

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – MARCH 24, 2020, MEETING MINUTES:

(Note: This is a virtual meeting and the recording of the meeting is on the Town website at <https://www.barkhamsted.us/node/30/minutes>)

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein and Selectmen Ray Pech and Nick Lukiwsky. Also present was Kathryn Boughton and Emily Olson, members of the press

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 March 10, 2020 meeting.

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

\$30.09	Jill Ayers	refund
\$11.20	Peter Ferraresso	credit

MOTION: A motion was made by Nick Lukiwsky, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to approve the capital budget as presented. General Government projects were mowing equipment (\$35,000), Senior Center parking lot paving (\$40,000), and Replace the 2001 International (\$160,000). This budget will be reviewed by the Capital Committee and then forwarded to the Board of Finance for their consideration.

DISCUSSION: The proposed 2020/2021 General Government budget had previously been approved with the inclusion of the up-to-date figures received from the State for the Resident State Trooper and the addition of \$1,000 to the Emergency Management line item (going from \$1,000 to \$2,000). With these changes, the final budget is \$2,207,690 or a 1.89% increase. The dog fund was also increased from \$11,000 to \$15,000 to reflect the change in the Town’s approach to contracting for Animal Control services.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein informed the Selectmen that the owner of the Mallory Brook Plaza has changed the plan for extending the sewers from Winsted to the Plaza by installing them via horizontal boring under Old New Hartford Road. This is due to Regional 7’s refusal to allow the sewer lines to be attached to the Regional 7 sewer manhole, which would have significantly lower costs than running the lines down the road. There is still a plan that Lombard Ford and the Housing Trust will share in the cost of this installation and that the Town will not have to incur any costs.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein informed the Selectmen that has been unable to finalize the arrangements with Granby and Hartland to share Animal Control costs due to the other issues that are affecting all of the towns due to the Coronavirus. He is still moving forward to share the two towns' ACO and to rent a space in the Granby animal control shelter, but the cooperative agreement and the arrangements for vehicles and hours still remain to be finalized.

MOTION: A motion was made by, Ray Pech seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously to ratify the Emergency Declaration issues by the First Selectman on March 20, 2020 regarding the health crisis due to the COVID 19 virus. This declaration was issued primarily to provide flexibility in the event more stringent measures are needed and to allow the Town to apply for FEMA funds should the cost of responding to the crisis should become excessive.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein informed the Selectmen of the measures that had been implemented in Town Hall, including locking the doors and asking the public to call the office they want to visit or to make an appointment to come into Town Hall. The offices are only being staffed by a single individual (the department head and the assistant are going to be in the office separately). The Town is also doing everything it can to reach out to the residents in need of help and there is a group of volunteers willing to run errands, buy groceries or pick up prescriptions for those who are housebound for any legitimate reason. There is a webpage on the Town website which is being updated regularly with the most up-to-date information.

MOTION: A motion was made by, Ray Pech seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously to add "Approval of the Union Contract" to the agenda.

MOTION: A motion was made by Nick Lukiwsky, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to approve the tentative union contract as presented, which includes a reduction in insurance costs due to increased deductible and pay raises over the three year term of 2.5%, 2.75% and 2.75%, which are partially offset by the change in insurance. The town will also implement an incentive payment to union members of the road crew who maintain their active status as first responders in town while employed by the Town. This is very important due to the low number of first responders in town during the day.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM on a motion by Nick Lukiwsky, seconded by Ray Pech.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein
First Selectman

**DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY
FOR THE TOWN OF BARKHAMSTED, CONNECTICUT**

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the State of Connecticut declared a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency for the State of Connecticut, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 19a-131 and 28-9, in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19 disease associated with a novel coronavirus that is currently affecting multiple countries and states; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency to combat the coronavirus that is currently infecting the population of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the effects the transmission of COVID-19 has resulted in the spread of infections in Connecticut and throughout the country, as well as resulting in shortages of personal protective equipment and other supplies that could jeopardize public safety and civil preparedness; and

WHEREAS, in response to the issuance of declarations of a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency by the Governor of this State, and a national emergency by the President of the United States, and the spread of COVID-19 to an unknown number of Connecticut residents as a result of the global pandemic, the Chief Elected Official of the Town of Barkhamsted, its First Selectman, hereby finds that a local state of emergency now exists in the Town of Barkhamsted; and

WHEREAS, due to the significant danger to public health posed by the spread of COVID-19 and possible shortages of supplies and equipment necessary to protect the public health and safety, the First Selectman must take action for the purpose of ensuring civil preparedness and mitigating the effects of this public health emergency situation upon the residents of the Town of Barkhamsted; and

WHEREAS, it is critically important that the First Selectman have all the authority necessary to limit the spread of the COVID-19 and to protect public health and safety within the Town of Barkhamsted; and

WHEREAS, upon the declaration of a local state of emergency by the Chief Elected Official, the First Selectman may obligate the Town in an amount of money necessary to cope with such emergency, and to do whatever he may deem necessary for the purpose of meeting the emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND DECLARED pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 28-8a(a), 28-1(8), and 28-22a, that a state of local emergency now exists in the Town of Barkhamsted; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED, that during the existence of said emergency, the Chief Elected Official of the Town of Barkhamsted, Connecticut, its First Selectman shall assume the powers, functions and duties prescribed and provided by law, including, but not limited to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 28-8(a), 28-1(8), and 28-22a, and may take such action as necessary to protect the public health and mitigate this emergency; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED, that this state of emergency shall remain in effect until declared terminated; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that this order shall be available for review and inspection in the Office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Barkhamsted during regular business hours and shall be posted on the Town website.

Dated: _____

Donald S. Stein
First Selectman

Attested: _____

Holly Krouse
Town Clerk