



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

July 30, 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, Denis Graves, Wally Martinez, Stephen Scalzo (via telephone), Ed Tyrrell

Committee Members Absent: Adam Safir

Presenters in Attendance: Ralph Money, Police Commission

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

1. **Public Comment** – None
2. **Tiger Team Recommendations** – Pamela Dunaway and Adam Safir worked on two different combined facilities scenarios. Adam Safir is confirming some data before it can be presented to the committee. Pamela Dunaway shared her findings for a standard combined facility. She met with KBA, and both Chiefs. Her proposal is based on all the operational needs of each department. She began with the proposal of the failed referendum, and they whittled away any square footage that could be removed. She separated the square footage deemed future proofing and the volunteer fire department. She added that although future proofing might not be included, the lot should be large enough to allow for expansion at some point in the future. She explored several properties; commercial and town-owned. She explained that the most viable lot is 36 Quarry Road for a lower cost design. Wally Martinez asked if there would be a cost for site preparation. She responded that she asked KBA if blasting would be needed, but they couldn't give a cost estimate. Wally Martinez also asked to confirm the acreage of the lot for current operation was 4.75 acres.
Ed Tyrrell and Denis Graves presented the scenario for facilities, whether combined or separate, on town-owned land. Ed Tyrrell explained that they didn't consider either department's wants or needs. They only considered what the voters will approve. Their

guiding principles were the failed referendum, the committee's survey, and the discussion with the group representing the NO voters who stated that they would not approve any cost greater than \$50 million. They looked at different town-owned properties that might accommodate only the police department but there would be several costs including temporary buildings and renovations to existing buildings for the fire department. They propose building the police department at Quarry Ridge. But they have no option for the fire department because there is no town-owned land that could accommodate it.

Wally Martinez and Steve Scalzo presented the scenario of building the facilities on land not town owned. They studied four options. Their recommendation is for the acquisition of privately owned land of 3.5 acres for a combined facility that houses the police, career fire, and volunteer fire departments on a main road. This is option A, 23,000 square feet with an estimated cost of \$55 million. Option B separates the police department and places it at Schlumberger with an estimate of an additional \$3 million for site prep work. Option C places the volunteer fire department at Catoonah Station with updating. Option D is a combined facility sharing a public port. Option C and D bring the cost up to \$10 to \$17 million. All options allow for expansion. Pamela Dunaway asked if the police and fire Chiefs have signed off on these options. Wally Martinez and Steve Scalzo have discussed with both chiefs who are willing to work with whatever option gets voter approval.

3. **David Brickley Presentation** – David Brickley worked with KBA to trim down the square footage while still complying with regulations and needs. He will take each tiger team scenario to clean up the square footage and cost estimates.
4. **Next Agenda Items** – to be presented to Ed Tyrrell for addition to the agenda.
5. **Adoption of meeting minutes** – Police Commissioner Ralph Money corrected a 45-day deadline stated last week. He explained that if this item is put on the next ballot, it must go to the state 45 days prior to the election which means it must be submitted by September 18 not as reported in last week's draft minutes. Wally Martinez asked Ed Tyrrell to contact the first selectperson to ask when the BOS wants the committee report.

Ed Tyrrell motioned to approve the July 23, 2026, meeting minutes as amended. David Brickley seconded. The motion carried 6-0 (Safir absent).

6. **Executive Session to Discuss privately owned real property and return to Open Meeting** – Tabled.

***Ed Tyrrell motioned to adjourn the Public Safety Facilities Commission meeting at 8:57 PM.
Denis Graves seconded. The motion carried 6-0 (Safir absent).***

Respectfully submitted by,
Etna Monsalve