

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD, CONNECTICUT
MAY 5, 2025**

Electors and persons qualified to vote at Town Meetings of the Town of Ridgefield are hereby duly notified and warned that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, May 5, 2025 at 7:30 P.M. (E.T.) at the Ridgefield Playhouse, 80 East Ridge Road, Ridgefield, Connecticut, for the following purposes:

1. To consider recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to appropriations for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026:

Town Expenditures (consisting of Town operating expenditures of \$44,934,019 and debt service of \$7,934,527 on both Town and Education capital projects): \$52,868,546

2. To consider recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to appropriations for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026:

Board of Education Expenditures: \$119,796,000

3. To consider recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to appropriations for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026:

Planning, design, acquisition and construction of various Town road and ADA improvements:
\$2,147,250

4. To consider a resolution appropriating \$285,600 for the design and acquisition of a highway dump truck, \$115,691 for the design and acquisition of a highway lowboy truck, \$500,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of tertiary roads and \$235,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of sidewalk improvements; and authorizing the issuance of \$1,136,291 bonds of the Town to meet said appropriations and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purposes (provided that the bonds shall be reduced by the amount of any grants received for such purposes, which are anticipated to be \$235,000 for sidewalk improvements).

5. To consider a resolution appropriating \$187,500 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of golf tee box renovations and \$1,100,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of Parks and Recreation tennis and pickleball courts replacement at Ridgefield High School and the issuance of \$1,287,500 bonds of the Town to meet said appropriations and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purposes.

6. To consider a resolution appropriating \$126,000 for the design and acquisition of Police Department car mobile computers, \$149,452 for the design and acquisition of Police Department tasers, \$272,289 for the design and acquisition of Fire Department portable radios and \$160,000 for the design and acquisition of a Town loop/senior bus and authorizing the issuance of \$707,741 bonds of the Town to meet said appropriations and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purposes (provided that the bonds shall be reduced by the amount of any grants received for such purposes, which are anticipated to be \$160,000 for the Town loop/senior bus).

7. To consider a resolution appropriating \$134,800 for the planning, design and acquisition of Veterans Park Elementary School auditorium audio/visual equipment, \$187,072 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of Branchville Elementary School and East Ridge Middle School student and staff bathroom renovations, \$128,101 for the planning, design and acquisition of District-wide visual and performing arts space equipment, \$423,100 for the planning and acquisition of District-wide network infrastructure upgrades/replacements, \$197,500 for the planning and acquisition of District-wide security server replacements, \$693,129 for the planning, design and acquisition of Ridgefield High School LED lighting upgrade, \$224,537 for the planning, design and acquisition of Ridgefield High School collaborative classroom furniture replacement, \$129,600 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of Barlow Mountain Elementary School gym floor and \$225,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of elementary school playground upgrades; and authorizing the issuance of \$2,342,839 bonds of the Town to meet said appropriations and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purposes.

Items 1 through 7 on the call of the Annual Town Meeting will be voted upon by a referendum vote on Tuesday, May 13th, 2025 between the hours of 6:00 o'clock A.M. and 8:00 o'clock P.M. (E.T.) at Yanity Gym, 60 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut, in accordance with the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and pursuant to Section 10-1 of the Town Charter. 97

8. To consider and vote upon a resolution entitled "Resolution Making Appropriations Aggregating \$2,029,124 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition, Installation And Construction Of Various Public Improvements And Equipment; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$2,029,124 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes".

9. To transact any other business proper to come before the meeting.

Copies of the Town budget and the proposed bond resolutions are on file and open to public inspection at the office of the Town Clerk.

Dated at Ridgefield, Connecticut this 17th day of April, 2025.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS

Rudolph P. Marconi
Rudolph P. Marconi, First Selectperson

Barbara R. Manners
Barbara R. Manners, Selectperson

Maureen Kozlark
Maureen Kozlark, Selectperson

Sean Connelly
Sean Connelly, Selectperson

Christopher Murray
Christopher Murray, Selectperson

Wendy Gannon Lionetti
Wendy Gannon Lionetti, Town Clerk



TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD
Office of the First Selectperson

RECEIVED
@ 11:05 am
MAY 27 2025
Wendy Gannon Lionetti
BY TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RIDGEFIELD, CT

RETURN OF NOTICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on April 17, 2025, I left a duplicate of the attached warning and notice of the Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Ridgefield, Connecticut, with Wendy Gannon Lionetti, its Town Clerk.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I caused a copy of said warning and notice to be published in Ridgefield Press, a newspaper having a general and substantial circulation in said Town, on April 17, 2025.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that on April 17, 2025, I caused to be set upon the signpost or other exterior place nearest the office of the Town Clerk and at all other places and signposts designated by the Town a written copy of said warning and notice signed by the Town Clerk.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that all of the above acts were done at least five days before the holding of said Annual Town Meeting on May 5, 2025.

Rudolph P. Marconi
Title: FIRST SELECTPERSON

**Town of Ridgefield Annual Town Meeting Minutes
Meeting Held May 5, 2025**

The Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Ridgefield was held on Monday, May 5, 2025 at 7:30 P.M. (E.T.) at the Ridgefield Playhouse, 80 East Ridge Road, Ridgefield, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by First Selectperson Rudy Marconi, who then led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance were 81 voters, 12 non-voters, 16 Town employee voters, and 2 grand list voters. This information was provided by the Registrars of Voters.

Selectperson Maureen Kozlark moved and Angela Liptack, Wilton Road East, seconded the motion to elect Sharon Dornfeld as Moderator. Motion carried unanimously.

The Town Clerk stated that the Notice of the Annual Town Meeting signed by the Board of Selectpersons had been published in The Ridgefield Press, a newspaper of general circulation in said Town, in its issue of April 17, 2025.

Tom McManus, 310 West Lane, moved and Scott DeYoung, 51 Caudatowa Drive, seconded the motion to waive the reading of the Notice of the Annual Town Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The Moderator then explained that in accordance with Section 10-3 of the Town Charter Items 1 through 7 on the call of the Annual Town Meeting would be voted upon at a referendum to be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025.

The Moderator further stated that in accordance with Section 7-6 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, only an elector of the Town or a citizen of the United States of the age of eighteen years or more who, jointly or severally, was liable to the Town for taxes assessed against him based on an assessment of not less than \$1,000 on the last completed grand list of the Town or who would have been so liable if not entitled to an exemption as a blind person or as a veteran or as a parent or surviving spouse of a veteran will be entitled to vote. Absentee ballots shall be available as provided by law at the Town Clerk's office during business hours.

Tom McManus, 310 West Lane, moved and Andrew Neblett, 31 Ashbee Lane, seconded the motion to waive the reading of the Letters from both the Board of Selectpersons and the Board of Finance. Motion carried unanimously.

The following communication from the Board of Selectpersons was received, accepted and ordered incorporated in the minutes of the Meeting:



TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD
Office of the First Selectperson

April 16, 2025

RECEIVED
6:11:49 am
APR 16 2025
Wendy Gannon Foretti
BY TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RIDGEFIELD, CT

To the Legal Voters of the Town of Ridgefield:

At a meeting of the Board of Selectpersons held April 9, 2025, the following resolutions were adopted to be voted upon by a referendum vote on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 between the hours of 6:00 o'clock A.M. and 8:00 o'clock P.M. (E.T.) at Yanity Gym, 60 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut:

RESOLVED: That The Recommendation Of The Board Of Finance Relative To The Appropriation Of \$52,868,546 For Town Expenditures (Consisting Of Town Operating Expenditures Of \$44,934,019 And Debt Service Of \$7,934,527 On Both Town And Education Capital Projects) For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2025 And Ending June 30, 2026, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

RESOLVED: That The Recommendation Of The Board Of Finance Relative To The Appropriation Of \$119,796,000 For Board Of Education Expenditures For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2025 And Ending June 30, 2026, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

RESOLVED: That The Recommendation Of The Board Of Finance Relative To The Appropriation Of \$2,147,250 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Various Town Road And ADA Improvements For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2025 And Ending June 30, 2026, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$285,600 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Highway Dump Truck, \$115,691 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Highway Lowboy Truck, \$500,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Tertiary Roads And \$235,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Sidewalk Improvements; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,136,291 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes (Provided That The Bonds Shall Be Reduced By The Amount Of Any Grants Received For Such Purposes, Which Are Anticipated To Be \$235,000 For Sidewalk Improvements)", a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$187,500 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Golf Tee Box Renovations And \$1,100,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Parks And Recreation Tennis and Pickleball Courts Replacement At Ridgefield High School And The Issuance Of \$1,287,500 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes", a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$126,000 For The Design And Acquisition Of Police Department Car Mobile Computers, \$149,452 For The Design And Acquisition Of Police Department Tasers, \$272,289 For The Design And Acquisition Of Fire Department Portable Radios And \$160,000 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Town Loop/Senior Bus And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$707,741 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For

Such Purposes (Provided That The Bonds Shall Be Reduced By The Amount Of Any Grants Received For Such Purposes, Which Are Anticipated To Be \$160,000 For The Town Loop/Senior Bus)", a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$134,800 For The Planning, Design And Acquisition Of Veterans Park Elementary School Auditorium Audio/Visual Equipment, \$187,072 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Branchville Elementary School And East Ridge Middle School Student And Staff Bathroom Renovations, \$128,101 For The Planning, Design And Acquisition Of District-Wide Visual And Performing Arts Space Equipment, \$423,100 For The Planning And Acquisition Of District-Wide Network Infrastructure Upgrades/Replacements, \$197,500 For The Planning And Acquisition Of District-Wide Security Server Replacements, \$693,129 For The Planning, Design And Acquisition Of Ridgefield High School LED Lighting Upgrade, \$224,537 For The Planning, Design And Acquisition Of Ridgefield High School Collaborative Classroom Furniture Replacement, \$129,600 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Barlow Mountain Elementary School Gym Floor And \$225,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Elementary School Playground Upgrades; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$2,342,839 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes", a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

In addition, at said meeting, the Board of Selectpersons adopted the following resolution to be voted upon at the Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 5, 2025 at 7:30 P.M. (E.T.) at the Ridgefield Playhouse, 80 East Ridge Road, Ridgefield, Connecticut:

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled "Resolution Making Appropriations Aggregating \$2,029,124 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition, Installation And Construction Of Various Public Improvements And Equipment; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$2,029,124 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes", a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town by Town Meeting vote.

Very truly yours,


Rudy Marconi
First Selectperson

The following communication from the Board of Finance was received, accepted and ordered incorporated in the minutes of the Meeting:

**Town of Ridgefield
Board of Finance**

RECEIVED
08:33 am
APR 22 2025
Wendy Gunn or Bonetti
BY TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RIDGEFIELD CT

April 10, 2025

To the Legal Voters of the Town of Ridgefield:

At a meeting of the Board of Finance held April 10, 2025, the following resolutions were adopted to be voted upon by a referendum vote on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 between the hours of 6:00 o'clock A.M. and 8:00 o'clock P.M. (E.T.) at Yanity Gym, 60 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut:

RESOLVED: That The Recommendation Of The Board Of Finance Relative To The Appropriation Of \$52,868,546 For Town Expenditures (Consisting Of Town Operating Expenditures Of \$44,934,019 And Debt Service Of \$7,934,527 On Both Town And Education Capital Projects) For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2025 And Ending June 30, 2026, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

RESOLVED: That The Recommendation Of The Board Of Finance Relative To The Appropriation Of \$119,796,000 For Board Of Education Expenditures For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2025 And Ending June 30, 2026, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

RESOLVED: That The Recommendation Of The Board Of Finance Relative To The Appropriation Of \$2,147,250 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Various Town Road And ADA Improvements For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2025 And Ending June 30, 2026, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$285,600 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Highway Dump Truck, \$115,691 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Highway Lowboy Truck, \$500,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction of Tertiary Roads And \$235,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Sidewalk Improvements; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,136,291 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes (Provided That The Bonds Shall Be Reduced By The Amount Of Any Grants Received For Such Purposes, Which Are Anticipated To Be \$235,000 For Sidewalk Improvements)", a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$187,500 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction of Golf Tee Box Renovations And \$1,100,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Parks And Recreation Tennis and Pickleball Courts Replacement At Ridgefield High School And The Issuance Of \$1,287,500 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes", a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$126,000 For The Design And Acquisition Of Police Department Car Mobile Computers, \$149,452 For The Design And Acquisition Of Police Department Tasers, \$272,289 For The Design And Acquisition Of Fire Department Portable Radios And \$160,000 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Town Loop/Senior Bus And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$707,741 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes (Provided That The Bonds Shall Be Reduced By The

Amount Of Any Grants Received For Such Purposes, Which Are Anticipated To Be \$160,000 For The Town Loop/Senior Bus)", a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$134,800 For The Planning, Design And Acquisition Of Veterans Park Elementary School Auditorium Audio/Visual Equipment, \$187,072 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Branchville Elementary School And East Ridge Middle School Student And Staff Bathroom Renovations, \$128,101 For The Planning, Design And Acquisition Of District-Wide Visual And Performing Arts Space Equipment, \$423,100 For The Planning And Acquisition Of District-Wide Network Infrastructure Upgrades/Replacements, \$197,500 For The Planning And Acquisition Of District-Wide Security Server Replacements, \$693,129 For The Planning, Design And Acquisition Of Ridgefield High School LED Lighting Upgrade, \$224,537 For The Planning, Design And Acquisition Of Ridgefield High School Collaborative Classroom Furniture Replacement, \$129,600 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Barlow Mountain Elementary School Gym Floor And \$225,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Elementary School Playground Upgrades; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$2,342,839 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes", a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

In addition, at said meeting, the Board of Finance adopted the following resolution to be voted upon at the Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 5, 2025 at 7:30 P.M. (E.T.) at the Ridgefield Playhouse, 80 East Ridge Road, Ridgefield, Connecticut:

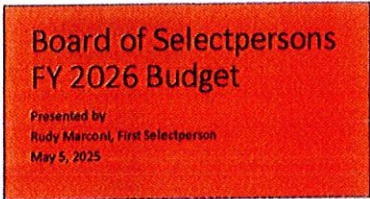
RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled "Resolution Making Appropriations Aggregating \$2,029,124 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition, Installation And Construction Of Various Public Improvements And Equipment; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$2,029,124 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes", a copy of which is attached hereto, be approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town by Town Meeting vote.

Sincerely,



Michael Rettger, Chair
Board of Finance

Moderator Dornfeld introduced First Selectperson Rudy Marconi, who presented the following information:



General Town Budget Overview

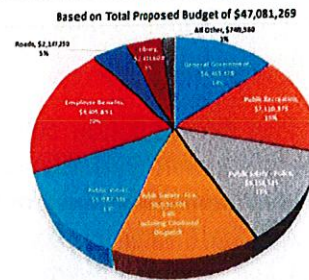
Expenditures	2025	2026	\$ Change	% Change
Town Operations	\$ 30,868,245	\$ 32,456,332	\$ 1,588,087	5.14%
School Buildings & Grounds	682,412	705,894	23,482	3.44%
Utilities	2,338,189	2,365,943	27,754	1.19%
Employee Benefits	9,368,234	9,405,850	37,616	0.40%
Subtotal	43,257,080	44,934,019	1,676,939	3.88%
Road/ADA Infrastructure	2,669,250	2,147,250	(522,000)	(19.56)%
Total Town	\$ 45,926,330	\$ 47,081,269	\$ 1,154,939	2.51%

Overall, town expenditures are budgeted to increase by \$1,155K or 2.51%.

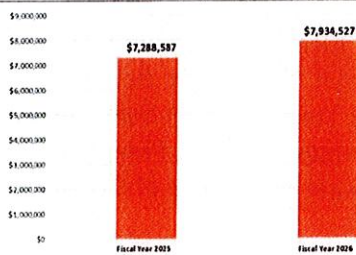
Town Operations – Components of Increase

Town Operations	School Buildings & Grounds	Utilities, Heat, Vehicle Fuel	Employee Benefits	Roads ADA Infrastructure
Salary / Outsourcing	\$875,664		Medical / Dental	\$43,118
Liability Insurance	50,937		Pension	(204,171)
Fire – OSHA, Maint Supp & Training	52,813		OPEB – GASB 45	4,000
Central Admin Telephones	13,000		Social Security / Medicare	67,789
IT	368,267		Worker's Comp/Unemployment Ins	24,753
Building Maint	71,338		Elucet Offsets	1,078
Vehicle Maint / Cruisers	(33,902)		Defined Contribution	185,593
Rec Center – Program Costs	41,120		Compensated Absences	2,010
Cost Cuts	17,808			
Audit Fee	13,400			
Commissions/Contributions	37,400			
Scrap Metal Returned	(28,400)			
Cut & Recreation Ground Care	9,001			
Library	82,330			
All Other	58,791			
Total	\$1,888,067	\$23,482	\$27,754	\$37,618
Town Grand Total \$1,154,939				

Town Operations – Percentage of Town Budget

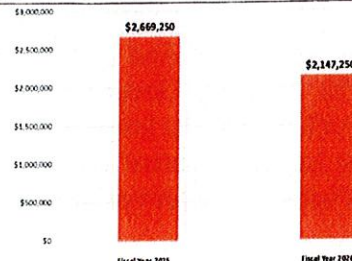


Debt Service



Debt Service is projected to increase 8.86% in FY 2026

Roads /ADA Infrastructure



Roads /ADA Infrastructure costs are projected to decrease 19.56% in FY 2026

Capital – Public Recreation

Golf	
Tee Box Renovations	\$187,500
Parks & Recreation	
One Ton PU Truck & PLOW	\$68,846
One Ton Dump Truck w/ PLOW & Sander	87,479
Vertrac Turf Tractor	35,884
ADA Compliance - Recreation Center Studio	13,978
Court Replacement - RHIS Tennis/PB	1,100,000
Parks, Fields & School Grounds Safety Improvement - Fencing	28,910
Recreation Center Building Repair - Pool Surface	89,000
Irrigation Fields System - East Ridge South	80,000
Total	\$1,691,597

Capital – Public Safety

Police Department	
ICE Recording System	\$24,510
License Plate Readers	16,400
Tasers	149,452
Fire Department	
Freight Protective Gear	\$77,843
Jaws of Life	48,584
Fire Hose	13,548
Cancer Prevention Equipment	12,632
Radio Equipment	272,269
Cardiac Monitor	57,679
SCBA Bottles and Masks	13,140
Mechanical CPR Device	17,646
Medical Dispatch Software	28,000
Total	\$731,723

Capital – Public Works

Highway Department	
Freightliner Dump Truck w/ PLOW	\$285,600
Lowboy Dump Truck w/ PLOW & Sander	115,691
Mudmark Update - Remote System Upgrade	48,000
Guardrail Replacements	40,000
Tertiary Road Paving	500,000
Shop Tool Replacement - Miller Welder	15,372
Total	\$1,004,663

Capital – Engineer

Town Engineer	
Yanby Exterior Façade Repairs	\$77,550
Parking Lot Improvements (to be funded with grants)	-
High Efficiency Gas Furnace Installation	95,353
Garage 1 & 2 Dayroom/Locker Room Design	27,500
Door Replacement - Various Locations	62,250
FES Barn Repairs & Painting	97,000
Elementary School ADA Playground Upgrades	225,000
LED Upgrades, Exterior Site Lighting (P&R Recreation Center/SRMS)	84,300
Sidewalk Improvements (to be funded with grants)	-
MS4 Projects - Disconnect/Permeous Surfaces	74,250
Generator Installations at Cell Towers	83,250
Total	\$826,503

General Government

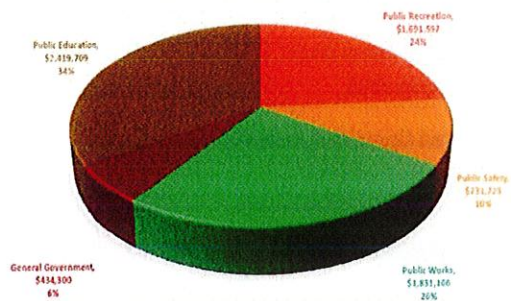
Information Technology	
VMWare ESX Server Center	\$40,000
Software Server Replacements	32,000
SAN Storage Area Network Discs	57,000
Police Car Mobile Computers	125,000
Library	
Accessible Parking Spaces	\$19,000
Masonry	19,000
Backflow Valve	10,800
Program Rooms AV Equipment	45,500
Other	
P&Z - Update Plan of Conservation & Development	\$90,000
Tree Committee - Plant New Trees on Town Greenways	25,000
Town Loop/Senior Bus Replacement (to be funded with a grant)	-
Total	\$434,300

Capital – Education

Education	
Auditorium & Audio/Visual Equipment Upgrades - VP	\$134,800
Student and Staff Bathroom Renovations - B, ER	187,072
Sound Attenuation/Dampening for Calculators - B, BM, SVP	61,870
Visual & Performing Arts space Equipment Upgrades - D	128,101
Relocation of Main Electrical Service - F	90,800
Network Infrastructure Upgrades/Replacements - D	423,100
Security Server Replacements - D	197,500
Motorola Radio Infrastructure Upgrades - D	61,650
LED Lighting Upgrade - RH	693,129
Collaborative Classroom Furniture Change Out Program - RH	224,537
Student Locker Replacements - ER	87,050
Replace Barlow Mountain Gym Floor	129,600
Total	\$2,419,709

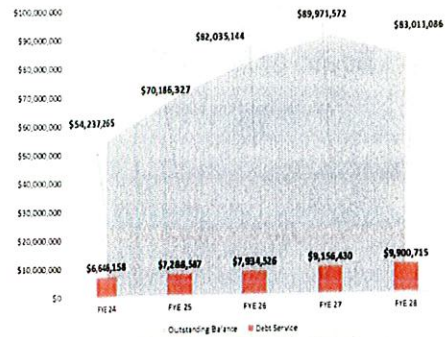
Capital Improvements

Distribution of \$7,108,495 in Capital Projects



13

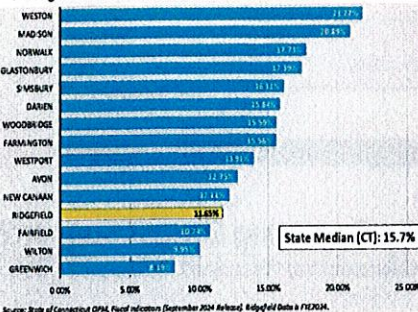
Debt Service / Debt Outstanding



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Fund Balance Comparison - All Moody's Aaa Rated Towns in Connecticut

Unsigned General Fund Balance as % of Revenues



Ridgefield FY25 UNASSIGNED Fund Balance Projection

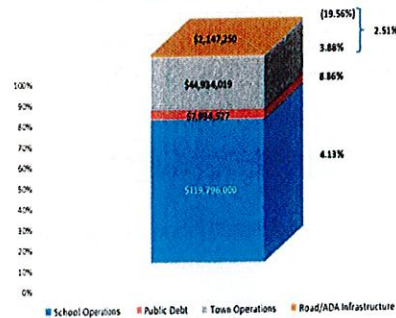
Unassigned Fund Balance - \$5024	\$21,215,249
Potential Surplus - FYE 25	1,000,000
Proposed Use of Fund Balance - FYE 24	(1,800,000)
Projected Unassigned Fund Balance \$5025	\$20,615,249
Unassigned Fund Balance as a Percentage of Proposed 2025 Expenditures	11.8%

Moody's recently affirmed our AAA rating.

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Summary

Proposed \$174,811,796 Represents a 3.90% Increase



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Annual Budget Referendum is May 13, 2025

Proposed Mill Rate is 27.39 which represents a 3.98% increase

Please visit our Town website: www.ridgefieldct.gov

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Capital Items to be Voted on at the Annual Town Meeting

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT - JAKE MULLER	
GUARDRAIL REPLACEMENT	\$40,000
MORBARK - REMOTE SYSTEM UPGRADE	\$48,000
SHOP TOOL REPLACEMENT - WILLER VELDER	\$15,372
YANITY EXTERIOR FACADE REPAIRS	\$77,550
GARAGE 1 & 2 HIGH EFFICIENCY GAS FURNACE INSTALLATION	\$95,353
GARAGE 1 & 2 DAY ROOM / LOCKER ROOM DESIGN	\$27,500
DOOR REPLACEMENT, VARIOUS LOCATIONS	\$62,250
FARMINGVILLE BARN REPAIRS & PAINTING	\$97,050
LED EXTERIOR SITE LIGHTING - RECREATION CENTER / SRMS	\$84,300
MS4 PROJECTS - DISCONNECT / PERVIOUS SURFACES	\$74,250
GENERATOR INSTALLATIONS AT CELL TOWERS	\$83,250
PARKS & RECREATION - DENNIS DIPINTO	
ONE TON PICKUP TRUCK WITH PLOW	\$68,846
ONE TON DUMP TRUCK WITH PLOW	\$87,479
VENTRAC TURF TRACTOR	\$35,884
ADA COMPLIANCE - RECREATION CENTER STUDIO	\$13,978
PARKS, FIELDS & SCHOOL GROUNDS - FENCING	\$28,910
RECREATION CENTER BUILDING REPAIR - POOL SURFACE	\$89,000
IRRIGATION FIELD SYSTEM - EAST RIDGE SOUTH	\$80,000

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Capital Items to be Voted on at the Annual Town Meeting

FIRE DEPARTMENT - CHIEF MYERS	
FIREFIGHTER PROTECTIVE GEAR	\$77,843
CPR COMPRESSION DEVICE	\$17,646
FIRE HOSE	\$13,548
JAWS OF LIFE	\$48,584
CANCER PREVENTION EQUIPMENT	\$12,632
CARDIAC MONITOR	\$57,679
SCBA BOTTLES AND MASKS	\$13,140
MEDICAL DISPATCH SOFTWARE	\$28,000
POLICE DEPARTMENT - CHIEF KREITZ	
NICE RECORDING SYSTEM	\$24,510
LICENSE PLATE READERS	\$16,400
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - ANDREW NEBLETT	
VMWARE ESX SERVER CENTER	\$40,000
SOFTWARE SERVER REPLACEMENTS	\$32,000
SAN - STORAGE AREA NETWORK DISCS	\$57,000

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Capital Items to be Voted on at the Annual Town Meeting

LIBRARY - BRENDA MCKINLEY	
ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES	\$19,000
MASONRY	\$19,000
BACKFLOW VALVE	\$10,800
PROGRAM ROOMS AV EQUIPMENT	\$45,500
EDUCATION	
RELOCATION OF MAIN ELECTRICAL SERVICE - F	\$90,800
SOUND DAMPENING FOR CAFETERIUMS - B, BM, S, VP	\$61,870
MOTOROLA RADIO INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES - D	\$61,650
STUDENT LOCKER REPLACEMENTS - ER	\$87,550
OTHER	
P&Z - UPDATE PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT	\$50,000
TREE COMMITTEE - NEW TREES IN TOWN CEMETERIES	\$25,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$2,029,124

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Moderator Dornfeld then introduced Board of Education Superintendent Susie DaSilva:



Board of Education

Capital Items Under \$100,000
Adopted Operating Budget
FY26

Presented by Dr. Susie Da Silva, Superintendent of Schools

Ridgefield Town Meeting
May 5, 2025

RPS: Two Budgets

Adopted Operating Budget	Adopted Capital Budget
\$119,796,000	\$2,419,709
68.5% of Town Operating Budget	34.0% of Town Capital Budget
4.13% Increase (+\$4,755,000)	0.0006% Increase (+\$1,652)

Taking a Look Around Us: 3- Year Historical Data

2026-2025		2024-2025		2023-2024	
School District	Percent of Enrollment's Adopted Budget	School District	Percent of Enrollment's Adopted Budget	School District	Percent of Enrollment's Adopted Budget
Weston	3.05%	Region 9	2.40%	Region 9	0.23%
Wilton	4.00%	Weston	2.85%	Weston	2.94%
Ridgefield	4.13%	Ridgefield	3.87%	Ridgefield	3.79%
Redding	4.10%	Redding	3.60%	Easton	3.56%
Region 9	4.26%	Wilton	4.50%	New Canaan	4.84%
New Canaan	4.67%	Easton	4.94%	Darlen	3.58%
Westport	4.70%	Westport	5.38%	Westport	5.24%
Darlen	4.92%	New Canaan	6.59%	Redding	3.18%
Easton	6.72%	Darlen	8.38%	Wilton	4.50%

What does 4.13% Support?

- ✓ Fixed costs
- ✓ Continued Growth and Expansion of Programming
- ✓ Address Enrollment Shifts across the District
- ✓ Legally required mandates and responsibilities

Budget Themes and Priorities

- Continue to expand and grow our current programs
 - Follow the Plan!
- Respond to feedback and study
- Repurpose positions and other budget savings to support growth and initiatives
- Highlight the facility needs-in and out of operating budget



Tonights focus will be to highlight:

- Capital Budget items under \$100,000 that will be voted on this evening; and,
- BOE Adopted Operating Budget

BOE Capital Projects being Voted on this Evening:

RELOCATION OF MAIN ELECTRICAL SERVICE - FES	\$90,800
SOUND DAMPENING FOR CAFETERIUMS - BES, BMES, SES, VPES	\$61,870
MOTOROLA RADIO INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES - DISTRICTWIDE	\$51,650
STUDENT LOCKER REPLACEMENTS - ERMS	\$87,550

What does the Operating Budget Support?

- 10 school facilities (and everything that goes with it)- VP portable, and BOE offices
- Current K-12 enrollment on 10/1/24 is 4404 students; projected enrollment is 4363
 - PK will increase to 100 students (+20); RTP will increase to 28 students (+9); K-12 will collectively decrease by -59 students
 - Elementary enrollment decreases by 9 students
 - Middle school enrollment increases by 24 students
 - High school decreases by 40 students

Taking a closer look at 4.13%

Description	Component of Budget Increase
Salaries	2.26%
Employee Benefits	1.30%
Transportation	0.37%
Projects/Repairs/Maint	0.13%
Special Ed Outplace/Tuition	0.00%
Excess Cost Reimbursement	0.39%
Energy	-0.46%
Supplies & Equipment	-0.02%
All Other	0.16%
Total Request	4.13%

Staff and Employee Benefits represent a 3.56% budget increase, before we replenish supplies, instructional materials, or even turn the lights on.

*Thank you for your consideration.
It is a privilege to serve the
students and families of Ridgefield.*



Scan the QR Code to view the RPS interactive budget website.

Moderator Sharon Dornfeld introduced the last presenter, Board of Finance Chair Mike Rettger:

Ridgefield Annual Town Meeting

Board of Finance Recommended Budgets Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Presentation by
Mike Rettger, Chair of the Board of Finance

May 5, 2025

Board of Finance

2025-26 Budget - We Started in a Good Place

- Ridgefield continues to maintain the highest credit/debt ratings of AAA/Aaa
 - These were re-affirmed by both major rating agencies in recent months
- We expect a modest budget surplus for the current year of about \$1M
 - But significantly lower than the past several years
- We went into the final budget deliberations with town reserves at 12.6% -- slightly above our target reserve range of 9% - 12% of coming year's budget
- We had good communication and dialog among the BOS, BOE and BOF on the budget challenges facing the town

Board of Finance

Calculation of the Tax Rate ("Mill Rate")

$$\frac{\text{Total Approved Budget} - \text{Other Revenues}}{\text{Tax Base (Grand List)}} = \text{Mill Rate}$$

Adjustments
- senior tax credit revenue offset
- assumed tax collections rate

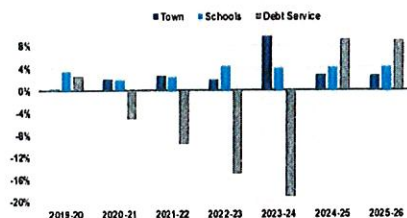
Board of Finance

2025-26 Budget Components

Town Operations	\$ 44,934,019
Debt Service Expenses	\$ 7,934,527
Total - Town Budget	\$ 52,868,546
School Operations	\$ 119,796,000
Roads/ADA Infrastructure	\$ 2,147,250
Total Recommended Budget	\$ 174,811,796

Board of Finance

Changes in the Budget Components – Year over Year



Board of Finance

Other Revenues - Major Components

User Fees - Recreation and Golf	\$ 5,456,058
Investment Income	\$ 1,900,000
Real-estate Fees and Taxes	\$ 1,759,000
Charges for Services	\$ 1,730,500
Rents of Town Property	\$ 1,228,016
Intergovernmental Sources	\$ 1,323,345
Prior Year Tax Collections, Supplemental Taxes, Interest and Penalties	\$ 2,600,000
All Other	\$ 568,500
Use of Surplus / Reserve Balance	\$ 1,600,000
Total Other Revenues	\$ 18,165,419

Board of Finance

Historical Changes in the Tax Base



Board of Finance

Calculation of the Tax Rate ("Mill Rate")

If the budgets are approved, the resulting Mill Rate for 2025-2026 will be

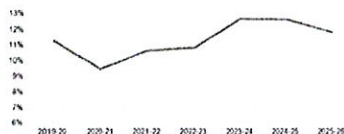
27.39

This represents a 3.98% increase over the prior Mill Rate

2025-26 Budget - We are Finishing in a Good Place

The resulting town reserve position with this recommended budget will be a projected \$20.6 million, or 11.8% of the coming-year budget

This leaves the town just below the top of the target reserve range of 9% to 12% - a strong reserve position

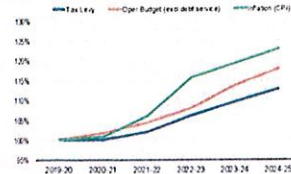


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2025-26 Budget - We are Finishing in a Good Place

The town continues to manage the growth in budgets and taxes relative to the rate of inflation

Cumulative Growth of Budgets** and Tax Revenues vs Inflation, FY 2020-2025



** Town + Schools -- without debt service costs

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2025-26 Budget - We are Finishing in a Good Place

The Mill Rate change from the recommended budget is in line with many of our surrounding towns

New Fairfield	7.56%
Newtown	6.0%
Darien	5.5%
Bethel	4.3%
Ridgefield	3.98%
New Canaan	3.9%
Brookfield	3.7%
New Milford	2.5%
Wilton	1.9%

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The Annual Town Budget Referendum is

Tuesday, May 13 at Yanity Gym
Voting Hours: 6AM to 8PM

The recommended Operating Budgets result in a Mill Rate of 27.39, which is a 3.98% increase over the FY2025 of 26.35.

In addition to the Operating Budget questions, there are 4 ballot questions regarding the Capital Budget.

We encourage everyone to come out and vote.

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Board of Finance**2025 Ballot Questions**

Ballot Question 1	Town Operations and Debt Service Expense	\$ 52,868,546
Ballot Question 2	School Operations	\$ 119,796,000
Ballot Question 3	Roads/ADA Infrastructure	\$ 2,147,250
Ballot Question 4	Capital: Roads, Sidewalks, Highway Vehicles	\$ 1,136,291
Ballot Question 5	Capital: Recreation Related Improvements	\$ 1,287,500
Ballot Question 6	Capital: Police and Fire Equipment, Loop/Senior Bus Replacement	\$ 707,741
Ballot Question 7	Capital: School Equipment and Renovations	\$ 2,342,839

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Tom Madden of 50 Madeline Drive moved and Rob Hendrick of 17 East Ridge seconded the motion to waive the reading of the full resolutions.

Scott DeYoung of 51 Caudatowa Drive asked whether the items in question 8 would be covered individually or all together, as they would total more than \$100,000 if voted all together?

Moderator Dornfeld stated the items would be grouped by department.

Tom Madden amended his motion to waive the reading of the full resolutions for questions 1-7 only; Mike Rettger of 25 Fairview Avenue seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Moderator Sharon Dornfeld introduced and read the following budget resolutions and bond resolutions by their title. Complete copies of the budget and complete copies of the bond resolutions were printed and made available to members of the public attending the meeting:

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE RELATIVE TO THE APPROPRIATION OF \$52,868,546 FOR TOWN EXPENDITURES (CONSISTING OF TOWN OPERATING EXPENDITURES OF \$44,934,019 AND DEBT SERVICE OF \$7,934,527 ON BOTH TOWN AND EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026
Sean Connelly moved & Angela Liptack seconded the motion to approve the resolution.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE RELATIVE TO THE APPROPRIATION OF \$119,796,000 FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026
Andrew Sternlieb of 62 Ridgcrest Drive moved & Tina Malhotra of 198 Keeler Drive seconded the motion to approve the resolution.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE RELATIVE TO THE APPROPRIATION OF \$2,147,250 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS TOWN ROAD AND ADA IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026
Chris Vahlsing of 382 North Street moved & Angela Rice of 237 Branchville Road seconded the motion to approve the resolution.

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$285,600 FOR THE DESIGN AND ACQUISITION OF A HIGHWAY DUMP TRUCK, \$115,691 FOR THE DESIGN AND ACQUISITION OF A HIGHWAY LOWBOY TRUCK, \$500,000 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF TERTIARY ROADS AND \$235,000 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,136,291 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATIONS AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSES (PROVIDED THAT THE BONDS SHALL BE REDUCED BY THE AMOUNT OF ANY GRANTS RECEIVED FOR SUCH PURPOSE, WHICH ARE ANTICIPATED TO BE \$235,000 FOR SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS)
Selectperson Sean Connelly moved & Andrew Neblett of 31 Ashbee Lane seconded the motion to approve the resolution.

Scott DeYoung asked whether someone could explain what a low boy truck is and why is design necessary? Rudy Marconi responded a lowboy is a small dump truck. Design is necessary for the specifications for the vehicle. Jim Reedy of North Street questioned whether tariffs have been taken into account? Rudy Marconi responded that the town has not seen much impact yet but understands the concern. We are seeing very little price escalation, but if this continues it will have an impact.

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$187,500 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF GOLF TEE BOX RENOVATIONS AND \$1,100,000 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF PARKS AND RECREATION TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURTS REPLACEMENT AT RIDGEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL AND THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,287,500 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATIONS AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSES
Suzanne Galanski of 225 North Street moved & Jim Reedy of 36 Oak Knoll Road seconded the motion to approve the resolution.

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$126,000 FOR THE DESIGN AND ACQUISITION OF POLICE DEPARTMENT CAR MOBILE COMPUTERS, \$149,452 FOR THE DESIGN AND ACQUISITION OF POLICE DEPARTMENT TASERS, \$272,289 FOR THE DESIGN AND ACQUISITION OF FIRE DEPARTMENT PORTABLE RADIOS AND \$160,000 FOR THE DESIGN AND ACQUISITION OF A TOWN LOOP/SENIOR BUS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$707,741 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATIONS AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSES (PROVIDED THAT THE BONDS SHALL BE REDUCED BY THE AMOUNT OF ANY GRANTS RECEIVED FOR SUCH PURPOSES, WHICH ARE ANTICIPATED TO BE \$160,000 FOR THE TOWN LOOP/SENIOR BUS)

Robert Hendrick of 17 East Ridge moved & Christine More of 63 Scott Ridge Road seconded the motion to approve the resolution.

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$134,800 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN AND ACQUISITION OF VETERANS PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM AUDIO/VISUAL EQUIPMENT, \$187,072 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF BRANCHVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND EAST RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT AND STAFF BATHROOM RENOVATIONS, \$128,101 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN AND ACQUISITION OF DISTRICT-WIDE VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS SPACE EQUIPMENT, \$423,100 FOR THE PLANNING AND ACQUISITION OF DISTRICT-WIDE NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES/REPLACEMENTS, \$197,500 FOR THE PLANNING AND ACQUISITION OF DISTRICT-WIDE SECURITY SERVER REPLACEMENTS, \$693,129 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN AND ACQUISITION OF RIDGEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL LED LIGHTING UPGRADE, \$224,537 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN AND ACQUISITION OF RIDGEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL COLLABORATIVE CLASSROOM FURNITURE REPLACEMENT, \$129,600 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF BARLOW MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM FLOOR AND \$225,000 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND UPGRADES; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,342,839 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATIONS AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSES

Christine More of 63 Scott Ridge Road moved & Tina Malhotra of 198 Keeler Dr seconded the motion to approve the resolution.

Angela Liptack of Wilton Road East questioned whether the town has gotten estimates for equipment? How will it be handled if the cost increases due to the tariff situation? Rudy Marconi responded that it would be handled by: 1) we may not purchase the item, 2) we would request a special appropriation, or 3) we would find money in the budget through other lines that end up under budget. Option two--a special appropriation--would be the last choice.

Mike Rettger explained the process of using unexpended capital funding to help cover budget shortages.

After discussion on the Town budget and the proposed bond resolutions, **a motion was made by Mike Rettger and seconded by Sean Connelly and passed unanimously** that the First Selectperson be authorized and directed to call a referendum to be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 between the hours of 6:00 o'clock A.M. and 8:00 o'clock P.M. (E.T.) at Yanity Gym, 60 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut, to consider and take action upon the aforesaid proposed Town budget and the proposed bond resolutions and that the notice of said referendum be in substantially the following form:

**TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD
NOTICE OF REFERENDUM
TO BE HELD MAY 13, 2025**

Pursuant to Section 10-1 of the Town Charter and the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, notice is hereby given to the electors and persons qualified to vote in the Town of Ridgefield that a referendum will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. (E.T.) at Yanity Gym, 60 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut, for the purpose of voting on the following questions:

1. "Shall the recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to the appropriation of \$52,868,546 for Town expenditures (consisting of Town operating expenditures of \$44,934,019 and debt service of \$7,934,527 on both Town and Education capital projects) for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, be approved?"

The form of the ballot label on the voting machine shall read as follows:

"Shall the recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to the appropriation of \$52,868,546 for Town expenditures (consisting of Town operating expenditures of \$44,934,019 and debt service of \$7,934,527 on both Town and education capital projects) for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, be approved? YES/NO"

2. "Shall the recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to the appropriation of \$119,796,000 for Board of Education expenditures for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, be approved?" 109

The form of the ballot label on the voting machine shall read as follows:

"Shall the recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to the appropriation of \$119,796,000 for Board of Education expenditures for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, be approved? YES/NO"

3. "Shall the recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to the appropriation of \$2,147,250 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of various Town road and ADA improvements for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, be approved?"

The form of the ballot label on the voting machine shall read as follows:

"Shall the recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to the appropriation of \$2,147,250 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of various Town road and ADA improvements for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, be approved? YES/NO"

4. "Shall the resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$285,600 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Highway Dump Truck, \$115,691 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Highway Lowboy Truck, \$500,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Tertiary Roads And \$235,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Sidewalk Improvements; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,136,291 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes (Provided That The Bonds Shall Be Reduced By The Amount Of Any Grants Received For Such Purposes, Which Are Anticipated To Be \$235,000 For Sidewalk Improvements)", be approved?"

The form of the ballot label on the voting machine shall read as follows:

"Shall the resolution appropriating \$285,600 for the design and acquisition of a highway dump truck, \$115,691 for the design and acquisition of a highway lowboy truck, \$500,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of tertiary roads and \$235,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of sidewalk improvements; and authorizing the issuance of \$1,136,291 bonds of the Town to meet said appropriations and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purposes (provided that the bonds shall be reduced by the amount of any grants received for such purposes, which are anticipated to be \$235,000 for sidewalk improvements), be approved? YES/NO"

5. "Shall the resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$187,500 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Golf Tee Box Renovations And \$1,100,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Parks And Recreation Tennis and Pickleball Courts Replacement At Ridgefield High School And The Issuance Of \$1,287,500 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes", be approved?"

The form of the ballot label on the voting machine shall read as follows:

"Shall the resolution appropriating \$187,500 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of golf tee box renovations and \$1,100,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of Parks and Recreation tennis and pickleball courts replacement at Ridgefield High School and the issuance of \$1,287,500 bonds of the Town to meet said appropriations and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purposes, be approved? YES/NO"

6. "Shall the resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$126,000 For The Design And Acquisition Of Police Department Car Mobile Computers, \$149,452 For The Design And Acquisition Of Police Department Tasers, \$272,289 For The Design And Acquisition Of Fire Department Portable Radios And \$160,000 For The Design And Acquisition Of A Town Loop/Senior Bus And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$707,741 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes (Provided That The Bonds Shall Be Reduced By The Amount Of Any Grants Received For Such Purposes, Which Are Anticipated To Be \$160,000 For The Town Loop/Senior Bus)", be approved?"

The form of the ballot label on the voting machine shall read as follows:

"Shall the resolution appropriating \$126,000 for the design and acquisition of Police Department car mobile computers, \$149,452 for the design and acquisition of Police Department tasers, \$272,289 for the design and acquisition of Fire Department portable radios and \$160,000 for the design and acquisition of a Town loop/senior bus and authorizing the issuance of \$707,741 bonds of the Town to meet said appropriations and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purposes (provided that the bonds shall be reduced by the amount of any grants received for such purposes, which are anticipated to be \$160,000 for the Town loop/senior bus), be approved? YES/NO"

7. "Shall the resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$134,800 For The Planning, Design And Acquisition Of Veterans Park Elementary School Auditorium Audio/Visual Equipment, \$187,072 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Branchville Elementary School And East Ridge Middle School Student And Staff Bathroom Renovations, \$128,101 For The Planning, Design And Acquisition Of District-Wide Visual And Performing Arts Space Equipment, \$423,100 For The Planning And Acquisition Of District-Wide Network Infrastructure Upgrades/Replacements, \$197,500 For The Planning And Acquisition Of District-Wide Security Server Replacements, \$693,129 For The Planning, Design And Acquisition Of Ridgefield High School LED Lighting Upgrade, \$224,537 For The Planning, Design And Acquisition Of Ridgefield High School Collaborative Classroom Furniture Replacement, \$129,600 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Barlow Mountain Elementary School Gym Floor And \$225,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of Elementary School Playground Upgrades; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$2,342,839 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriations And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purposes", be approved?"

The form of the ballot label on the voting machine shall read as follows:

"Shall the resolution appropriating \$134,800 for the planning, design and acquisition of Veterans Park Elementary School auditorium audio/visual equipment, \$187,072 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of Branchville Elementary School and East Ridge Middle School student and staff bathroom renovations, \$128,101 for the planning, design and acquisition of District-wide visual and performing arts space equipment, \$423,100 for the planning and acquisition of District-wide network infrastructure upgrades/replacements, \$197,500 for the planning and acquisition of District-wide security server replacements, \$693,129 for the planning, design and acquisition of Ridgefield High School LED lighting upgrade, \$224,537 for the planning, design and acquisition of Ridgefield High School collaborative classroom furniture replacement, \$129,600 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of Barlow Mountain Elementary School gym floor and \$225,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of elementary school playground upgrades; and authorizing the issuance of \$2,342,839 bonds of the Town to meet said appropriations and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purposes, be approved? YES/NO"

The vote will be by optical scan voting machine. Those in favor of the resolution referred to in the question shall fill in the oval under the word "YES" under such question. Those not in favor of the resolution referred to in the question shall fill in the oval under the word "NO" under such question. Absentee ballots will be available at the office of the Town Clerk as provided by law.

The polls will be open during the hours between 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. (E.T.). Electors and persons qualified to vote as aforesaid may cast their votes at the following polling place: Yanity Gym, 60 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut

In accordance with Section 7-6 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, only an elector of the Town or a citizen of the United States of the age of eighteen years or more who, jointly or severally, was liable to the Town for taxes assessed against him based on an assessment of not less than \$1,000 on the last completed grand list of the Town or who would have been so liable if not entitled to an exemption as a blind person or as a veteran or as a parent or surviving spouse of a veteran will be entitled to vote. Absentee ballots shall be available as provided by law at the Town Clerk's office during business hours.

The voting will take place pursuant to the provisions of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and the votes will be cast and canvassed and the results determined and certified as nearly as may be in accordance with the laws governing the election of the Town officials.

The full text of said resolutions is on file open to public inspection at the Office of the Town Clerk.

Dated at Ridgefield, Connecticut, this 8th day of May, 2025.

Wendy Gannon Lionetti CCTC, Town Clerk

Published in *The Ridgefield Press* on May 8, 2025.

Received for Record this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Town Clerk

Andrew Sternlieb of 63 Ridgecrest Road moved and Sue Kveskin of 31 Lake Road seconded the motion to waive the reading of the entire resolution for question 8 as it has been made available for all those in attendance, and that the full text be incorporated into the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Moderator Sharon Dornfeld introduced and read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION MAKING APPROPRIATIONS AGGREGATING \$2,029,124 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ACQUISITION, INSTALLATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,029,124 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATIONS AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSES

Town Department heads were available to answer questions pertaining to their specific items.

Rudy Marconi then presented all the individual items, listed by department, allowing voters to ask questions. Scott DeYoung asked what fuel is used in the cell tower generators? The response was that propane is used in those generators—they are small generators.

Michael Smith of Crest Road questioned what determines a capital item? Some things don't last 20 years, correct? Why do we bond them? Does software at last 20 years? Mike Rettger stated the BOF is currently looking at this.

Jim Reedy from North Street asked whether the fire and police department items that are being considered are portable to the new location. Fire Chief Jerry Myers responded that all items are 100 percent portable to the new location.

Jim Reedy also asked about the generators for the cell towers—Does the town own these cell towers? Rudy Marconi responded that the town only owns one cell tower and that is the one at the police station. However, the town must maintain emergency equipment on all cell towers and generators are necessary for that equipment.

RESOLVED:

Section 1. That the aggregate sum of \$2,029,124 is hereby appropriated by the Town of Ridgefield, Connecticut (the "Town") for the planning, design, acquisition, construction and installation of the various public improvements and equipment herein after listed, including, where appropriate, costs for design, acquisition, installation, construction, site improvements, removal of materials and discarded equipment, permitting and environmental costs, equipment, materials, architectural, engineering and other consultant fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the Projects and their financing. The appropriation is inclusive or any and all federal and state grants-in-aid thereof:

Project

Estimated Amount

Information Technology

VMWare ESX Server Center	\$40,000
Software Server Replacements	32,000
SAN-Storage Area Network Discs	57,000
<u>Parks & Recreation</u>	
Ton Pick Up Truck & Plow	68,846
Ton Dump Truck with Plow & Sander	87,479
Ventrac Turf Tractor	35,884
ADA Compliance Recreation Center Studio	13,978
Parks, Fields & School Grounds Safety Improv. – Fencing	28,910
Recreation Center Building Repair – Pool Surface	89,000
Irrigation Fields System- East Ridge South	80,000
<u>Police Department</u>	
NICE Recording System	24,510
License Plate Readers	16,400
<u>Fire Department</u>	
Firefighter Protective Gear	77,843
Jaws of Life	48,584
Fire Hose	13,548
Cancer Prevention Equipment	12,632
Cardiac Monitor	57,679
SCBA Bottles and Masks	13,140
Mechanical CPR Device	17,646
Medical Dispatch Software	28,000
<u>Highway Department</u>	
Morbark Remote System Replacement	48,000
Guardrail Replacements	40,000
Shop Tool Replacement – Miller Welder	15,372
<u>Town Engineer</u>	
Yanity Exterior Façade Repairs	77,550
High Efficiency Gas Furnace Installation	95,353
Garage 1 & 2 Dayroom/Locker Room Design	27,500
Door Replacement – Various Locations	62,250
FES Barn Repairs & Painting	97,050
LED Upgrades, Exterior Site Lighting (P&R Ctr/SRMS)	84,300
MS4 Projects-Disconnect/Pervious Surfaces	74,250
Generator Installations at Cell Towers	83,250
<u>Education</u>	
Sound Attenuation/Dampening for Cafetorium – B, BM, S, VP	61,870
Relocation of Main Electrical Service - F	90,800
Motorola Radio Infrastructure Upgrades - D	61,650
Student Locker Replacements – ER	87,550
<u>Library</u>	
Accessible Parking Spaces	19,000
Masonry	19,000
Backflow Valve	10,800
Program Rooms A/V Equipment	45,500
<u>Other</u>	

Total \$2,029,124

Section 2. That the Town issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$2,029,124 to finance the appropriations for the Projects, provided such bonds shall be issued maturing not later than the maximum maturity permitted by the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended (the "General Statutes"). Said bonds may be issued in one or more series as determined by the First Selectperson, in consultation with the Board of Selectpersons and the Board of Finance, in the amount necessary to meet the Town's share of the cost of the Projects determined after considering the estimated amount of any Federal and State grants-in-aid for the Projects, or the actual amount thereof if ascertainable, and the anticipated times of the receipt of the proceeds thereof, provided that the total amount of bonds to be issued shall not be less than an amount which will provide funds sufficient with other funds available for such purpose to pay the principal of and the interest on all temporary borrowings in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of said bonds outstanding at the time of the issuance thereof, and to pay for the administrative, financing, legal and other costs of issuance of such bonds. The bonds shall be in the denomination of \$5,000 or a whole multiple thereof, be issued on fully registered form, be executed in the name and on behalf of the Town by the facsimile or manual signature of the First Selectperson, bear the Town seal or a facsimile thereof, be certified by a bank or trust company, which bank or trust company may be designated the registrar and transfer agent, be payable at a bank or trust company, and be approved as to their legality by Pullman & Comley, LLC. The bonds shall be general obligations of the Town and each of the bonds shall recite that every requirement of law relating to its issuance has been duly complied with, that such bond is within every debt and other limit prescribed by law, and that the full faith and credit of the Town are pledged to the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon. The aggregate principal amount of the bonds of each series to be issued, the annual installments of principal, redemption provisions, if any, the certifying agent, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent, the date, time of issue and sale and other terms, the details and particulars of such bonds, including the approval of the rate or rates of interest, shall be determined by the First Selectperson in the best interest of the Town and in accordance with the General Statutes. The amount of the bonds issued shall be reduced by the amount of grants or other funds, if any, received by the Town for any of the Projects and not separately appropriated to pay additional costs of the relevant Project.

Section 3. That the bonds of each series shall be sold by the First Selectperson, in consultation with the Board of Selectpersons and the Board of Finance, in a competitive offering or by negotiation, in his or her discretion. If sold in a competitive offering, the bonds shall be sold at not less than par and accrued interest on the basis of the lowest net or true interest cost to the Town. A notice of sale or a summary thereof describing the bonds and setting forth the terms and conditions of the sale shall be published in advance of the sale in a recognized publication carrying municipal bond notices and devoted primarily to financial news and the subject of state and municipal bonds. If the bonds are sold by negotiation, the purchase agreement shall be approved and signed by the First Selectperson.

Section 4. That the First Selectperson is authorized to make temporary borrowings in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of said bonds. Notes evidencing such borrowings shall be executed in the name and on behalf of the Town by the facsimile or manual signature of the First Selectperson, bear the Town seal or a facsimile thereof, be payable at a bank or trust company designated by the First Selectperson, be approved as to their legality by Pullman & Comley, LLC, and be certified by a bank or trust company designated by the First Selectperson pursuant to Section 7-373 of the General Statutes. The notes shall be issued with maturity dates which comply with the provisions of the General Statutes governing the issuance of such notes. The notes shall be general obligations of the Town and each of the notes shall recite that every requirement of law relating to its issuance has been duly complied with, that such note is within every debt and other limit prescribed by law, and that the full faith and credit of the Town are pledged to the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon. The net interest cost on such notes, including renewals thereof, and the expense of preparing, issuing and marketing them, to the extent paid from proceeds of such renewals or said bonds, may be included as a cost of the Project. Upon the sale of the bonds, the proceeds thereof, to the extent required, shall be applied forthwith to the payment of the principal of and the interest on any such notes then outstanding or shall be deposited with a bank or trust company in trust for such

114 purpose. The amount of the notes issued shall be reduced by the amount of grants or other funds, if any, received by the Town for any of the Projects and not separately appropriated to pay additional costs of the relevant Project.

Section 5. That the appropriations in Section 1 hereof may be transferred by the Board of Selectpersons among the Projects upon a finding that the appropriation or portion thereof is not needed for its respective purpose.

Section 6. That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulations Section 1.150-2 that costs for the Projects may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the Projects. The First Selectperson is authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as he or she may deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as he or she may deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds, notes or temporary notes authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

Section 7. That the First Selectperson is hereby authorized, on behalf of the Town, to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the aforesaid bonds, notes or temporary notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds, notes or temporary notes.

Section 8. That the First Selectperson is hereby authorized, on behalf of the Town, to enter into any other agreements, instruments, documents and certificates, including tax and investment agreements, for the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this resolution. The First Selectperson is hereby authorized, on behalf of the Town, to apply for and accept any and all federal and state loans and/or grants-in-aid for any of the Projects, to expend said funds in accordance with the terms hereof, and in connection therewith to contract in the name of the Town with engineers, contractors and others.

Section 9. That the First Selectperson, Town Treasurer, Controller, and other proper officers and officials of the Town are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to complete the Projects and to issue bonds, notes or temporary notes and obtain other funding to finance the aforesaid appropriations.

Selectperson Maureen Kozlark moved that said resolution be adopted as introduced and read and the motion was seconded by Angela Liptack. Following discussion and a vote by show of hands waiving paper ballot, the Moderator reported that there were 81 votes in favor of the adoption of the resolution and 1 vote in opposition to the adoption of the resolution. The Moderator thereupon declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD RESULTS OF REFERENDUM VOTE

At a referendum vote held on May 13, 2025 in the Town of Ridgefield, Connecticut, the following vote was taken on the following questions, viz.:

1. "Shall the recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to the appropriation of \$52,868,546 for Town expenditures (consisting of Town operating expenditures of \$44,934,019 and debt service of \$7,934,527 on both Town and education capital projects) for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, be approved?"
_____ 1122 YES _____ 299 NO

2. "Shall the recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to the appropriation of \$119,796,000 for Board of Education expenditures for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, be approved?"
_____ 1021 YES _____ 402 NO

3. "Shall the recommendation of the Board of Finance relative to the appropriation of \$2,147,250 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of various Town road and ADA improvements for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, be approved?"
1207 YES 216 NO

4. "Shall the resolution appropriating \$285,600 for the design and acquisition of a highway dump truck, \$115,691 for the design and acquisition of a highway lowboy truck, \$500,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of tertiary roads and \$235,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of sidewalk improvements; and authorizing the issuance of \$1,136,291 bonds of the Town to meet said appropriations and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purposes (provided that the bonds shall be reduced by the amount of any grants received for such purposes, which are anticipated to be \$235,000 for sidewalk improvements), be approved?"
1122 YES 300 NO

5. "Shall the resolution appropriating \$187,500 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of golf tee box renovations and \$1,100,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of Parks and Recreation tennis and pickleball courts replacement at Ridgefield High School and the issuance of \$1,287,500 bonds of the Town to meet said appropriations and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purposes, be approved?"
890 YES 523 NO

6. "Shall the resolution appropriating \$126,000 for the design and acquisition of Police Department car mobile computers, \$149,452 for the design and acquisition of Police Department tasers, \$272,289 for the design and acquisition of Fire Department portable radios and \$160,000 for the design and acquisition of a Town loop/senior bus and authorizing the issuance of \$707,741 bonds of the Town to meet said appropriations and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purposes (provided that the bonds shall be reduced by the amount of any grants received for such purposes, which are anticipated to be \$160,000 for the Town loop/senior bus), be approved?"
1091 YES 322 NO

7. "Shall the resolution appropriating \$134,800 for the planning, design and acquisition of Veterans Park Elementary School auditorium audio/visual equipment, \$187,072 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of Branchville Elementary School and East Ridge Middle School student and staff bathroom renovations, \$128,101 for the planning, design and acquisition of District-wide visual and performing arts space equipment, \$423,100 for the planning and acquisition of District-wide network infrastructure upgrades/replacements, \$197,500 for the planning and acquisition of District-wide security server replacements, \$693,129 for the planning, design and acquisition of Ridgefield High School LED lighting upgrade, \$224,537 for the planning, design and acquisition of Ridgefield High School collaborative classroom furniture replacement, \$129,600 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of Barlow Mountain Elementary School gym floor and \$225,000 for the planning, design, acquisition and construction of elementary school playground upgrades; and authorizing the issuance of \$2,342,839 bonds of the Town to meet said appropriations and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purposes, be approved?"
1068 YES 350 NO

Wendy Gannon Lionetti
Wendy Gannon Lionetti CCTC
Town Clerk

