



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

**March 26, 2026 7PM**

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

Please note – these minutes are not verbatim.

**Committee Members Present:** David Brickley, Pamela Dunaway (telephone), Wally Martinez, Adam Safir, Stephen Scalzo, Ed Tyrrell

**Committee Members Absent:** Denis Graves

**Presenters in Attendance:** Margaux Lansen, Chair of Insurance and Risk Management Committee

Wally Martinez called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

- 1. Public Comment** – Mr. Kirk Carr, 62 Prospect Ridge, commented that the committee discussed the Do Nothing option at the last meeting and believed that it was not an option but the committee charge does state “including, not limited to...” which would allow the board to include Do Nothing as an option. Therefore, he suggests providing data explaining why that option is not a qualified option because it will be an option on the ballot. He also suggests that any analysis of future needs should be limited to ten years because he believes anything longer than ten years is highly speculative. Mr. Jim Murphy, Barrack Hill Road, asked if this committee has spoken with Town of Wilton regarding their \$19 million Public Safety Facilities building. Steve Scalzo responded that he did speak with Pat Temple, chair of the public safety committee, who explained that the building is everything the police requested. Wilton passed that vote by 77%. Wally Martinez added that Wilton also has a town campus for all their buildings. The land was already theirs. Adam Safir added that Wilton voters approved a \$16.4 million cost and covered the difference with grant money.
- 2. Working Group Progress Reports** – Adam Safir reported on behalf of the Needs Assessments Group (Brickley, Dunaway, Safir) that they are still pursuing data to complete their report. They’ve had cooperation from all stakeholders, including most recently the volunteer firefighters.

David Brickley reported on behalf of the Finance Group (Scalzo, Brickley) that they are still waiting for some data from Nasco. He reached out again to Jake Muller, Director of Public Works. Steve Scalzo added that he met with Kevin Redmond, Director of Finance, and the town's bond advisor, Phoenix, to review basic financial structures and confirm that if approved, the town will move forward effectively. He reviewed bond terms and Triple A bond rating and was pleased with the town's position. Adam Safir asked if there was any discussion around communicating the tax impact in understandable terms. Steve Scalzo assured the committee that once there is a budget, they have several resources in the town to help with community-friendly calculations.

Pamela Dunaway reported on behalf of the Public Engagement Group (Tyrrell, Dunaway). There are 400 subscribers for email distribution. The survey is in progress. The Public Safety Snippets newsletter launched this week. Viewership of the committee meeting broadcasts is increasing. Steve Scalzo asked if the Snippets can also relate to the committee's work to bring the public up to the committee's level of understanding. Pamela Dunaway explained that the Snippets are fact and data driven without any bias toward any facilities options.

3. **Briefing from Planning and Zoning (P&Z) and Inland Wetlands Board** – Motion by Ed Tyrrell to table this presentation to next week. Adam Safir seconded. The motion carried 6-0.
  
4. **Briefing from Insurance and Risk Management Committee** – Margaux Lansen, Committee Chair, explained that their responsibility is to review all insurance policies and risk related exposures and make recommendations to the BOS. Steve Scalzo asked about rising liability rates. Ms. Lansen explained that the town's insurance carrier provides coverage to 127 of Connecticut's municipalities. They don't cover areas with high crime. Although not a risk pool, per se, for rating and pricing, Cirma (the carrier) looks at all the municipalities and assigns individual rates that drive the premiums. They consider factors such as property valuations, property condition, commercial auto (ambulatory, police, fire), and comparable industry data. Cirma has been providing coverage for Ridgefield since 2021. Insurance is driven by relationships. Ridgefield maintains a transparent relationship with Cirma. The committee meets with Cirma a few times per year and reports any factors or new information to maintain a strong relationship. Adam Safir asked if a change in safety facilities would affect the premiums. Ms. Lansen explained that it's a double-edged sword. There is increased risk exposure if the town builds an unnecessary new structure just to spend money, but it would also be an increased risk exposure if the current structures are found to be a liability to the occupants. Adam Safir asked if there are any incentives in the municipal risk world. Ms. Lansen explained that the higher the rating a municipality scores, the higher the dividend applied to the municipality, which is translated into a credit on the premium. There are also cash rewards for the highest rated municipality. Adam Safir asked if the fire department's ISO rating, which affects local homeowner coverage, also affects the town's policies. Ms. Lansen explained that there is currently no ISO rating for Ridgefield. Adam Safir

asked if there are claims related to police and fire that Cirma wouldn't cover. Ms. Larsen explained that she would have to research what the exclusions are. She added that liability arises from knowledge of a risk that isn't disclosed to the carrier. David Brickley asked if they have any assessment of current facilities. She responded that they had none. Ms. Larsen took down a list of questions she will present to Cirma at her committee meeting next week.

5. **Consultants Needed to Ensure Progress** – David Brickley reported that once the BOS approved a budget for this committee, they will need to contract a third-party costing company to assess each option. They will also engage the architects again, as the design experts, to trim down the design based on the Needs Assessment analysis. The committee members will go to the architectural firm's office to minimize the cost to the town. Wally Martinez suggested a mini-RFP to select the architects rather than working with the current architects. Pamela Dunaway added that a new architectural firm would also prolong the project and increase costs. The committee discussed different points and perspectives as they discussed the process to reach a viable option to propose to the BOS.
6. **Future Milestones and Timeline** – The committee is drafting a report for the BOS due March 31. It will be shared with the public. Wally Martinez read it into the record.
7. **Next Agenda Items** – Planning & Zoning and any other requests will be sent to Wally Martinez.
8. **Adoption of meeting minutes** – *Steve Scalzo motioned to approve the March 19, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. David Brickley seconded. The motion carried 6-0.*

*Ed Tyrrell motioned to adjourn the Public Safety Facilities Commission meeting at 8:20 PM. Adam Safir seconded. Motion carried 6-0.*

Respectfully submitted by,  
Etna Monsalve