

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – October 16, 2023
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
BARKHAMSTED SCHOOL

Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein and Selectmen Ray Pech and Nick Lukiwsky. Also present was Mark Mahoney.

DELEGATIONS: No delegations were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment was made

MOTION: Nick Lukiwsky made a motion, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2023 Meeting and the September 25, 2023 Special Meeting.

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

James Keller	\$1,832.14	Refund
Hyundai Lease Titling Trust	\$ 794.62	Refund

MOTION: Nick Lukiwsky made a motion, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to appoint Ryan Colleoni to the Conservation Commission for a term through 12/31/2023. Don Stein also swore him into that position at the meeting.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen reviewed the General Government expenditures through 9/30/2023 for the current fiscal year (2023/2024) and noted that all line items were as expected. The expenditures are at 33.57% through the end of September and the calendar fiscal year is at 25%. This difference is primarily due to many of the line items (insurances, Assessor's software, Tax Collector's software and many of the non-profits or other agencies we support) bill the Town for a full year which skews the numbers. Additionally, 85% of the Road Improvements budget has been expended due to road re-paving taking place before winter sets in.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein informed the other Selectmen about the status of the following projects:

- The feasibility study of a pedestrian bridge across the West Branch of the Farmington River had been kicked off. WMD Engineer will perform the work and they have met with Don Stein and Jim Warner, the State Forest supervisor in this area. There will be regular progress meetings so that the Selectmen will be kept in the loop.
- The STEAP grant for the water line extension is proceeding but there is a major cost issue to the requirement for prevailing wage and the increase in cost of materials. Don Stein will be putting together a budget for this project, using ARPA funds, town funds, and the STEAP grant itself, as required. Since we will receive more road maintenance funding from the State in 2024 and we have a STEAP grant for repaving Deer Run, Woodridge Dr. and Ratlum Mountain Road, the amount of town funding for next

year's repaving projects will be less than normal. Additionally, the Town funding for road maintenance hasn't changed for over 15 years, so the Selectmen will have to look at whether the increased cost of this work should merit a change in the Town allocation. The Town used all of its current LOCIP allocation for repaving Briarwood Drive, but we will receive additional funding that can be used in 2024.

Don Stein took the action to put together a detailed plan for all of these projects and how to fund them for the next BOS meeting.

MOTION: Ray Pech made a motion, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously to approve the following actions taken by the ARPA Committee. These actions will still need approval by the Board of Finance at their next meeting:

- Stanclift Cove – At the previous meeting, the Committee approved \$5,000 for trees to be replanted at the Cove, with the stipulation they were not to be white pines. However, Don Stein brought a DEEP forester to look at the Cove and his recommendation was to plant a mix of native trees, including white pines, red oak, white oak and hickory. Based on that input, Rob Brainard made a motion, seconded by Norman Bird, to amend the previous motion to remove the restriction against white pines. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Relative to the other proposed projects, there was a motion made by Dave Moulton, seconded by Rob Brainard, and approved unanimously to approve the following allocations:
- Pleasant Valley Fire Department requested support for their replacement of Engine 5. The replacement vehicle would be used for boat/water rescue, wildland fire operations, emergency medical service and back-up rescue able to deal with extreme weather. The total cost for this vehicle is estimated to be ~\$120,000 and the Fire Chief, Jim Shanley, had previously requested \$40,000 to help with the purchase. This allocation was approved.
- Requests had been received from Youth Soccer and Youth Basketball for funding for field turf improvements and to purchase adjustable basketball hoops to allow the smaller players to shoot at the basket. The Committee approved \$5,000 for each organization, for a total of \$10,000.
- The latest proposal by the contractor to install the water lines from Winsted to behind Mallory Brook Plaza is significantly higher than the original budget. Based on the need to find funding for this project, the Committee approved \$75,000 to be used to supplement Town funds and the STEAP grant. While this will not fill the entire gap, it will be a big help.

The combination of these projects, totaling \$130,000, will basically finish the use of the ARPA funds with a little margin for any additional overruns.

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. Based on the attorney's opinion and agreement by the Selectmen, the Town will not be able to get involved. The Highway department will replace pipes to help the drainage problem and do some grading to keep ice and water off of Robin Drive. Don Stein will notify the resident of the Town's decision.

OTHER ITEMS:

- The Town had received a request to initiate activities for the 250th anniversary of the U.S. in 2026, called AMERICA 250/CT. This will be investigated further and organized in 2024.
- Don Stein provided the Selectmen with 3 months of reports of activity by the CT. State Police, including calls made by the Resident State Trooper. For the past 3 months, the total of calls averaged 207, with the vast majority being routine calls. Among the others were accidents, and automotive citations.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein
First Selectman