

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN – August 22, 2023**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**BARKHAMSTED TOWN HALL**

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein and Selectmen Ray Pech and Nick Lukiwsky.

**DELEGATIONS:** Lew Patchett and Nick Maltby were present, representing the New Hartford Volunteer Ambulance.

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

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectman met with Nick Maltby, President, and Lew Patchett, Treasurer, of the New Hartford Volunteer Ambulance who covers, a large percentage of the town. They were quite pleased with the support of the Pleasant Valley and Riverton Fire Departments who have achieved Supplemental First Responder status, especial Kevin Archer (the paid firefighter) and Sean Wainman. They also appreciated that the Town was easy to work with and collaborate with during the pandemic.

One of the current problems relates to the difficulty of collecting on claims and that there are significant losses on Medicaid due to the low reimbursement rates. The typical claim is \$800-\$1200 and they eventually send unpaid claims to a service for collections. Other high expense items are the cost of workers comp for their staffs. They are also facing decreases in staffing and the fact that not all trainees stay long enough to get certified.

They provided financial data showing that the year-to-date revenues are down compared to the past two years and the expenses have increased. For that reason, they have gone from a surplus in 2021 to a deficit this year and last.

**MOTION:** Ray Pech made a motion, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, to approve the minutes of the meeting held June 27, 2023. On a motion by Nick Lukiwsky, seconded by Ray Pech, the minutes of the August 15, 2023 were passed unanimously.

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

Top Quality Delivery Services	\$ 449.57	Credit
Eric & Amelia Vaillancourt	\$ 119.17	Refund
Timothy Noonan	\$ 329.74	Refund
Sherry Warner	\$ 15.34	Refund

Union Bank (for Estate of Dennis Hughes)	\$2,747.69	Refund
David Henrickson	\$ 272.40	Credit
Frank or Sherry Marsh	\$ 54.47	Credit
Samantha or Russell Clay	\$ 150.85	Credit

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectmen reviewed the General Government July expenditures for the current fiscal year (2023/2024) and noted that all line items were as expected. Some of the expenditures covered the full year (e.g., workers comp, property casualty) and a few covered a quarter to a half year or more (e.g., Assessor's office for data services, Farmington Valley Heath). As a result of these payments, the budget expenditures were 16.7% as opposed to 1/12<sup>th</sup> of the year or 8.3%. This is not a problem and will smooth out as the year goes on.

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectmen had received a request for assistance from a resident on the private driveway on Robin Drive, which includes 5 houses. The deeds to those houses includes a provision for cost-sharing the maintenance of this "road". However, no maintenance has been performed in many years and it is not passable for emergency vehicles, very rutted and floods/ices the town below due to runoff from the poor drainage. Since it is a private driveway, the town can probably not help, but the Selectmen agreed that Don Stein should have a discussion with the Town Attorney to see if the issue of public safety or other considerations might be a factor.

**DISCUSSION:** Don Stein informed the other Selectmen that there has been no announcement as yet on the grant application for the feasibility study of the pedestrian bridge across the Farmington to connect the two State Forests. Slow progress is being made on the request for quote for the water lines to be run from the Winsted Town Line to the Mallory Brook Plaza. Don Stein is working with the Department of Public Health and the Winsted Sewer and Water Commission to finalize the RFP and to try to contract with an installer as soon as possible. He has applied for LOCIP funds for the Briarwood paving and has also applied for a STEAP grant for paving Deer Run, Woodridge and Ratlum Mountain. That grant is competitive and the Town will not know if they were selected until sometime in September.

**MOTION:** Ray Pech made a motion, seconded by Don Stein, and passed unanimously to approve a request from the Town Clerk to authorize the expenditure of funds to put the ordinance books on-line. The initial cost for this service is \$820 and the annual fees after the first year will be \$695. That will make the ordinances available and searchable on-line for the residents who want to know what is allowed in town.

The Selectmen tabled discussion of gun-free zones and the FY 2022/2023 budgets and transfers to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein  
First Selectman