

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN – July 25, 2023**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**BARKHAMSTED TOWN HALL**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein and Selectman Ray Pech. Selectman Nick Lukiwsky was absent.

**DELEGATIONS:** No delegations were present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comment was made

**MOTION:** Ray Pech made a motion, seconded by Don Stein, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting held June 27, 2023.

**MOTION:** Ray Pech made a motion, seconded by Don Stein, and passed unanimously to approve the following Tax Refunds:

Aaron Bishop	\$ 12.35	Credit
Ronald Campbell	\$ 388.93	Credit

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectmen reviewed the FY 2022/2023 General Government expenditures, closed out as of June 30, 2023. Town Aid Road funds have not yet been applied to offset Highway Department expenditures, and will be transferred into those accounts. Before the transfer, the overall Town General Government budget is over by \$205,059 and the Highway Department is over by \$255, 550. There is currently \$221,146 in the TAR account, so when all the transfers are made, the General Government budget will show a surplus and there will still be TAR funds available for the current year's projects. We will also receive the first half of the FY 24 allocation of TAR in July and that will be \$93,044.

In summary, Employee salaries finished the year \$2,798 below budget, Employee Benefits were \$18,878 below budget, and the General Government category was over by \$4,494, primarily due to increases in insurance premiums (\$6,470) that were not in the original budget. Public Health & Safety is below budget by \$36,735, primarily due to lower costs for the Town's Resident State Trooper. The Miscellaneous category, which is primarily organizations the Town belongs to, Town Hall maintenance and Emergency Management was over by \$2,925. On the whole, the budgets ended the year in good shape and should show a small surplus.

**MOTION:** Ray Pech made a motion, seconded by Don Stein and passed unanimously to approve the renewal of the Resident Trooper Contract with the State of Connecticut. The contract will be signed and returned to the State for the coming fiscal year.

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectmen discussed the STEAP grant round that is available now and due on August 18. It requires a 20% town match and can be used for a variety of infrastructure projects, including road construction or repaving. It was decided that we would apply for 1 or more roads and that way we can leverage our road funds (e.g., if we contribute \$100,000, the state will contribute \$500,000, for a total of \$600,000 of construction). Don Stein and Rich Novak will work on the grant to pick the roads that have the greatest need for repaving.

**DISCUSSION:**

- The Selectmen discussed the status of the current STEAP grant for the water line extension from Winsted. Don Stein stated that he is working with Winsted and the CT DPH to finalize the RFP to select a contractor and to be able to move forward with the project. He has signed the contract with the State DPH and is waiting for them to return the fully executed contract.
- Don Stein reported that the NWCT Community Foundation had informed him that they did not need any further information on the application regarding the feasibility study of the pedestrian bridge connecting Peoples and American Legion State Forests. They will let us know their final decision in August.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Don Stein presented the proposal from Frontier to bring fiber optic internet to the Senior Center and to change the land line phone over to VOIP on the same fiber. The bill for this service will be \$119.98, as compared to the current service which is between \$50 and \$70 for just the phone, depending on the number of toll calls which are made. This increase was justified based on the need to provide internet for the folks who use the center. Don Stein was authorized to sign this 24-month contract on a motion made by Ray Pech, seconded by Don Stein and passed unanimously.

The Selectmen tabled discussion of gun-free zones and CRCOG membership to a later meeting.

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 August 22, 2023.
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