

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN – March 9, 2021, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:**

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/kcvM8oo70pDs8RIQ8wU-MhtHLbiTCocC\\_KNsipzE719kL4CQl1bsESg88i6qNId0.8YmlvBaq3YpkCreA](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/kcvM8oo70pDs8RIQ8wU-MhtHLbiTCocC_KNsipzE719kL4CQl1bsESg88i6qNId0.8YmlvBaq3YpkCreA)

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein and Selectmen Ray Pech and Nick Lukiwsky. Rich Novak was present and left the meeting at 6:20, and John Doyle joined at 6:40.

**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 February 23, 2021, regular meeting were approved, with one correction: in the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, which should have said “no requests for tax refunds were received”:

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

David Turick	\$ 47.29	Refund
Norman & Jayne Sholtis	\$170.46	Refund
Stefan Gerum	\$ 23.00	Refund
Evelyn Donaldson	\$145.94	Refund
Gregory Fantano	\$101.18	Refund

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectmen reviewed the FY '21 budget actuals, and consistent with previous months, the expenditures were on track to be within the approved budget. Revenues also were on track to meet the year's goals, even with the delay granted by the state for property tax due dates. We are currently 66.7% of the way through the fiscal year, and the total General Government budget is 72.3% expended. This is very consistent with previous years due to the fact that some of our bills are paid in full at the start of the year, but we also haven't paid any of the Resident State Troopers bill, as that does not get billed by the State until the end of the fiscal year. The Highway Department overtime budget is high, but this has been a snowy winter, and the legal expenses are also higher than planned. However, many other line items are lower than planned, so they should balance out the higher than expected line item expenditures.

Don Stein also mentioned that the Federal Stimulus bill that had been passed as a result of the pandemic will result in a significant amount of money being made available to the town over the next two years, but that the criteria for allowable expenditures had not yet been defined by the Federal Government.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Nick Lukiwsky, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to approve the FY 21/22 capital budget which totals \$387,000, of which \$230,000 is for the General Government. The balance of the request is projects requested by the Board of Education. The capital reserve undesignated funds total \$143,767, which could be applied to this coming fiscal year's budget by the Board of Finance. The Selectmen approved the following projects, which then need to be acted on by the Capital Committee and the Board of Finance:

- Mowing Equipment \$ 35,000
- Salt Shed Tent Replacement \$ 20,000
- Replace 2001 International \$175,000

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Nick Lukiwsky, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to approve the FY 21/22 General Government budget, which totals \$2,221,986, or a 0.95% increase. In addition, the Town's Debt Service is up by only 0.6% (\$142), the Recreation Commission budget is up by 2.75%, which is the Recreation Director's salary increase, and the Dog Fund and the Senior Fund are flat. Town employees are receiving a 2.75% increase, the health insurance premium increase is capped out at 6.95% and most of the outside agencies we deal with are flat or up just a small amount. The Election expense will be lower due to the fact that the fall election is only for town boards and commissions, and the final cost of the Resident State Trooper is likely to be lower since the replacement may not be topped out on the pay scale, as was the prior RST.

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectmen reviewed the current strategy on vaccinations and took note of the continued reduction in positive cases in Town. The Town is in the gray zone relative to our new cases, which means we have a very low infection rate, averaging about 1 per week. The Farmington Valley Health District is holding bi-weekly clinics at the Praise Christian Church on Route 44, and is setting up to do between 250 - 300 vaccinations during these clinics, which go from 10:00 to 4:00. The Town's seniors have a very high rate of vaccination (first doses have been given to 90.5% of those over 75 and 88.2% to those 65-74). Overall, 26% of the Town's population has received their first dose. The State does not provide data on those who have received their second dose, but it is likely that those who have gotten their first dose will also get their second one when it is due.

**DISCUSSION:** Don Stein reported that the sewer installation was almost complete, with a few more tests of the installed pipe and equipment required. Ollie's will be taking possession of the store in early April and the owner of the Plaza continues to make aesthetic improvements to the shopping center area. There is also a good possibility that the movie theater will re-open in the near future.

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectmen reviewed the updated quotes for Town Hall security cameras and decided to table this decision based on the need to spend a few thousand dollars on upgrading

the downstairs office radiators, which have been out-of-service for some time. Depending on funds received from the Federal Government for Covid relief and depending on what is allowable under the grant terms, or as we get closer to having firm figures for the end-of-year budget actuals, we will re-evaluate the security camera project.

**DISCUSSION:** Don Stein reported that the Town has advertised for the open Building Official position and is starting to receive resumes from interested, certified officials. Interviews will be scheduled for qualified individuals, as they apply.

**DISCUSSION:** Rich Novak presented information and discussed the need for an improved truck wash station in the Town Garage. When the garage was built, that equipment was eliminated from the specs in order to keep the project costs as low as possible. With the salt used on the roads today, this would help to preserve the trucks and extend their useful life by minimizing corrosion. However it is hard to project the life extension, but Rich reported that the older trucks have shown serious decay and the Town tends to keep their trucks for up to 20 years. This discussion and any resulting action were tabled to the next regular meeting on March 23, which will be held at the Town Garage, so that Rich can better explain the need and the plans for this equipment. The total cost for the project would be \$9,000 for the unit, \$9,100 for a mezzanine for the equipment, \$4,200 for propane to provide the heat, and almost \$10,000 for plumbing and electrical, for a total cost of over \$32,000.

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectmen discussed the potential action to consider and vote to remove a member of the Stancift Cove Authority, if the ordinance were to be changed to allow this to take place for a member that misses 3 or more consecutive meetings without a legitimate excuse. The consensus was that if the ordinance change were to pass, no action by the Selectmen should take place until after the 15 day waiting period was over, which is required by statute for an ordinance change to take effect. The Town Meeting did make the change to allow this to take place, and the potential removal of a member will be on a later BOS agenda. If the member were to be removed, then the ratification of the BOS action and the appointment of a new member will be put on the agenda for the Annual Town Meeting in early May.

The meeting was recessed at 6:53 PM, due to the Special Town Meeting scheduled for 7:00 PM. It was adjourned at 7:38 on a motion by Ray Pech, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein  
First Selectman

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*The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be – March 23, 2021, 7:00PM.*