

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN – OCTOBER 13, 2022**  
**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**BARKHAMSTED HIGHWAY GARAGE COMMUNITY ROOM**

Meeting called to order at 7:08 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:** Nick Lukiwsky made a motion, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held October 6, 2022.

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

JP Morgan Chase Bank NA	\$ 695.92	Refund
Colleen Bottalico	\$ 50.00	Refund
William E Dauphinee	\$ 120.55	Refund
Timothy O'Connor	\$ 1,500.86	Refund
Stanislaw & Nela Wiacek	\$ 3,626.34	Refund

**DISCUSSION:** Don Stein presented the September actuals for the current year's General Government budget and the tax collections for the same period. The tax collections for the current year are \$6.5 million or 57% of the total budgeted. This is slightly ahead of last year, but the Prior Year's collections and the Interest & Lien Fees collections are behind last year. These latter two figures are only 1.3% of the budgeted tax collections and could be due to the fact that many of the homes with outstanding balances have been sold in the past year and those debts would have been settled at that time. All of this results in only being 0.25% behind last year and we have collected 56.26% of the total tax collections which were budgeted.

Through September, we are 25% into the fiscal year and have spent 28.1% of the total General Government budget. This is largely due to the bills that are paid for the full year, rather than being paid monthly. These include the liability insurance, the pension fund and the library. To-date, there are no concerns about this year's budget.

**DISCUSSION:** Don Stein provided an update on the road plan, which includes funding from the Town and three State grants (Town Aid Road, Local Capital Improvement Program, and the Grant for Municipal Projects). Including funds budgeted for town match on the

Farmington Riverbank Restoration STEAP grant and the recent STEAP grant for extending water lines from Winsted down Old New Hartford Road, as well as the normal re-paving, chip sealing and crack sealing, the road budget totals approximately \$422,000. The funding is in place for these projects, which include the redo of Wallens Hill Road this summer and fall, and redoing Briarwood and Partridge next spring and summer. Shannon Drive will be repaved under ARPA funds from the Federal Government. Tree work and repaving of the Senior Center parking lot were also covered through the ARPA funds.

**DISCUSSION:** Don Stein presented the status of the expenditure of ARPA funds approved to-date and also proposed additional projects for consideration. The town has received \$1,067,298 in this funding and has planned the expenditure of \$776,677 including four projects requiring final approvals. That leaves \$290,621 still available for additional projects. The projects that have not been started or which are awaiting final approval are:

- Youth Baseball Field improvements (bathrooms and snack shack) - \$60,000 – this project will be supplemented as required by fundraising from the Youth Baseball League.
- Senior Center Kitchen Hood/expansion - \$55,000 – needs final approval from the Selectmen as the ARPA Committee and the Board of Finance approved the request for an increase of \$15,000 over the prior figure, as a result of bids received.
- Farmington Valley Health District - \$14,897 – this request needs final approval from the Selectmen as the ARPA Committee and the Board of Finance approved the district request for additional funds to purchase a vehicle and to bring on staff for community outreach to address the social and drug issues facing our communities.
- The two new projects are:
  - Riverton Congregational Church requested funding (similar to other churches in town) to compensate for lost revenue and the need for capital repairs on this historic building. Don Stein suggested \$15,000 similar to the two other churches that received grants.
  - New Hartford Volunteer Ambulance – a request was made for \$18,500 which is proportionate to the request made of New Hartford to support the purchase of a new ambulance which is necessary due to the aging equipment they currently have. Like most emergency medical services, the NHVA has suffered from a lack of staffing and significantly increased costs.

Nick Lukiwsky made a motion, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to approve the additional project funds for the Senior Center kitchen renovation and for the request for funding by the Health District.

Ray Pech made a motion, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously to approve the two new requests by the Riverton Congregational Church and the New Hartford Volunteer Ambulance, pending these requests being approved by the ARPA committee and the Board of Finance.

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectmen briefly discussed the status of a potential initiative by the school to consider air conditioning the entire school. This would cost about \$1,000,000 to install modern, ductless mini-split units throughout the school, as it would have been much more expensive to put in central air conditioning and the needed ductwork. The current situation is that the State will only treat this type of project as school construction grant and would reimburse roughly 50%, leaving the town to pay for the remaining \$500,000. The Selectmen tabled this item and will work with the Superintendent to look at less expensive options such as window units for the late spring and early fall.

**MOTION:** Nick Lukiwsky made a motion, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to approve the updated 5-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which is required to apply for and receive State funds from LOCIP. This plan was last updated through 2022, and now will cover 2022 through 2027. It basically covers annual expenditures of \$315,000 for paving (\$150,000), chip sealing (\$150,000), and crack sealing (\$15,000). These totals include town funding, Town Aid Road and LOCIP funds.

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectmen reviewed the two real estate sales that had been approved at the last meeting. Both properties were not purchased at the tax sale and have been owned by the town since then. They have been on the market for about 11 months, listed with Turning Point Realty. There has been almost no action on these lots on Route 20 due to the steep bank to access one of the lots and the need to cross a stream with a very expensive bridge for the other. The approved offer for 67 Riverton Road is \$6,000 and the approved offer for 56 Riverton Road is \$20,000. Once the closings are complete, both properties will be taxable again.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein  
First Selectman

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The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be October 25 at 5:00PM. The meeting scheduled December 13 will be moved to December 6.