

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN – JUNE 28, 2022**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**BARKHAMSTED TOWN HALL**

Meeting called to order at 7:00PM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein and Selectmen Ray Pech and Nick Lukiwsky. Also present was Terri Collins, Tax Collector

**DELEGATIONS:** No delegations were present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comments were made.

No bills or checks were processed for this meeting.

**MOTION:** Ray Pech made a motion, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2022 meeting. Ray Pech then made a motion, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky to amend the minutes as follows, due to an omission in the May 24<sup>th</sup> minutes:

At the May 24, 2022 meeting, on a motion by Ray Pech, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and approved unanimously, the Selectmen approved the following projects for the use of ARPA funds. These projects, totaling \$57,390, had previously been approved by the ARPA committee and the Board of Finance:

- Truck washer for town garage           \$25,000
- Welding exhaust system                 \$ 7,500
- Town Hall Boiler Replacement         \$ 8,890
- Senior Center Garage refurb          \$11,000
- School irrigation system               \$ 5,000

The amended minutes were then passed unanimously.

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

Kelly LeManquais	\$ 120.08	Refund
Mallory Brook Plaza	\$42,147.00	Credit

<This credit is the result of a court-stipulated agreement that stated that the overpayment of taxes shall be credited in full by the defendant against the January 2022 tax installment... with any balance to be carried forward....>

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectmen reviewed the attached listing of approved ARPA projects and the actual expenditures through May 10. Don Stein mentioned that there have been requests for additional funds from the Farmington Valley Health District and from a coalition of social service

agencies through Charlotte Hungerford Hospital (Hartford Healthcare). Both of these requests are for funding an outreach person to help children and adults deal with the opioid epidemic and other social problems. The next step in this process is to determine which of these requests to fund, as there is not a need for both positions.

The other item of note was that the Town will be applying for a STEAP grant through the State to fund the extension of the water lines from Winsted into Barkhamsted. If the Town is successful, that would free up the \$250,000 line item in the ARPA plans designated for the extension. This grant will also involve doing the non-recurring design and engineering, and obtaining a bid for the project, as the Town's cost share must be paid from Town funds, not from State or Federal grants.

**DISCUSSION:** Don Stein provided data from Sertex, the contractor for the broadband survey and who is doing the cost estimates for running fiber optics throughout the town. They also provided cost options for bringing the fiber directly to the homes in town.

The survey will be sent to the residents through social media, the town website and through an email, and will include a link for testing the residents' internet speed. It will be used to provide information about the benefits of high speed broadband and to judge and spark interest in bringing this important service to town. With all of the emphasis on virtual work, education, telemedicine and the economic value to people's homes for the high speeds, this is an important initiative for the town. The Council of Governments will also be attempting to form a coalition of towns to work together to bring high speed broadband to the region and to take advantage of Federal and State funds that are being made available for this initiative.

There will be more information available as the various projects move forward, so this is just in the beginning stages. Additionally, some of the cable companies (not Charter Spectrum) and Frontier have indicated their interest in bringing fiber optics to towns in our region.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Nick Lukiwsky, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to modify the Town's policy regarding COVID as follows:

The Board voted to modify the COVID policy that had previously been enacted. The motion was that the town buildings and employees follow the guidelines from the CT DPH and the U.S. CDC relative to the use of masks. The policy for quarantining or masking if you have COVID or have been directly exposed to a positive case is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> link below. The requirement to routinely mask, whether you are vaccinated or not, is no longer in effect.

<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html#anchor\\_1642600273484](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html#anchor_1642600273484)

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, to approve the Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreement with LSE CANIS MINOR LLC, which will become a stipulated judgment regarding personal property. The current interpretation of State statute is that solar electrical generating facilities are tax exempt. LSE sued the Town over taxes for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 Grand Lists. They paid the 2018 taxes and have not yet paid the latter two years. The agreement establishes a Payment in lieu of Taxes (PILOT) of \$3500 per year starting in July 2027 and the Town will not have to refund the taxes paid

in July 2019, nor will it collect taxes for the other two years. The discussion centered on whether this was a fair settlement, but the Assessor and the First Selectman, plus the New Hartford First Selectman, as they were also being sued, felt that it was the best deal we could get. The lack of a negotiated settlement would have resulted in going to court with the possibility of receiving no PILOT along with incurring legal expenses.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Nick Lukiwsky, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to extend the contract with Constellation Energy using advice provided by Power Options. With the rapid increase in electric rates, and the current agreement running out in December 2023, the consultant provided four options:

Town of Barkhamsted  
12 accounts  
Fixed Price, Utility Billed

12 months, Dec 2023 – Dec 2024 = \$ 0.12810/kWh

24 months, Dec 2023 – Dec 2025 = \$ 0.12540/kWh

9 months, March 2024 – Dec 2024 = \$ 0.10280/kWh

21 months, March 2024 – Dec 2025 = \$ 0.11420/kWh

These 12 accounts cover both the town and the school, and after much discussion, it was decided not to extend past December 2024. Based on the advice of the consultant to sign on for the period March 2024 - Nov 2024 at the rate of \$ 0.10280/kWh, there will be a gap of 3 months between the expiration of the current contract and the start of the new one, so the charges at that point will be at the Eversource rate. He felt that this was appropriate based on typical electric rates in that timeframe. It will be necessary to continue to track rates and to start to look at extensions past 2024.

**DISCUSSION:** Don Stein informed the Selectmen that Eversource has a grant program for the installation of electric charging stations which pays up to \$20,000 towards the infrastructure and the equipment. The Selectmen agreed that it was worthwhile to explore the total cost of such an installation and where the best place would be for the installation. This would be the subject of a future meeting and the difference between the cost and the grant might be covered by the use of ARPA funds to make up the difference.

Don Stein also informed the Selectmen that the Town had been approached by Everbridge to become a customer for routine messaging and communications. Litchfield County Dispatch uses Everbridge for reverse 911 calls in an emergency and it is available to the Town at no cost. The other Selectmen agreed that it was not worth spending ~\$5,000 for that service. We will continue to rely on the Town website and emails and social media to communicate routine items.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, to appoint Don Stein as the Town's representative to the Hogback Commission which meets at least annually with the MDC to discuss recreation and other matters regarding the Hogback Reservoir (West Branch) and the

Colebrook Reservoir. The Town has not formally appointed folks in the past, but the MDC and the State DPH felt that this was necessary and appropriate.

**Other Business:** The Selectmen discussed two items:

- A request from Molly Sexton Read to designate August 5 as Tom Fritch Day as part of the golf outing for the Stand Up and Play Foundation, whose mission is to provide wheelchair users and others with impaired mobility the opportunity to stand up and engage in recreational and everyday activities through access to paramobiles and other equipment or activities. The Selectmen discussed the fact that this was an unusual request, but with the cooperation of Dave Roberts (President of the Barkhamsted Lions Club and the Riverton Grange), there will be a flag ceremony honoring Tom, who is a Navy veteran.
- Don Stein also informed the Selectmen that the new owner of the Riverton Store has asked for assistance in replace the “Riverton” sign at the corner across from her store. The sign is quite worn and the Town will cover the cost of the new sign (\$593) out of Economic Development Commission funds.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34PM.

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be a Special Meeting on July 28 at 9:00AM. The meeting scheduled for July 12 has been canceled.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein  
First Selectman

	Updated Figures -5/9/22	Bills paid to-date thru 5/10/22	Balance	Notes
<b>Approved/Committed</b>				
VFD Turnout Gear Dryer	\$ 9,999	\$ 10,447	\$ (448)	
NWCT Transit request	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	
Duct cleaning - town hall/town garage (March 2022)	\$ 6,800	\$ 6,800	\$ -	
Request from PV Children's Center	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -	
EDC consultant	\$ 16,430		\$ 16,430	
School Front Door Intercom Replacement	\$ 6,399	\$ 6,400	\$ (1)	
NH Ambulance Request	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -	
First Congregational Church of Barkhamsted	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -	
Barkhamsted Historical Society	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	
Town Hall Handicapped Doors	\$ 6,000	\$ 4,097	\$ 1,903	Sr. Center
Greenwoods Counseling & Referrals	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	
Phase 1 of School HVAC	\$ 22,750	\$ 18,939	\$ 3,811	
Broadband Consultant for cost of fiber to town	\$ 23,000		\$ 23,000	budget was \$30,000
Pleasant Valley Supplemental First Responder Kits	\$ 6,000		\$ 6,000	
Barkhamsted East & Riverton 1st Aid Kits + 2 Station AED's	\$ 6,012		\$ 6,012	
Marsars Ice Rescue Sled Kit	\$ 2,870	\$ 2,870	\$ -	
30 Motorola Pagers	\$ 13,230		\$ 13,230	
Request from PV Methodist Church	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -	
Town Hall Bathrooms handicapped accessibility	\$ 4,700	\$ 4,733	\$ (33)	
UV-C Ventilation (4.20.22 finalized)	\$ 30,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	
Transfers/Reclassify		\$ 1,699	\$ (1,699)	tbd
Rope Team - Adding/Replacing Outdated Gear	\$ 10,900		\$ 10,900	
Truck washer for town garage	\$ 25,000		\$ 25,000	
Welding exhaust system	\$ 7,500		\$ 7,500	
Town Hall Boiler Replacement	\$ 8,890		\$ 8,890	
Senior Center Garage refurb	\$ 11,000		\$ 11,000	
School irrigation system	\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000	
Tree work - ash tree removal	\$ 40,000		\$ 40,000	
Additional road repairs and paving	\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000	
Senior Center Parking lot	\$ 40,000		\$ 40,000	
Elementary School flooring	\$ 36,000		\$ 36,000	
Highway Department truck (F-550) (note 2)	\$ 50,000		\$ 50,000	
<b>Subtotal Approved/in-process</b>	<b>\$ 581,480</b>	<b>\$ 163,985</b>	<b>\$ 417,495</b>	
<b>Approved/Awaiting More Detail</b>				
Little League field improvements (bathroom/snack shack) (note 1)	\$ 60,000		\$ 60,000	
Extend Water Line from Winsted	\$ 250,000		\$ 250,000	
Town Building Security Cameras (needs internet/electricity)	\$ 8,000		\$ 8,000	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 318,000</b>		<b>\$ 318,000</b>	
<b>Total Approved</b>	<b>\$ 899,480</b>	<b>\$ 163,985</b>	<b>\$ 735,495</b>	
<b>For further definition and possible approval</b>				
Senior Center Kitchen Hood /kitchen expansion	\$ 40,000		\$ 40,000	
NH Ambulance (year 2) (Note 3)	\$ 25,000		\$ 25,000	
Paint Riverton Bridge	\$ 40,000		\$ 40,000	
Riverton cell service	\$ 25,000		\$ 25,000	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 130,000</b>		<b>\$ 130,000</b>	
<b>Total Approved and Awaiting Definition</b>	<b>\$ 1,029,480</b>	<b>\$ 163,985</b>	<b>\$ 865,495</b>	
<b>Difference compared to total Allocation</b>	<b>\$ 37,818</b>			
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>\$ 1,067,298</b>		<b>\$ 1,067,298</b>	
Note 1: cost of framing/structure is \$27K; still awaiting estimates on slab, bathrooms, water system				
Note 2: running/walking track, fitness stations changed to Truck Purchase				
Note 3: Committee requested that the 3 items that are shaded be held as reserve for other possible uses				