

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – September 12, 2023
MEETING MINUTES
BARKHAMSTED TOWN HALL

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein and Selectmen Ray Pech (joined meeting by Zoom) 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, to approve the minutes of the meeting held August 22, 2023, with the following corrections:

- In those minutes, the motion to approve the prior minutes should have been for July 25, not June 27, and should reflect that approval of those minutes was unanimous.
- In the discussion of the private driveway on Robin Drive (page2), the minutes should reflect that the town road is subject to flooding and icing due to the runoff from the driveway.

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

Charles Parham	\$ 68.81	Refund
Julie Skogsbergh	\$142.18	Refund
Linda Henne	\$ 26.06	Refund
Ryan Deasy	\$125.85	Refund

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen reviewed the General Government expenditures through 8/31/23 for the current fiscal year (2023/2024) and noted that all line items were as expected. Terri Collins provided the tax collections through 8/31, which showed that the total was \$6,702,425, which is 56.6% of the total budgeted by the Town. This is 0.72% ahead of collections last year.

MOTION: Ray Pech made a motion, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, to approve the transfers as presented at the meeting of August 22. These transfers are internal to the FY 2022/2023 budgets, in order to assure that the individual line items are within the allotted amount. Including the use of State grants and Town Aid Road funds, the General Government budget provided a surplus of \$1,955.22 to the General Fund.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen reviewed the picture of the proposed sign (attached) that would be used at the school and town hall to let people know they are within the gun-free zone associated with the school. The town hall is within that area due to its proximity to the school. There was agreement that this sign was appropriate and Don Stein had the action to purchase signs for both locations that were about the same size as a sheet of letter size paper.

He will also to work with the school to determine where they want signs. The town hall will have them on their two entrance doors.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein informed the Selectmen that the Northwest CT Community Foundation had awarded the Town \$21,000 from the Douglas and Janet Roberts Fund, which is dedicated to Barkhamsted, to conduct a feasibility study of building a pedestrian bridge across the Farmington River to connect the two State Forests. This would be a great boon to tourism and would be very enjoyable for our residents as well.

He also reported that CT LOCIP funding will be used for the repaving of Briarwood and that he is making progress on working with Winsted and the State Department of Public Health to obtain a contract for the extension of the water lines. The current plan is to use a contractor that has been pre-approved through a program call EZIQC, which is sponsored by the Capitol Region Council of Governments. These contractors satisfy the competitive bidding process as they are already on the State Bid List, which will simplify the Town's need to go out to bid and hopefully will bring in a lower price.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen discussed a request from a resident of Boettner Road to rename the road back to its prior name – Old Center Hill Road. The Selectmen, the Town Clerk and the Tax Collector all felt that this would entail a great deal of work by the Town and the residents of the road, plus there was feedback received that this was not thought to be a good idea by other residents of the road. Don Stein took the action to let the resident know that the Town would not be proceeding on this request.

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 include 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, is very rutted and floods/ices the town road down below it 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 that would change the Town's obligations.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein presented the following requests to the other Selectmen for their information:

POTENTIAL USES OF ARPA FUND BALANCE

09.12.2023

Pleasant Valley FD*	≤\$115,000	Engine 5 replacement
Car charging stations	~\$10-20,000	includes Eversource grants
Pickleball courts	~\$20-75,000	Rec Dept. request
Water Line extension	TBD	out for final bids to compare to
STEAP grant		
New Hartford Ambulance*	TBD	new ambulance/construction of
new garage		
Senior Center	≤\$5,000	potential overrun in
flooring/kitchen		

Stanclift Cove*	~\$10-20,000	rebuild main “building”
Riverton Fair*	<u>≤\$25,000</u>	continued upgrades to facilities
	~\$200-250,000	
Available Funds	~\$138,000	

*Potential for grants from the Roberts Fund

These requests will be discussed at the ARPA Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 19, and at the Board of Finance Committee the same evening. Since there is a large difference between the requests and the available funds, many of these will not be able to be approved and may receive a smaller amount than requested, or will not receive a grant at all. Once the ARPA Committee and BOF approve any new line items, they will then go to the Selectmen for consideration.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen reviewed the request from the Winsted Ambulance to forgo payments that result from paramedic intercept. The annual fee from that service for the current fiscal year is \$7,350 and they are requesting a 30% increase due to the shortage of volunteers and the increasing costs of paid EMT’s. Last year the paramedic billing was \$2081.38, so that if the Town forgoes that collection, the net increase to the Town would only be \$123.62. Since we have taken the same approach with the New Hartford Ambulance, it is reasonable to have the budgets work the same for both services. The Selectmen agreed with this approach by consensus and did not feel a formal motion was required.

DISCUSSION: Similar to the previous meeting, the question of the Town’s obligation to work on the private driveway/road on Robin Drive was discussed. Based on the research done by the Town Attorney, the residents are responsible for maintenance and repairs. The deeds for those houses include that requirement so they will have to work it out for themselves. However, the Town will need to work on the drainage coming from the private road to prevent winter hazards due to icing from the flow of water.

DISCUSSION: Josh Kelly, the Town Manager in Winsted, has proposed that the RRDD #1 towns develop organics recycling through the use of some of the money they have received from the State’s nip bottle funds, which have been provided to the Town. To-date, the Town has received \$3,128.50 from that fund and the Blue Earth cost for organics recycling at the Transfer Station would be \$4,176 in total for a full year. Dividing that cost proportionately to the towns would show an annual cost of \$741.87 for Barkhamsted. The Selectmen agreed that participating in this initiative was quite reasonable based on using the nip bottle revenues.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein
First Selectman

**SAFE
SCHOOL
NOTICE**

**DRUG AND
WEAPON FREE
SCHOOL ZONE**

**VIOLATORS WILL
BE PROSECUTED**