

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN – APRIL 22, 2020, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:**

**(Note: This is a virtual meeting and the recording of the meeting is on the Town website at)**  
[https://zoom.us/rec/share/4eVtI7vu2zpJQrfp-hrTfJwaDnn-T6a8gCcZ-IJzUkOoTMcWzpEECNA4F\\_pXcEJ](https://zoom.us/rec/share/4eVtI7vu2zpJQrfp-hrTfJwaDnn-T6a8gCcZ-IJzUkOoTMcWzpEECNA4F_pXcEJ)

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein and Selectmen Ray Pech and Nick Lukiwsky. Also present were Rich Winn, Terri Collins, Carmen Smith 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 9, 2020 Special Meeting.

**MOTION:** There were no tax refunds to consider

**DISCUSSION:** Don Stein reported that the Board of Finance had finalized their budget and revenue sheet submittals for the upcoming virtual Budget Hearing to be conducted via ZOOM on May 12 at 7:00 PM. Relative to capital, the BOF reaffirmed their decision to eliminate capital expenditures for the coming fiscal year and to delay those projects for 1 year. Relative to the Selectmen's budget, they accepted the budget as presented previously with 2 changes: a request was made that the First Selectman not receive a pay increase as a signal to the Town similar to many corporations, and that the Town Hall maintenance budget be held flat since there had been many improvements to the Town Hall the past few years. Both of those were accepted by Don Stein, which brings the General Government budget down to an increase of 1.58%. This budget includes the negotiated pay increase and steps to those employees not at the top of their pay scale. Ray Pech indicated he was concerned about pay raises in the current economic crisis, but it was decided that it would be appropriate to wait for public input at the hearing before making any decisions to reduce salaries. Taking into account all of the budgets as currently presented, with the use of town undesignated surplus, the Board of Finance will present a tax mill rate decrease of ~0.1%.

**DISCUSSION:** Don Stein informed the Selectmen that he has still not been able to finalize the arrangements with Granby and Hartland to share Animal Control costs and personnel due to the other issues that are affecting all of the towns due to the Coronavirus.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Ray Pech seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously to offer the 3-month “Deferment Plan” to all Town taxpayers. Selection of a modification to the normal Tax Deadlines is required by Executive Orders 7S and 7W, which require that the Town notify the CT Office of Policy and Management by April 25 of which of the two options it was choosing. The decision to offer this 3-month deferment of the deadline for paying taxes without penalty to all taxpayers was deemed to be the fairest approach. There was an option to limit it to just those who would have been deemed to be eligible based on their attesting that they had been substantially affected by COVID-19. The recommendation to make it universal was made by the Tax Collector and agreed-to by the Selectmen, based on the difficulty in analyzing the real need of individuals and in recognition that everyone has been affected. An analysis of the cash flow of the Town for the first quarter of FY2020/2021 indicates that the Town will be able to meet its financial commitments with a combination of the Town’s surplus, the money to be received from escrow payments, which are not deferred, and the expected tax collections, which will likely be reduced, but not zeroed out. The alternative program that the Town could have opted for is the “Low Interest Rate Program”. It was decided not to select this latter program, as it would be administratively very difficult to administer, would likely provide marginal benefit to most taxpayers, and it was felt that the 3-month deferment of the deadline would allow the majority of taxpayers to get back on their feet if they were negatively affected.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM on a motion by Ray Pech, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein  
First Selectman

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*The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be a Special Meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 12 at 5:00PM prior to the Budget Hearing. This meeting will be in place of the regular meeting which had been scheduled for 7:00 PM that same day.*