

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – SEPTEMBER 25, 2023
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
BARKHAMSTED TOWN HALL

Meeting called to order at 5:35 PM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein and Selectmen Ray Pech and Nick Lukiwsky. Rich Winn, Chair of the Board of Finance, was also present.

DELEGATIONS: No delegations were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment was made

DISCUSSION: Don Stein told the attendees that one of the foresters who works for DEEP will be meeting him and Penny Miller at Standlift Cove to look at the area and to recommend the types of trees that should be planted to replace the over-mature white pines that were cut down. This is necessary because the ARPA Committee and the Board of Finance approved \$5,000 to replace the trees at the Cove, but stipulated that they could not plant white pines. Depending on the recommendations of the forester, the ARPA Committee may be asked to reconsider that restriction.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein told the attendees that the bid from the Gordian Group/BMP Construction, who are pre-qualified by the State for the construction of the water lines from Winsted, came in at \$557,086. This exceeds the STEAP grant combination of State funds and Town match by just under \$140,000. Part of the increase is due to the Department of Public Health insisting on the use of prevailing wage, which adds about 30%, and Winsted adding an additional requirement for a pressure relief valve at the town line which will cost in range of \$40-50,000. Don Stein is working with the contractor and Rich Novak to determine if there are ways to reduce the cost by the town picking up some of the work (in-kind) or by buying materials cheaper than the contractor can, by using the State bid list.

Once the final costs are known, it will be determined how much of the remaining ARPA funds (~\$133,000) will be used to supplement the STEAP grant. There are a number of other uses for those funds, so priorities will have to be considered. There will be another ARPA Committee meeting on October 16 to determine next steps with those funds, including this project and the other requests for support.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein
First Selectman