of the meeting.

5. **Return from Executive Session and possible vote –** moved to the end of the meeting.

6. **Set Timeline for Sept 15 BOS Due Date** – Ed Tyrrell shared a proposed timeline document with the committee and read it aloud:

July 23	Discuss and approve timeline
July 30	Each Tiger Team or individual member announces their tentative recommendation(s) to the Committee and the public.
August 6	Tentative, non-binding votes on each proposal.
August 13	Final votes on each proposal. Any proposal garnering four votes gets included in the draft final report to BOS.
August 20	Submission Day for any minority recommendations. All are included as written by the committee member. Wally writes a draft report.
August 27	Draft report finalized by Committee members.
September 1	This is a Tuesday. Draft final report submitted to BOS.
September 2	BOS meets and discusses the report. If accepted, the Committee

finalizes it and its work is done. If not accepted, BOS sends it back to the Committee for further specific action.

It will be adjusted to allow for a presentation to the Police Commissioners on September 1. The committee will work to meet these dates.

Ralph Money, Prospect Street, commented that item 7 of the committee charge includes a presentation to the BOS, Fire Department, and Board of Police Commissioners. He also shared that if the item were to be added as a referendum on the November ballot, it must go the Secretary of State by September 4.

7. **General Discussion** – Steve Scalzo shared with the committee a bond calculator created with Rob Camera, Acre Lane that also estimates a voter impact.

8. **Next Agenda Items –** Ed Tyrrell suggested the committee be prepared with the July 30 requirement from the timeline proposed today.

9. **Adoption of meeting minutes –** ***Steve Scalzo motioned to approve the July 16, 2026, meeting minutes as presented by Ed Tyrrell with one correction from the original version. David Brickley seconded. The motion carried 6-0.***

Ed Tyrrell motioned to go into Executive Session and they will return to adjourn the meeting. Steve Scalzo seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Ed Tyrrell motioned to adjourn the Public Safety Facilities Commission meeting at 8:46 PM. Steve Scalzo seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted by,
Etna Monsalve