

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – APRIL 13, 2021, MEETING MINUTES:

Note: This was a hybrid meeting – recording is available at the link below.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 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 March 23, 2021, 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:

Drew Paris	\$ 8.19	Refund
Rodney Stone	\$145.94	Refund
Lad Green	\$ 67.89	Credit
	\$ 96.10	Refund
Gary & Barbara DiLeo	\$232.52	Refund

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen reviewed the budget actuals and the tax collections through March 31, 2021. Terri Collins, Tax Collector, provided data that showed that her collections were \$230,000 over the budgeted amount through the end of March and that she thought it was feasible that the final figure could be over \$250,000. There are still some large payments expected and delinquencies being pursued, so the final surplus is still to be determined. The General Government budget is on-track to meet the budgeted amounts, based on the expenditures to-date. Salaries are also on track and the highway crew's overtime, Tools and Repairs, Tree Maintenance, and the Road Improvements budget will be adjusted via the use of Town Aid Road, as in past years. Town Counsel expenditures are still significantly over budget, but the activity seems to have slowed down, at least temporarily. The two tax appeal lawsuits and the property dispute are still active, but there has been only a little need at the moment for assistance from the attorneys. The Resident State Trooper line is still an unknown based on the temporary Trooper assigned to the Town. This line item could also be lower in the coming fiscal year depending on the salary grade of the new trooper who will be assigned to the Town. On the whole, we are at about 80% of the year's expenditures with only 3 months left in the fiscal year.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein reported that the Board of Finance had established a preliminary Revenue Sheet after the Budget Hearing, which showed a 2.72% tax increase, which is a mill rate increase of 0.84. The BOF is planning to use \$500,000 of surplus to keep the increase as low as possible. This use of surplus will be offset by the surplus in the tax collections and the elementary school expenditures, so the town's General Fund should remain at about 11% of the overall expenditures. The biggest driver in the expense increases is Regional 7, which is up 5.43% due to shifts in student population from the member towns. The Barkhamsted School budget is up 2.81%, much of which is the result of Special Education cost increases and the Selectmen's budget is up 1.01%. The capital budget had been zeroed out last year, but is budgeted at \$243,233 this year, based on the use of approximately \$137,000 of capital surplus, mostly accrued from the State reimbursement of the school heating oil tank reimbursement. The Annual Town Meeting to conduct town business will be held on May 4, and the Annual Budget Meeting will be delayed to May 25, in an effort to understand as much as possible about the Governor's budget and the Federal relief funds.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein reported that the infection rate for coronavirus in Town had spiked up by a few cases, but had leveled off again, and that there had been no deaths in that time period. The vaccination rate showed that 47% of the Town's residents had received at least their first shot and that basically 100% of the residents, aged 65 and over, had received either their first or second dose of the vaccine. The Selectmen discussed the groundrules for use of the Federal relief funds, which could total as much as \$1,000,000 to the Town. However, the allowable uses of these funds are not yet known. The first half of the funds will be received on May 11 and the second payment will be mid-May 2022. The State will act as a pass through, and will not have any control over the disbursement. The County portion of these funds will be distributed on a per capita basis to each of the towns. It is expected that guidance on the use of the funds will come in mid-May and that the Town will have until 12/31/24 to spend the money. Periodic reporting to the Federal government regarding expenditure of the funds will be a requirement.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen discussed both the request from the Highway Foreman for installation of a permanent car-washing capability in the Highway Garage and the possible installation in town facilities of UV-C ventilation systems. These items were tabled pending better understanding of how the COVID relief funds can be used.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously to remove Mike Kinsley as a member of the Stanclift Cove Authority. This vote is based upon the ordinance enacted at the Town Meeting of March 9, 2021, and due to the fact that Mr. Kinsley has missed the last 7 meetings of the Authority, dating back to June 15, 2020. Ratification of this vote and election of a new member will be on the agenda of the upcoming Annual Town Meeting on May 4, 2021.

MOTION: A motion was made by Nick Lukiwsky, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to approve the attached warning for the Annual Town Meeting on May 4, 2021. The Annual Budget meeting, which normally is scheduled for the same day, has been postponed until May 25, as allowed by the Governor’s Executive Order 10E.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously to postpone the Annual Budget Meeting to May 25, 2021, as allowed by the Executive Order 10E. The resolution for this action is attached.

MOTION: A motion was made by Nick Lukiwsky, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to approve the attached resolution, which authorizes the First Selectman, Donald Stein, to execute the extension granted by the Amendment to the Grant Award for the Affordable Housing Plan Grant Technical Assistance Program.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM, on a motion by Ray Pech, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein
First Selectman

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be – April 27, 2021, at 7:00PM.

To view the recording of this meeting, please click the following link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/NZq1uXePzXqH03Te5P9kZYKYw2PxPLM0OGbDQW2skFx5ijQJuExqNVyH2qz1_r8.Z28GzowyqGUIGycl

WARNING

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING TOWN OF BARKHAMSTED TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021 7:00 PM

Virtual Town Meeting – ZOOM information to be available on May 3, 2021

The legal voters of the Town of Barkhamsted and those entitled to vote at Town Meetings within said Town are hereby warned and notified that on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 7:00 PM, the Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Barkhamsted will be held VIA ZOOM for the purpose of transacting business as follows:

1. To receive and act upon the report of the Board of Selectmen, Treasurer, Board of Education and to hear and act on any other reports made at said meeting;
2. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an agreement or agreements with the State of Connecticut, through the Department of Transportation Commissioner, thereof, as they deem necessary relative to Town Aid and Dirt Road Appropriation, so called;
3. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an agreement or agreements with the State of Connecticut, through the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, thereof, as they deem necessary relative to Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP), so called and subject to the LoCIP capital improvement plan as approved by the Board of Selectmen;
4. To authorize the Board of Selectmen for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 to borrow money with the concurrence of the Board of Finance in anticipation of taxes from time to time to pay current expenses of said Town and its obligations and to execute and deliver the Town's obligations for the same;
5. To consider and act upon a proposal to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and expend any federal and or state grants for and by the Town;
6. To consider and act on a decision by the Board of Selectman to remove a member of the Stanclift Cove Authority.
7. To consider, discuss, and vote upon an appointment to Stanclift Cove Authority for the term from 5/5/2021 to 12/31/2024.

Dated at Barkhamsted, Connecticut, this 13th day of April, 2021.

Donald S. Stein
First Selectman

Raymond P. Pech
Selectman

Nicholas A. Lukiwsky
Selectman

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION OF THE
Barkhamsted Board of Selectmen

CERTIFICATION:

I, Holly 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 Barkhamsted Board of Selectmen at its duly called and held meeting on April 13, 2021, 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 Barkhamsted Board of Selectmen may, in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 10E, postpone the Annual Budget Meeting to May 25, 2021.

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: The undersigned has executed this certificate this _____ day of
_____ 2021.

Holly Krouse, Town Clerk

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION OF THE

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 April 13, 2021, 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 Board of Selectmen has accepted planning grant funds to prepare and adopt an Affordable Housing Plan under the provisions of § 8-30j of the Connecticut General Statutes (“CGS”).

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 and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents.

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: The undersigned has executed this certificate this _____ day of

April 2021.

Holly P. Krouse, Town Clerk