

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – October 27, 2020, MEETING MINUTES:

Note: This is a virtual meeting and the recording of the meeting is available at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Py3LWo4rJeX9t30JiYWz1wgNOelbOxH-r9SZJ3nDfGNWjKB-BmluqZpEalUysi.kd4j6RLu7PN2ntKH?startTime=1603839432000>

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein and Selectmen Ray Pech and Nick Lukiwsky. Megan Nelson, a resident, also joined the meeting.

DELEGATIONS: No delegations were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were made.

MOTION: On a motion by Nick Lukiwsky, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously, the minutes of the September 22, 2020 regular meeting were approved,

MOTION: A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously to approve the following Tax Refund:

Tracy Karelus	71.64	Refund
CoreLogic Tax Svc	235.21	Refund
CoreLogic Tax Svc	108.49	Refund
Lereta, LLC	215.90	Refund
Jennifer & Christian Johnson	49.29	Refund
Philip Kennedy	177.06	Refund
Timothy Sullivan	135.55	Credit
Paul & Mary Duran	837.34	Credit
Betty Ann Sweeney	12.39	Refund
Albert or Cynthia Neumann	783.19	Refund
Toyota Lease	112.11	Refund
John Laczak	293.14	Refund
Karl or Paul Frey	107.18	Refund
Vacila Concrete LLC	6.78	Credit
Eniko Ujvari	10.00	Credit

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen reviewed the budget actuals through September 30, 2020 and the tax collections for the same period. The expenditures were on track for the first 3 months, including the line items that are typically paid at 100% at the beginning of the fiscal year. Election expenses will be higher this year than expected due to the pandemic, but hopefully, some of those expenditures will be offset by grants and reimbursements from the State. Similarly, the State COVID Relief Fund will reimburse

some of the other expenditures made to make Town Hall safer from the virus. Legal expenses continue to be above the expected amount at this time of the year, as there are 3 tax appeal lawsuits in progress, as well as a couple of older lawsuits that have not yet been settled. Tax collections were a little lower through September than last year, but this year is different than previous years due to the extension granted to residents by the State allowing them to defer payment until October 1 due to Covid-19. However, the collections in the beginning of October were higher than normal, so collections are roughly on track with last year through the first 4 months.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen discussed proposals from Berkshire Alarm, our security system provider, to install security cameras at the three entrances to Town Hall. However, the quotes received for a professional system were \$6,853, \$5607, and \$4890, for various levels of equipment to be installed at the 3 entrance doors, and to be linked by wi-fi to a hard drive. These quotes were considered by the Selectmen to be excessive, and Don Stein took the action to look at lower cost options, possibly more like a home system, and to present options at the next BOS meeting.

DISCUSSION: Relative to COVID and the Town Hall, the Town Hall will remain closed even with the cold weather approaching. Individuals requiring service will be allowed to come in by appointment, or if there is zero or one other person being served. Additionally, many of the services are available on line, precluding the need to come to Town Hall. If they do not have an appointment, they can call the office they need, to see if that person is available to help them. People will be asked to wait in their car until they can come in, so they will not be queuing up in line. They will be screened for temperature and will also be asked a series of questions. A sign-up sheet for contact tracing will be required (with email and phone numbers) and they will have to answer appropriate questions regarding the absence of symptoms.

In addition, Town Hall hours will be changed starting November 30 to reflect the winter and the pandemic. The new hours will be Monday – Thursday from 8:30 -4:30 and closed on Friday. This will save a little money as there will be less heating and lighting required, since the Town Hall will not be open on Friday. This schedule is similar to a number of the other small towns in our region and will be done on a trial basis. As is done already, the offices will accommodate residents who are unable to come to Town Hall before 4:30 during the normal open hours.

DISCUSSION: Ray Pech presented a draft proclamation regarding anti-discrimination for discussion by the Selectmen. The Selectmen reviewed the proposed language and felt that it required further revisions to minimize political divisiveness. Ray took notes on the discussion and agreed to bring a second revised draft to the next meeting.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein informed the Selectman that the sewer installation from Winsted into Barkhamsted to the Mallory Brook Plaza should start next week. The permit for Winsted is ready to be signed off, and the contractor for the Plaza owner will also be pulling the road opening permit for Barkhamsted's section.

In addition, the CT Department of Housing approved the Community Development Block Grant to the Town, which will be executed by the Barkhamsted Housing Trust, Inc. The grant allowed the Trust to purchase the Mallory Brook Farm, based on a bridge loan from LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) to provide funding until all of the paperwork with the State is finalized and the funds become available. The grant will cover the cost of the purchase, prior expenses incurred, and the pre-construction efforts such as environmental assessment, engineering and design. Ultimately, the sewers will also service the anticipated affordable housing development of 20 apartments.

MOTION: On a motion by Ray Pech, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously, Megan Nelson was appointed to a term on the Recreation Commission through 12/31/25. Megan has lived in town for about a year and has two young children and is anxious to get involved to help the Town.

MOTION: On a motion by Ray Pech, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously, the attached resolution was approved, authorizing the First Selectman to execute and deliver any and all documents to the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

MOTION: On a motion by Nick Lukiwsky, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously, two other items were added to the agenda: 1) Discussion of installing heating strips on the ramps to the upstairs town hall door and 2) discussion of a request from the New Hartford Ambulance regarding waiving reimbursement from paramedic intercept expenses.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein informed the Selectman that he had solicited a quote from HeatTrak regarding temporary, electrically-heated rubber pads for the ramps coming from the end of the sidewalk up to the front door of the Town Hall. The 2' strips were \$3320 and the 3' strips were \$4687 plus the cost of running electricity to the installation. This is considered to be necessary due to the very slippery conditions on the new concrete when snow melts and refreezes. The pads come with a 2-year warranty and are used in a variety of commercial applications. The 3' strips were considered to be more appropriate since that width will basically fill the full ramp, largely eliminating the need for snow blowing or shoveling. The lead time is ~1 week, so they should be available for the winter storms and can then be removed in the spring.

MOTION: On a motion by Nick Lukiwsky, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously, the Selectmen agreed to a request from the New Hartford Ambulance to waive reimbursement for the 4th quarter of 2020 of approximately \$7700 that normally would have been provided to the town as a result of paramedic intercept services. This request resulted from a budget shortfall that came from the need to hire additional professional help to cover shifts and from a significant drop in call volume/revenue.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM on a motion by Ray Pech, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein
First Selectman

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be the regular meeting on November 10th at 7:00PM.

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION OF THE

Town of Barkhamsted, Board of Selectmen

CERTIFICATION:

I, Holly P. Krouse, the Town Clerk of the Town of Barkhamsted, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Selectmen at its duly called and held meeting on October 27, 2020 at which a quorum was present and acting throughout, and that the resolution has not been modified, rescinded, or revoked and is at present in full force and effect:

RESOLVED, that the Town of Barkhamsted Board of Selectmen may enter into with and deliver to the **State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security** any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Donald S. Stein, as First Selectman of the Town of Barkhamsted is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Barkhamsted and to do and perform all acts and things which he/she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

The undersigned further certifies that Donald S. Stein now holds the office of First Selectman and that he/she has held that office since January 1, 2008.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: The undersigned has executed this certificate this 28th day of October, 2020.

Holly P. Krouse

Town Clerk