

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – May 12, 2020, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:

Meeting called to order at 5:10 PM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein and Selectmen Ray Pech and Nick Lukiwsky. Also present were Terri Collins and Holly Krouse.

DELEGATIONS: No delegations were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were made.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ray Pech seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2020 Special Meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Nick Lukiwsky, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to approve the following tax refunds:

\$ 23.07	James and Linda Lagassie	refund
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DISCUSSION: Don Stein informed the Selectmen that the General Government budget expenditures through April 30 were still on track to end the year even with the budgeted figures or with a small surplus after the application of Town Aid Road and the municipal grant from the State. The expected decrease in the cost of the Resident State Trooper will help to offset the high expenses in the Town Counsel line and most of the other underruns or overruns should balance each other out. He also noted that the Board of Finance has not made any further changes in the FY2020/21 budgets other than the agreement by the First Selectman to forgo a raise and elimination of the funding for painting the town hall, which they had previously requested.

MOTION: A motion was made by Nick Lukiwsky, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to authorize the First Selectman to execute an agreement with the Town of Granby for the use of their animal control shelter (\$230 per month) and animal control vehicle (\$100 per month). The vehicle will be used by Jennifer Kershaw, the Granby and Hartland Animal Control Officer, who will serve the Town as an assistant during the normal Monday to Friday workday. Weekends and evenings will be covered by Les Archer, the Town ACO. The town will need to purchase a vehicle for the ACO to use, but that is expected to be inexpensive due to the availability of vehicles at the State auction. Don Stein will report back to the Selectmen at their next meeting as to the agreement for salary for both the ACO and the Assistant.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen discussed a checklist proposed by DEMHS Region 5 for consideration in

reopening Town Halls. The Town has already implemented many of the suggestions and will consider what a suitable re-opening date will be. It is likely that the Town Hall will remain locked and that visitors will be allowed in only by appointment, and only 1 at a time on each floor. The offices are being looked at for social distancing, Plexiglas shields have been installed where needed, and all of the appropriate PPE is in place, including hand sanitizer and sign-in-sheets. Thermometers have been purchased and the employees will be looking into any other appropriate measures. The public will be expected to provide their own facemasks for entry into the Town Hall.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen have been authorized by the Governor's Executive Order 7JJ.4 to approve Critical and Time-Sensitive Municipal Decisions, which includes the renewal of the Interlocal Agreement with Winsted regarding the extension of their sewer lines into Barkhamsted for interconnection with the Mallory Brook Plaza and other property in that west end of Route 44 and Old New Hartford Road. The agreement must be approved first by the Inland Wetlands Commission, acting as the Sewer Commission, and all of the needed documentation will be made available to the Selectmen and the IWC with the intent to have it all approved by the end of May, or at the latest, early June. The town attorney has been involved, so the documentation is essentially finalized. The goal is that the construction can begin promptly thereafter, and the plan is to be up and running by early September.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen discussed whether it might be appropriate to consider paying part time employees for lost wages during the earlier stages of the closure for the COVID 19 issues. This would be similar to some of the Board of Education employees being paid, while not working, as decreed by the State. The assistants in Town Hall will be starting to work more in the coming weeks as the busy season has arrived. Working arrangements for safety for all of the employees are still being worked out and their ability to work will help to mitigate some of their lost income. Don Stein took an action to look at the options to be considered including the legality of paying for hours not worked and unemployment insurance.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 PM on a motion by Ray Pech, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein
First Selectman