

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN – NOVEMBER 26, 2019, MEETING MINUTES:**

Meeting called to order at 9:02 AM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein and Selectmen Ray Pech and Nick Lukiwsky.

**DELEGATIONS:** No delegations were present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comments were made.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Nick Lukiwsky, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2019, Special Meeting.

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

\$275.07	Honda Lease Trust	refund
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**DISCUSSION:** Don Stein provided the other Selectmen with copies of the draft information from the FY2019 audit report. This draft had been presented by the Town Auditor, George Sinnamon, to the Board of Finance at their meeting on November 19. His report was that the Town’s finances were being managed well and that our undesignated surplus as of June 30, 2019 was appropriate for the Town’s budgets. The current surplus is 11.13% of the expenditures, which is well within the accounting guidelines. The only action that is currently needed is a transfer of \$54,666.46 from the General Fund to the School Roof Solar Project to finally close out that project. That transfer needs to be made at a town meeting and is already accounted for in the Towns balance sheets for the 2019 fiscal year.

**MOTION:** The Selectmen discussed the balance of funds allocated to the Town by the State for the Local Capital Improvement Program (LOCIP) and the Town Aid Road (TAR) program. Currently the Town’s balance for TAR is \$115,054 and the unallocated amount in LOCIP is \$104,061. Based on the expenditures in this summer’s road projects, a combination of LOCIP and TAR funds will be used to balance that budget as we have done in the past. The Selectmen agreed to use most of the LOCIP funds first, before applying TAR funds, due to the uncertainty in the State budget this year. In addition, a motion was made by Nick Lukiwsky, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to approve the use of \$13,000 from LOCIP to replace the old, inefficient lights in the school parking lot. This will be reflected in the 5-year Capital Improvement Program, which forms the basis for LOCIP spending.

There was no progress to report on the issues associated with Stanclift Cove nor the sewer line extension from Winsted. These items were tabled to the next meeting.

**DISCUSSION:** Nick Lukiwsky attended the Economic Forum sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Basically, the economists who presented felt that it was unlikely that there would be a recession in the next 12 months. The bad news was that CT has only recovered about 85% of the jobs lost in the 2008 recession, while the other New England States are way ahead of us. CBIA also said that some of the new legislation like FMLA, sick time and minimum wage are contributing to the State's economic woes.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously to appoint Lydia Gibb to the Conservation Commission for a term that runs through 12/31/2020.

**DISCUSSION:** Don Stein and Nick Lukiwsky attended the high-speed Broadband discussion and presentation, at which the idea of providing fiber optics connections to all residents in Town to give them 1 gigabit connectivity or higher was discussed. This is being considered in various towns in Northwest CT and is already being implemented in small towns in Massachusetts, particularly those who have poor coverage. The concept was well-received by the attendees (about 20 people) and the sense is that being first to implement this concept could be a differentiator for Barkhamsted and would make our town more desirable to those who need high speed internet for work or for a family, all of whom are streaming. The cost and legal details of this possible development activity still need a lot of work, but the Economic Development Commission will be chartered to investigate the development of an implementation plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein  
First Selectman