

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – June 25, 2019 MEETING MINUTES:

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein and Selectmen Ray Pech and Nick Lukiwsky. Also present were residents Micah Mann, Rick Baird, and Art and Maryann Roy.

DELEGATIONS: No delegations were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comments are included in the discussion below of the Bridle Drive property and the request for a blight ordinance.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2019, Special Meeting.

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

\$ 687.32	Financial Services Vehicle Trust	refund
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DISCUSSION: The Selectmen reviewed the General Government actuals through June 24, 2019, which closely reflect the end-of-the-year expenditures with the exception of the final payroll and a few carryover invoices. Don Stein informed the others that the budget was still on track to close the year within the budgeted figures, once Town Aid Road was applied to the appropriate Highway Department salary and other line items/projects. TAR funds, which are still included in the new State budget, are provided to the Town on a semi-annual basis and can be used by the Town for a wide range of road projects, as well as wages. Once the final budget expenditures are known, these funds will be used to bring the budget into alignment as needed. The other areas (such as salaries and the Resident Trooper) are close to the budgeted amounts, with a few exceptions such as legal expenses, and the expectation is that the overall budget will return a small surplus to the Town.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein informed the Selectmen that discussions were still on-going with the Winsted public works director, Town Manager, the owner of the Mallory Brook Plaza, and him, in an effort to achieve a consensus on the route for the sewers and water from Winsted to the Plaza. Unfortunately, the progress has been slow, but he was confident that an agreement would be reached to allow the utilities to come to the plaza.

DISCUSSION: Micah Mann, a resident of Bridle Drive presented a petition with 25 signatures out of 38 petitions that were distributed, regarding the signatories' interest in mitigating what they consider to be blight at 40 Bridle Drive, which was purchased 6 years ago. There is little evidence of

construction progress other than the accumulation of materials for the eventual house. Micah also requested that the Selectmen consider a blight and noise ordinance for the Town similar to what has been done in other towns and he stated that he had heard from others in Town who would like to see an ordinance implemented. He presented photographs of the property in question showing the items that are stored there, including building materials, old tractors, doors, windows, sinks and other items. One of the specific problems, besides what he characterized as an eyesore, was that the diesel fumes adversely affected his daughter's asthma and the family's ability to enjoy their property. However, the diesel fumes have not been a problem this year, and the property owner has pulled a building permit and installed a well. The septic system is scheduled to be installed, as is the foundation. The owner has stated he is interested in putting up a shed or tent structure to store the material, but cannot do so until the actual construction is started (per the zoning regulations).

Micah stated that he feels that the inability of people to enjoy their property and the potential impact on property values is the primary reason that a blight ordinance should be considered. Don Stein provided the Selectmen with information on 17 other towns in the region regarding blight ordinances, which are difficult to enforce, and typically deal with decaying, unsafe, or hazardous buildings. Of the 17, only Harwinton, Sharon and Winsted have ordinances, but Hartland, North Canaan and Roxbury are considering such an ordinance.

Don Stein said he would work with the owner to try to alleviate the situation and the Selectmen tabled discussion of the ordinance to the next meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Nick Lukiwsky, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to authorize Don Stein to sign the Resident State Trooper Contract for the period of 2019 to 2022. This contract is similar to past ones, with some minor updates, including an improvement to the way fringe benefits are applied to the Trooper's salary.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein informed the Selectmen that the tourist map produced by Miles of Smiles will include an ad for the annual Barkhamsted Town events (July 4th parade, Riverton Fair, Christmas in Riverton, Earth Day Festival and Opening Day of Fishing Season). The Economic Development Commission was in favor of buying this add as a boost to these events and to bring folks to Town.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein informed the Selectmen that Rob Fulton, a member of the Economic Development Commission, was doing an evaluation of whether there were suitable locations in Town for an electric vehicle charging station. He has looked at the Mallory Brook Plaza, Riverton and Town Hall, and has also evaluated different types of charging stations and the associated costs for this equipment. The Selectmen were interested in learning more and Don Stein said he would look for grants to see if there was a way to provide this service at no cost to the Town.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein
First Selectman