

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – June 27, 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. Also present was Sean Hays, a town resident.

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 June 13, 2023.

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

Glenn Elbaum	\$ 28.35	Credit
Porsche Leasing Limited (PLL)	\$1,495.76	Refund

DISCUSSION: Don Stein informed the Selectmen that Frontier was continuing to hook residents up to their fiber optic service for those streets with poles and above-ground utilities. They were installing the fiber to the homes on those streets even if their driveway has underground utilities. However, it is not clear when the neighborhoods with underground utilities will receive the fiber. Frontier's best estimate is 4th quarter this year or first quarter next year, but they cannot commit to that schedule. Apparently, towns that have had the Frontier fiber for a year or two have still not had the underground fiber installed. On the positive side, residents who have signed up for the service seem to be pleased with the speed of the connection.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein informed the Selectmen that he is still researching appropriate signage for gun-free zones due to the school and the restrictions associated with that property. He will report when he has proposed signs to install.

MOTION: Ray Pech made a motion, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously to appoint Sean Hays to fill the open seat on the Board of Education through November 7, 2023. Sean has lived in Town for over 3 years and has a young child in the Elementary School. This vacancy will be on the ballot in the November election and he will have to run for office in that election if he wants to fill the rest of the term (through December 31, 2025).

DISCUSSION: Don Stein informed the Selectmen that the Northwest Hills Council of Governments will be joining the Capitol Region Purchasing Council (CRPC) managed by the Capitol Region Council of Governments. The Towns in our region can then join the CRPC for a

reduced rate of \$500 (vs. \$750). The Purchasing Council competitively bids many commodities and construction activities, which its members can then purchase without competitive bids of their own. These commodities and the construction contracts managed by the CRPC tend to be less expensive than if the Town buys them on their own and they also tend to meet State and local bid requirements.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein informed the Selectmen that he was getting ready to submit an application to the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation for a grant of \$21,000 to conduct a feasibility study of constructing a bridge across the Farmington River in the area of the old bridge abutments. This footbridge would connect the two State forests and would allow people to hike and picnic without moving their cars and would allow access to enjoying the beauty of the river for those who fish, canoe or kayak. If we get the grant from the Community Foundation, using the Douglas and Janet Roberts fund that was set up for the benefit of Barkhamsted, the Town would need to expend the equivalent of \$4,000 of in-kind effort or fund publicity and public meetings to make the public aware of this initiative. The Selectmen agreed by consensus that this was a reasonable approach to making this happen.

MOTION: Ray Pech made a motion, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously to approve a “Municipal Homelessness Prevention Resolution”, as recommend by CCM and other organizations. This resolution is intended to support the homeless population in Connecticut and to work with them and other organizations to put an end to homelessness.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Don Stein informed the Selectmen that there had been a meeting with MDC officials, the local Selectmen, and State Legislators to try to work with the MDC to improve the erratic and inadequate flows that occur in the Farmington River. That resulted in extremely low water levels in the past few weeks, well below what was doable for boaters and the fishermen. The outcome of that meeting is that the MDC has asked that we support their initiative to be released from maintaining 10 billion gallons of water for reserve drinking water in the Colebrook Reservoir, which they don’t believe they will ever need. The feelings of the participants was that this request makes sense, but that in return, we need assurances that the MDC will maintain adequate flows in the River for recreation. More to follow as this develops.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein
First Selectman

Please note that the next scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen is July 25, 2023.



Municipal Homelessness Prevention Resolution

WHEREAS, Connecticut's municipalities routinely encounter and provide services to the thousands of households who experience homelessness each year;

WHEREAS, data shows that homelessness affects people in every municipality in Connecticut;

WHEREAS, supporting people experiencing homelessness can ultimately result in significant municipal cost-savings in expenditures on police, fire, emergency medical services, and more;

WHEREAS, research is clear that the effective strategy for solving homelessness is the Housing First approach, in which households are reconnected quickly to stable housing through a combination of supportive services and financial or rental assistance—tailored to their levels of need;

WHEREAS, Connecticut has made significant progress in reducing homelessness through the statewide application of the Housing First approach, made manifest its Coordinated Access Network system that identifies people in housing crisis, assesses needs, and tailors evidence-based interventions to households;

WHEREAS, Connecticut has been certified by the federal government as having functionally ended veteran homelessness, has nearly eradicated chronic homelessness, and is on a path to make all homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring for all;

WHEREAS, municipal leadership, coordination, and resources are vital to achieving an end to homelessness;

WHEREAS, **THE TOWN OF BARKHAMSTED** and all municipalities take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare, and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways;

WHEREAS, **The Town of Barkhamsted** has created a Homeless Outreach Workgroup to pursue a collaborative approach to outreaching to, engaging, and assisting people experiencing unsheltered homelessness within the town; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Conference on Municipalities (CCM), the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH), Sustainable CT, and other partners are calling on municipalities to take action to prevent and end homelessness across the State of Connecticut.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, THAT I, Donald S. Stein, First Selectman, do hereby sign on to the Call to Action to prevent and end homelessness in my municipality, coordinate municipal efforts with our regional Coordinated Access Network, commit to sharing lessons learned with other municipalities in my state, and encourage all municipal officials and staff to support this effort.

We resolve to use the comprehensive resources provided by CCM and CCEH, outlined in the homelessness prevention category of the Sustainable CT action roadmap, to:

Increase Public Awareness and Support for Efforts to End Homelessness;
Strengthen Municipal Workforce Capacity to Address Homelessness
Collect and Share Homelessness Data;
Coordinate Municipal Services to Address Homelessness;
Provide or Mobilize Resources to Address Homelessness; and
Improve Outcomes for People Experiencing Homelessness including steps to decriminalize homelessness and connect with systems.

Recognizing that efforts to end homelessness are not static, we furthermore resolve annually to assess recommendations to address homelessness and determine ways to incorporate evolving best practices into our municipal activities.