

BOARD OF SELECTMEN –FEBRUARY 11, 2020, MEETING MINUTES:

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein and Selectmen Ray Pech and Nick Lukiwsky.

Please note that the agenda that stated that this meeting was a Special Meeting was in error. The meeting was a regular, approved meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

DELEGATIONS: No delegations were present.

Kim Brown from Hidden Heroes was unavailable to attend the meeting, as previously scheduled, and will attend the next regular meeting on March 10.

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 January 28, 2020, Special Meeting.

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

\$ 183.63	Philip Michaud	credit
\$2901.43	Torrington Savings Bank	refund
\$ 56.28	Thomas Chase	refund

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen reviewed the General Government expenditures through January 31, 2020. The expenditures were consistent with expected actuals through 7 months of the fiscal year with the only real problem area being the Town Counsel line. As discussed previously, this total is due to the pending lawsuits. The overage should be able to be covered by a reduction in the Resident Trooper line item based on the input from the State last fall. The overrun in the Road Improvements line will be covered as in previous years by planned expenditures of Town Aid Road and Local Capital Improvement Program funds. The needed funds are from FY '19 and prior years and are not dependent on the hold-up in the current year State allocations. If those funds are not forthcoming, however, road projects for FY'21 will be impacted.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen reviewed the updated draft of the FY '20/'21 General Government budget, including options for salary increases, insurance premium projections and inputs from the departments and agencies that the Town supports. Union negotiations are on-going, so the exact salary increases

and insurance benefits are unknown at this time. The current increase from Connecticare for health insurance is projected to be 9.95%, and for dental insurance from Anthem, the increase is projected to be 4%. However, discussions are on with other insurance carriers to reduce the increase to 6% and 0% respectively. Many of the agencies are not increasing their requests, but a few have requested more funding, and we are still awaiting inputs from the other organizations. Two scenarios were reviewed, one with a 2% salary increase and the Connecticare insurance increases and the other included a 2.5% increase with the lower increases based on the change of carriers. Based on these two possibilities and the inputs received to-date, the potential increase for the coming fiscal year for this budget is between 1.5 and 1.65 %. One other possibility being discussed is to raise the deductible on the employee health from \$2000/\$4000 to \$2250/\$4500, which would save the Town about \$800 on a family plan premium. This information will be reviewed with the Board of Finance at their February 18th meeting and will be finalized at their March 17th meeting for presentation to the Town at the Annual Budget Hearing in April.

The Selectmen also reviewed a proposed Road Plan prepared by Rich Novak which shows the planned paving to be done in the Bridle Drive area, which is the highest priority in our road assessment system. Our ability to execute this plan is dependent on the State providing the Town Aid Road and LOCIP funding for FY'20.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein reported that no progress had been made in trying to get the Regional 7 Board of Education to reverse their decision to not grant a sewer easement for the project in the western end of Town. He is working with the developer and the Winsted sewer commission on alternate strategies, and members of the community plan to attend the Regional 7 Board of Education meeting on February 12, 2020 in an effort to persuade the Board to reconsider their decision. If that is unsuccessful, an alternate route would have to be considered, with costs going up in excess of two times the initial estimates.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein informed the Selectmen that the conversations with Granby and Hartland about sharing animal control responsibilities with their Officer are still moving forward. These conversations are preliminary, but it appears that this affiliation for improved animal control service has good possibilities for success.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen tabled discussion of the request by EdAdvance for a resolution endorsing their proposal for a Regional Performance Incentive Grant for a Regional Special Education Services Center. Don Stein took the action to get more detail on this initiative.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously to appoint Jon Sweeton to the Recreation Commission for a term through 12/31/21.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ray Pech seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously to add the following items to the agenda:

- Approval of Recreation Commission expenditures for 2020, including summer camp scenarios
- Appointment to the Board of Assessment Appeals

MOTION: A motion was made by Ray Pech seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously to approve the budget scenarios presented to the Board by the Recreation Director. These scenarios cover 3 different populations for summer camp, but in all cases are revenue neutral to the Town or, if not, the variance will be covered by the Recreation Fund.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ray Pech seconded by Don Stein, and passed unanimously with Nick Lukiwsky abstaining, to appoint Francine Beland as an alternate to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term through 12/31/23.

Don Stein also mentioned to the Selectmen that at the next meeting, there would be a need to review and act on a request from MIRA (Materials Innovation and Resource Authority) to act on a letter of intent regarding the Town and RRDD 1's solid waste disposal and recycling commitments. MIRA has requested this letter based on the need to refurbish the Waste-to-Energy facility in the Hartford South Meadows. After the RRDD Board and the 3 First Selectmen meet, the Town's Selectmen will have to vote to participate or not.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM on a motion by Nick Lukiwsky, seconded by Ray Pech.

The next regular meeting will be March 10, 2020 and the meeting scheduled for February 25, 2020 will be canceled.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein
First Selectman