

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – June 13, 2023
MEETING MINUTES
BARKHAMSTED TOWN HALL

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 comment was made

MOTION: Ray Pech made a motion, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting held May 23, 2023, with the addition of the word “ARPA” into the motion for grants to indicate that ARPA funds were being used for the 5 approved grants.

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

Mallory Brook Plaza	\$5,945.00	Credit
JP Morgan Chase	\$ 690.20	Refund
JP Morgan Chase	\$ 70.89	Refund

DISCUSSION: Don Stein and the Selectmen reviewed the current (FY’23) budget through May 31, 2023. Once Town Aid Road and other grants are applied to the Highway Expenses, the General Government budget will provide a slight surplus. It is expected that the tax collections will produce a surplus of about \$75,000 for the fiscal year and the revenues will also contribute to a surplus that will go into the General Fund. The total could be in the range of \$250,000-300,000.

Don Stein also provided data to the Selectmen showing that the approved Town budget for State grants for FY’23/’24 was \$3,105 lower than the final budgets that were approved by the State for FY’23/’24. That was the result of the approved Cost Sharing (ECS) and Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) grants that were higher than expected.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein updated the Selectmen on the status of the fiber optic build-out in town by Frontier. They appear to have completed all of the above ground roads (except parts of Route 20 and Taylor Road) and have started to hook up people in town to their internet service. However, despite their earlier statements that they would be hooking up the entire town (including underground), they are now saying that streets with underground utilities will not be done until the 4th quarter of this year or 1st quarter next year. Don Stein is also trying to see if they will be hooking up the Senior Center and the town garage, and what the cost will be for that service.

MOTION: Ray Pech made a motion, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously to appoint Tim Sweeney, the Commander of the Riverton American Legion Post, as the Veterans' Service Contact Person (VSCP or VetRep) for the Town.

MOTION: A motion was made by Nick Lukiwsky, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to appoint Anita Deschenes-Desmond as the representative from Barkhamsted for the Catchment Area Council (22). This group identifies the current mental health needs and the resources available in our communities.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein informed the Selectmen that he is still investigating options and grants for installing two Level 2 automobile charging stations in the Town Hall parking lot. Hopefully, the Town will receive a grant that pays all or a significant cost of the installation. The northwest corner of the parking lot has been selected as a good spot for the chargers, as it is close to electricity which could be used with the units eliminating the need for a costly hook-up.

Any Other Business:

- Capital Region Council of Governments (CROCG) Purchasing Council – the Northwest Hills COG is considering joining this organization and if it does, the towns can join at a discount (\$500). The CROCGPC bids out many items competitively or works with a town to help them hire contractors who have been prequalified as competitive, and at a lower price that meets State requirements. The Town has used this service in the past and it may be beneficial to the project to run the water lines from Winsted. This will be discussed further at the next Board of Selectmen meeting on June 27.
- Don Stein informed the Selectmen that the Northwest CT Community Foundation has invited the Town to submit a formal application for a feasibility study of the construction of a bridge across the Farmington River connecting Peoples and American Legion State Forests. This application is due on 6/30 and Don Stein is currently soliciting engineering bids for the study. This will also be further discussed at the 6/27 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein
First Selectman