

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – OCTOBER 6, 2021, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:

Meeting called to order at 9:02AM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein and Selectmen Ray Pech and Nick Lukiwsky. Terri Collins, Tax Collector, was present for the first half hour of the meeting.

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 September 21, 2021, were approved.

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

Vault Trust	\$ 399.09	Refund
James Fournier	\$ 343.36	Refund
Rusadi and Elisabeth Permedi	\$2,177.94	Refund
Corelogic (for Timothy Cobb)	\$3,592.43	Refund

DISCUSSION: Similar to last month, the Selectmen reviewed the budget expenditures through September 30, 2021. There were no budget issues, as the expenditures were on track with a combination of recurring expenses, like salaries, and a number of items that are paid for the full year early in the fiscal year. It was noted that legal expenses continued to exceed budget due to the on-going tax appeals, but that should slow down as we are close to an agreement on the suit involving Mallory Brook Plaza.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen briefly discussed the latest data on COVID infection rates in Town and noted that after the increase in new cases when schools started up again, the rate of infection leveled out again in the last 2 weeks. There is no data as to the percentage of cases in town involving vaccinated individuals versus those who are unvaccinated, but at the state level, only about 30% of the cases are in vaccinated people and the risk of hospitalization or death is much higher for the unvaccinated who get infected. The Town will continue to advocate for residents to get vaccinated as the percentage of the town's population that has received the vaccine is only about 75%. The Selectmen also thought that charging the COVID test kits that are needed to enforce the Town policy to the Federal relief funds was appropriate.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen discussed the 3 properties that the Town owns that were part

of the tax sale and subsequent auction, but that are still owned by the Town. The three are 34 North Canton Road, which was valued by Suzie Larson, a local realtor, at \$32,000, 67 Riverton Road, valued at \$45,000 and 56 Riverton Road, valued at \$39,000. This was based on comps developed by Ms. Larson and the Selectmen felt that 34 North Canton Road was undervalued compared to the comps and the other two lots. They asked that the First Selectmen investigate whether getting that lot perk tested would increase its value. They also discussed whether using a realtor to market the 3 lots was the best approach, with the emphasis on investigating whether abutting property owners would be interested or not. The decision on how to proceed was deferred to the next meeting, after Don Stein has a chance to gather additional data from the abutters and on ways to enhance the value of the three properties.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen reviewed Don Stein's updated spreadsheet of possible uses for ARPA funds and provided input for the list attached to these minutes. Don Stein told the Selectmen that he would be scheduling another meeting with the committee that has been put together to work on this process. That meeting will be on October 19th and will include the full committee and definition of the projects such that the expenditures can be prioritized. Discussion at the meeting will also include whether to involve more residents in the process.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen discussed a request from BH Phone Company, a movie producer from Stamford, CT, who is developing a film for Netflix based on a Stephen King short story. They wish to use West River Road between the north and south neighborhoods to film some automotive scenes including a simulated car crash. The Selectmen agreed that this would be good promotion for the Town and that it was worthwhile assuming there was adequate liability coverage and some benefit to our small businesses. The obvious downside is that the production would necessitate closing the road for 2-3 days, thereby diverting traffic to East River Road. Don Stein took the action to iron out the details with the producer.

MOTION: A motion was made by Nick Lukiwsky, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to authorize Don Stein to enter into an agreement with BH Phone Company, LLC, which is producing the movie, "Mr. Harrigan's Phone", which is a Netflix film. They will be filming along the Farmington River on West River Road north of the Senior Center, which will be used for the crew's meals and other activities. They will also pay the Town \$10,000 for the use of the building and the Town's roads and are liable for any damage that may be caused by the filming.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 AM.

The next regular Selectmen's meeting will be October 26, 2021 at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein
First Selectman

TOWN OF BARKHAMSTED		updated 9/21/21		
SUMMARY FOR COVID REIMBURSEMENT				
		TOTAL		
		CRF CLAIM	PAID	BALANCE
TOWN	CRF	\$ 52,165	\$ 52,165	\$ -
SENIOR CENTER	CRF	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -
BOARD OF EDUCATION	ESSER	\$ 6,839	\$ 6,839	\$ -
BOARD OF EDUCATION	dental covid rebate	\$ 1,032	\$ 1,032	\$ -
BOARD OF EDUCATION	CRF	\$ 104,447	\$ 104,240	\$ 207
TOTALS		\$ 166,983	\$ 166,776	\$ 207
Balance submitted without documentation			\$ 24,506	
James Shanley	Ck# 110907	date 2/23/21	\$ (5,000)	
FVHD	Ck# 110891	date 2/23/21	\$ (4,326)	
Triton Datacom (conference phone)	credit card	date 3/25/21	\$ (325)	
Amazon Stop the Bleed Kits	Ck#111157	date 5/25/21	\$ (891)	\$ 22,861
Hillyard touchless bathroom	Ck#111204	date 6/7/21	\$ (241)	
EMD Stipend - 2022 (Shanley)			\$ (2,500)	
Touchless bathroom, fixtures	CK#111272	date 6/29/21	\$ (3,143)	
Town Hall Doors			\$ (6,435)	
	Balance		\$ 1,645	Owl Pro for Zoom (qty 2)
OTHER				
VFD Turnout Gear Dryer		\$5,000	2 units	
		\$8,950	6 units	
Senior Center Kitchen Hood		\$10,000-\$15,000	possible kitchen expansion	
UV-C Ventilation		\$32,000	town buildings	
Extend Water Line from Winsted		\$300,000		
Broadband				
Riverton cell service			tbd	
Consultant for cost of fiber to town		\$40,000		
OWL Pro (A/V)		\$1,000	(per unit, need is TBD)	
NWCT Transit request		\$10,000-\$20,000		
NWCT Arts Council request		\$5,000-\$10,000		
Truck washer for town garage		\$25,000		
Request from PV Children's Center	\$	10,000		
Town Building Security Cameras		\$5,000		
NH Ambulance Request		\$25,000		~\$500,000
School/Recreation Improvements				
School irrigation system/walking track/fitness stations			tbd	Phase 2
Little League field improvements (lights/bathroom/snack shack)			tbd	
Improvements to school parking and parking at church for those who come to youth soccer and tee-ball			tbd	
Tennis courts/skating rink			tbd	
Central A/C for school			tbd	
Riverton water line from Winsted to replace hydrant sys		>\$500,000		
Cybersecurity			tbd	
Riverton Grange request for handicapped ramp	\$	5,000		
Riverton Merchants forum regarding uses of funds			tbd	
Farmington River Bridge (by abutments)			tbd	seeking funds from DEEP grant
Required COVID testing of town employees			tbd	minimal
Economic Development (Cannabis retail or growing?)		\$25,000		
Greenwoods Hiking/Biking trail		\$25,000-\$30,000	(feasibility study)	
Senior Center Van		\$30,000		