



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

April 2, 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, Denis Graves, Wally Martinez, Adam Safir, Stephen Scalzo, Ed Tyrrell

Committee Members Absent: None

Presenters in Attendance: Bob Walker, Surveys and Forecast; Patricia Temple, Co-chair of Wilton Police -Town Hall Building Committee

Wally Martinez called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Edward Tyrrell motioned to switch items two and three. Wally Martinez seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

1. Public Comment – None

- 2. Survey Results** – Pamela Dunaway introduced Bob Walker, survey consultant. He provided a contextual background for the survey and research directives. He described the sample population polled of 3600, 1000 respondents, and filtered final sample of 800. He explained the survey questions, analysis approach, and limitations. The thirteen questions took about four minutes to complete. Approximately 30% of respondents are full-time Ridgefield residents of thirty years or longer. 39% of respondents supported the 2025 referendum. 35% would support it again. 43% are undecided. 22% would oppose. The data suggests that the common priority for 82% of Ridgefield residents is updating the facilities. Cost communication is the determining factor. Voters want cost specifics and individual impact. 24% of Ridgefield residents cite location as a factor. The data suggests that site selection rationale warrants direct communication. The data also suggests that undecided voters will respond to outcomes, transparency and visibly improved communication could reduce resistance to the next vote, and structured peer engagement could be more effective than broadcast communications.

Adam Safir asked for recommendations on survey methods to reach people, not on the town's communication distribution. Mr. Walker responded that a town-wide postcard mailing of the survey would best reach all the Ridgefield residents and would be unique to that address but costly. Wally Martinez added that the sampling was representative of the town population. Pamela Dunaway responded to Adam Safir's question that a QR code could be posted on the town's social media, but that data can't be filtered for duplicate and non-resident responses. Public comments were submitted from Rob Camera that the post card per address wouldn't allow for multiple taxpayer respondents from a single address.

Edward Tyrrell motioned to move Working Group Progress Reports to agenda item number five. Denis Graves seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

3. **Briefing from Wilton Police-Town Hall Building Committee Co-Chair Patricia Temple –** Ms. Temple reported that the almost 19,000 square foot building houses a police department (44 officers) comparable to Ridgefield's police department (45 officers). Their committee focused messaging on needs and deficiencies. Steve Scalzo asked if the Wilton committee was assigned a charge. She said yes but they started as a study group that discussed and reviewed both the town hall and the police department. Eventually, other people addressed town hall needs, and this committee was charged with the police department needs. The police officers were engaged at every step of the process trimming down the initial proposed building from 24,000 square feet in several iterations. She shared building details such as number of cells, dispatch location, and eliminated wants such as firing range and a bunk room. Denis Graves asked if police department parking was dedicated or shared campus guest parking. Ms. Temple responded that it's shared but there will be aluminum roofed parking as well, although not as much as the officers wanted. The committee considered several architectural firms but selected one based on experience with cost and size efficiency. The committee asked several questions, and Ms. Temple will provide more information via email.

4. **Briefing from Planning and Zoning (P&Z) and Inland Wetlands Board –**

Motion by Edward Tyrrell to table agenda item 4. Seconded by Denis Graves. Motion carried 7-0.

5. **Working Group Progress Reports –** Wally Martinez asked for agenda item six first. Then, David Brickley reported that the Finance Working Group is ready to contract NASCO to assess the cost of different scenarios that will be proposed. Steve Scalzo thanked Mr. Camera for help with creating a spreadsheet. Pamela Dunaway reported that the viewing data of these committee meetings is decreasing. She asked that more

community members take tours of the current facilities. Steve Scalzo proposed committee-assisted scheduled tours in case community members want the opportunity to tour and talk to the committee. Pamela Dunaway also shared that community members have reached out with questions, comments, or suggestions that are more operational and beyond the committee's scope. She will forward those to the respective commission. If the commissions modify their input for this committee, then she will bring it back for inclusion in the working groups' discussions.

Steve Scalzo motioned to approve \$4000 to contract with NAFCO. Edward Tyrrell seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

6. **Needs List Discussion** – Adam Safir reported that the group is next reviewing the list with police and fire chiefs. Pamela Dunaway added that the working group is working to categorize all the items into legal requirements, department needs and wants by mid-week. Then review that breakdown with the department chiefs. Steve Scalzo noted that the Wilton Police Department led the discussions and decision-making process but worked within a budget framework previously set by the BOS.
7. **Tiger Teams Discussion** – Wally Martinez read the committee charge. Then he explained that the tiger teams will be based on the charge. The two-person tiger team will be tasked with the research for their team objective but not with personal support for that objective. He assigned the teams as follows: Utilize and renovate existing town facilities – Tyrrell and Graves; develop two new or renovated separate buildings not limited to town land – Scalzo and Martinez; single combined facility – Dunaway and Safir. David Brickley will be working with the cost estimator, NASCO, to assist each tiger team with their scenario pricing. Pamela Dunaway requested that the committee create a framework of criteria (scoresheet) to compare all scenarios objectively; for example, ISO, accreditations, etc.
8. **Interactive Public Engagement Discussion** – Pamela Dunaway reinforced the idea of road show presentations but is wondering if these should be led by a committee member and expert or solely a committee member. Discussions to follow in later meetings.
9. **Next Agenda Items** – Planning and Zoning.
10. **Adoption of meeting minutes** – ***Wally Martinez motioned to approve the March 26, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. Adam Safir seconded. The motion carried 7-0.***

Denis Graves motioned to adjourn the Public Safety Facilities Commission meeting at 9:17 PM. Adam Safir seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted by,
Etna Monsalve