

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – July 30, 2019 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. 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 Ray Pech, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2019, Special Meeting.

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

\$ 408.54	Salvatore Tartaglione	credit
\$ 66.24	Mark Lambert	credit
\$ 280.22	Trudy Codd	refund
\$ 231.67	Peterson DL Trust	refund
\$ 58.01	Michael and Deborah Kuszaj	refund
\$ 264.01	Daimler Trust	refund

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen reviewed the General Government actuals through June 30, 2019, which includes all of the bills that have been submitted to-date associated with that fiscal year. The budget presented also includes the application of Town Aid Road funds to the appropriate line items in the Highway Department budget. Unless additional bills are received, the budget will end the year with a small surplus of approximately \$3,000. They also reviewed the Dog Fund (surplus of ~\$1700), Senior Center Fund (surplus of ~\$1230), and Town Aid Road (balance of \$125,375.54 before the first payment is received from the State).

Don Stein also informed the other Selectmen that the Board of Finance would be reviewing and approving all FY 2019 budget data at their meeting to be held on September 17, and that the BOF would not meet in August. This approach was reviewed with the Town’s Auditor who agreed to that schedule as he does not need the data until the end of September or early October.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein informed the Selectmen that discussions were still on-going between him, the Winsted public works director, the Winsted Town Manager, and the owner of the Mallory Brook Plaza. The main issue is achieving a consensus on the route for the sewers (Old New Hartford Road vs. going through the farm to the Regional 7 manhole). Unfortunately, the progress is still slow, but

he was confident that an agreement would be reached to bring the utilities to the Plaza.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen discussed the issue that had been presented at the previous meeting of whether to pursue a blight ordinance for the Town. Most towns and cities with such an ordinance are larger communities with a significant number of properties that present a health or safety hazard, and which also may harbor dangerous activities, vermin or individuals with societal problems. Typically these ordinances do not address unsightly yards or issues of that sort. At this time, Barkhamsted does not have the problems that typically trigger blight ordinances or property condemnations, so the Selectmen decided not to pursue an ordinance. If this issue were to get worse, the Selectmen will revisit an ordinance to address the problems.

DISCUSSION: Due to a recent commercial activity in Hartland, Granby, and potentially Barkhamsted, that would involve bear feeding/baiting to create tourist attractions to view the bears, the Selectmen discussed implementing an Anti-Bear Feeding ordinance. The activity that was proposed in Hartland would significantly increase the bear population in the areas that were contracted for the feeding and baiting, and would habituate the bears to being close to humans and their homes. The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is very opposed to this type of interaction with bears and other wild animals, and the residents of Barkhamsted and the neighboring towns are similarly opposed to this type of venture. The Selectmen agreed to pursue the implementation of an ordinance to prohibit the feeding and baiting of bears, and Don Stein was given the action to work with the Town Attorney to finalize an ordinance. It will be reviewed at the August meeting and then brought to a Town Meeting for approval.

DISCUSSION: There have been concerns expressed about the Town's and State's practice of spraying herbicide near the river and along guard rails on the road sides. The typical herbicide that is used is glyphosate, which is one of the ingredients in Round-Up, and which has been shown to have the potential to cause certain forms of cancer. Don Stein had done some research on other towns' practices in this regard and received a report from a committee formed in Granby and the resulting plan from the Granby Highway Department regarding their approach to controlling vegetative, insect and fungal pests. Basically, they will only spray in areas where it is too dangerous for a worker to weed whack or mow due to the slope of a bank or the presence of weeds like poison ivy. Based on this information, Rich Novak has agreed to not spray this year, and then will re-evaluate whether to continue that approach or not after having reviewed the results of not spraying. The Town can also choose to be a "do not spray" list with the State.

The Selectmen tabled the discussion of electric vehicle charging stations until more information was available.

DISCUSSION: Ray Pech expressed concerns about the Stanclift Cove fees and the large increase in the cost of a sticker for seniors and the reduction in sticker price for non-seniors. Don Stein took the action to research this issue and to provide data to the other Selectmen on this subject. Once this data is available, it can be placed on a future BOS agenda for further discussion and to determine if the Selectmen wish to provide guidance to the Cove Authority for next season.

OTHER BUSINESS: Don Stein informed the other Selectmen on the following items, but no actions were taken:

- Electric Purchasing – the Town’s electric purchasing agreement through the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) ends in December 2019. Several vendors are pursuing an agreement when that one expires, including CCM, Power Options (a non-profit dedicated to power supply to towns and non-profits), and a company called Wattifi, which has a different business model. Don Stein will work with potential suppliers and make a recommendation at the next BOS meeting in August.
- Animal Control – the Town, along with New Hartford, Harwinton (the lead town) and Winsted, is pursuing a collaborative effort for animal control services to replace the shared, part-time arrangement between New Hartford and Barkhamsted. Don Stein will meet with the other town officials in an effort to finalize an arrangement and associated costs to present to the Selectmen at the August meeting.
- Building permits – Don Stein informed the Selectmen that the Building Inspector is interested in putting the building permit application process on-line. The best candidate for this service is a company called Permit-Link. They charge \$10 per transaction and do not charge any other fees for their service, except for the import of historic records into the database. The arrangement can also be canceled at any time if we are not happy with the service. The application process is on the internet and allows for credit card or check payment. All the other steps in the approval process go through the Building Inspector, but they should be simplified and easier to accomplish with an electronic system. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- Census – the Lieutenant Governor has requested that the Towns consider forming a “Local Complete Count Committee” to assure that all residents are counted in the upcoming census. The Selectmen felt that as a small town, any of the issues associated with the census count can be handled as business as usual and that we did not need to form a special committee.

- Lighting repairs – Don Stein informed the Selectmen that the first phase of the lighting upgrades in town hall was completed and that the downstairs fluorescent fixtures would be upgraded next. There is also a parking lot light pole at the senior center that is broken and needs replacement. That repair will cost \$2050 and come from the Seniors fund and the lighting upgrades in the town hall will cost about \$3750 from the Town Hall repair line item and will provide aesthetic and cost reduction benefits.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein
First Selectman