



Town of Barkhamsted

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 23, 2026, 6:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL**

Meeting called to order at 6 P.M. Present were First Selectman Meaghan Cook, Selectman Ray Pech. Excused: Selectman Mark Mahoney out of town.

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Amanda North

REVIEW MINUTES from March 10, 2026 Board of Selectman Special Meeting. Date of next meeting corrected. Selectman Pech made a motion to accept the date correction, second by Selectman Cook, and passed unanimously.

TAX REFUNDS AND CREDITS: None

REVIEW AND SIGN CHECKS: Done

REVIEW YTD CAPITAL AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET: Question regarding Foreman and Road Crew overtime line items. Reminder that most storms have come during the evenings and weekends. No action taken.

REVIEW AND APPROVE FINAL DRAFT OF PROPOSED 26/27 CAPITAL AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET: Board of Finance has requested a special meeting on March 31, 2026 and requested the BOS to make cuts to the most recent 26/27 Budget Drafts. Recommendation from BOF to remain flat on Highway Department Sand and Salt line item, no increase to last year's line item. Recommendation to move the salary of the Recreation Director from General Government to the Income and Expense of Recreation. Unemployment Compensation will be reduced by \$1,000. Recommendation from BOF on Capital improvements is to delay the Town Hall & School Parking Lot improvement to 27/28 or later. Rich Novak felt another year, possibly two, is acceptable.

The Capital line item for the new Highway Dept. truck in FY 25/26 has exceeded the \$300,000 estimate by just under \$15,000. Rich Novak recommended funding the difference from Highway Dept. line item for Road Improvements.

MOTION: Selectman Pech moved to approve the recommended cuts and line-item adjustments as discussed for the Board of Selectmen (BOS) Final Draft of the FY 2026–2027 Capital and General Government Budget, with the continued position that the proposed First Selectman salary remain unchanged. The motion was seconded by Selectman Cook and passed unanimously.

Correspondence: Copies of two letters from Jim Hart, regarding the future of the Town Hall and the upcoming Plan of Conservation, are added to the record of this meeting. These letters will be forwarded to the BOF and Capital Planning.



DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS FROM THE TOWN FIRE MARSHAL: The Board held further discussion regarding the Fire Marshal's recommendation to secure (board up) the Valero station due to public safety concerns, including the potential cost of hiring a professional service to perform the work. It was noted that the Town may be required to cover the cost of securing the building and could subsequently place a lien on the property to recover expenses. Efforts are ongoing to work with the property owner to assume responsibility for implementing the recommended safety measures. No action was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Amanda North expressed concerns regarding a sign posted on property owned by the Barkhamsted Housing Trust offering free soil. She raised questions about increased traffic on her road and potential impacts from individuals coming to collect the soil. She inquired whether the soil has been tested and if the results are available to the public, noting concerns about possible contamination due to years of abandoned or neglected vehicles on the property.

Selectman Pech stated that soil testing has been conducted but was unsure which department maintains the results.

Mrs. North also asked when construction on the property is expected to begin. Additional questions were raised regarding the condition of Old New Hartford Road, including when repairs would be made. She suggested increased enforcement by the Resident Trooper, including the use of radar to address speeding.

Further concerns included potential damage to her property, potholes in the roadway, and water draining into the road near a fire hydrant due to poor grading. Mrs. North also noted a separate property on Old New Hartford Road where a building has collapsed, and children are cutting through the site to access a nearby shopping center. She asked whether the property owner could be required to properly demolish the structure to prevent injury.

Mrs. North inquired about regulations concerning the number of unregistered vehicles permitted on a property. It was noted that Town ordinances are available on the Town website, and that the Assessor and Tax Collector may be able to provide additional information regarding the specific property.

MOTION: Selectman Pech moved to reschedule the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen and proposed holding a Special Meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2026. The motion was seconded by Selectman Cook and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Meaghan Cook, First Selectman