

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – November 10, 2020, MEETING MINUTES:

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/MxICtDShnOFjvcNdiimtAjl0Pn-L1tZavKYuixQUj03HQRNirFSqjVB-FJ7gpw-.oF-idrKUzYmh5Xu>

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein and Selectmen Ray Pech and Nick Lukiwsky.

DELEGATIONS: No delegations were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were made.

MOTION: On a motion by Ray Pech, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously, the minutes of the October 27, 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 Refunds:

James Deityz	\$ 74.32	Credit
Linda Dunlop or Richard Busch	\$117.24	Credit

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen reviewed the budget actuals through October 31, 2020. The expenditures were on track for the first 4 months. Election expenses will be higher this year than expected due to the pandemic, but we are receiving funds from the State and a grant from a private organization, which will help offset the additional costs. Similarly, the State COVID Relief Fund will reimburse some of the other expenditures made to make Town Hall safer from the virus, and there will be a second round of funding for July through September. 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.

DISCUSSION: The discussion of security cameras at the three entrances to Town Hall was tabled until the next meeting as Don Stein had not had a chance to research lower cost options.

DISCUSSION: It was noted that the Town has seen an increase of 12 COVID cases since October 20, but fortunately, the schools and Town staff have not been affected. However, more precautions need to be taken by everyone due to this increase in COVID cases in Connecticut and in Town. As a result, the Town Hall will not be re-opened to the public. There will be tables set up in both foyers for people who need to come in from the weather to fill out forms, obtain permits, pay taxes, etc., but the office areas will remain open to employees only. Screening procedures will be implemented and if there is an action that requires access to the vault or another area, masks and temperatures, and a contact tracing form, will be used. 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 attempt to accommodate residents who are unable to come to Town Hall before 4:30 during the normal open hours.

DISCUSSION: The discussion of the proclamation proposed by Ray Pech regarding anti-discrimination was tabled until the next meeting as Nick Lukiwsky had not had a chance to review the latest version.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein informed the Selectman that the sewer installation from Winsted into Barkhamsted to the Mallory Brook Plaza has started and it appears that all of the information necessary for the permit for Winsted has been provided. The project is expected to take from 4-6 weeks.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein informed the Selectman that the electrician's quote for wiring the heating mats was \$2,500. Adding that to the price for the 3' width (\$4687), the cost of this project would be over \$7,000. The Selectmen agreed that this had become more expensive than was advisable, and decided not to proceed at this time.

Don Stein also informed the Selectmen that the Town had been awarded a STEAP grant for reconstruction of the Farmington River riverbank just south of Riverton on West River Road. The grant was for \$128,205 and requires about \$42,177 in matching funds, which will be a combination of contracted and in-kind work. Permits will be obtained over the next several months and the work will take place next summer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 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 24th at 7:00PM.