

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – January 9, 2024
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TOWN HALL

Meeting called to order at 7:09 PM. Present were First Selectman Nick Lukiwsky and Selectmen Ray Pech and Selectman Mark Mahoney. Also present was David Roberts.

DELEGATIONS: No delegations were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment was made

MOTION: Ray Pech made a motion, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2023 Special Meeting. Mark Mahoney abstained.

MOTION: Ray Pech made a motion, seconded by Mark Mahoney, and passed unanimously to approve the following Tax Refunds:

Ally Financial Vault	\$ 340.69	Refund
Toyota Lease Trust	\$ 94.59	Refund
Slater Building	\$ 56.80	Refund
Erik and Helen Ann Landgraf	\$273.90	Credit
Erik and Helen Ann Landgraf	\$39.99	Refund
Ann Martel	\$2,852.64	Refund

Motion: Dave Roberts, who is the president of the Senior Center made a presentation to the board detailing the yearly activities, projects, membership and needs of the Barkhamsted Senior Center. Roberts made a budget increase request of \$3380 to the center's budget to cover the cost of cleaning the newly installed dining room floor.

Motion made by Mark Mahoney to add \$3380 to the proposed 24/25 budget for cleaning. This was seconded by Ray Pech and passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: Nick Lukiwsky informed the Selectmen that the Office of the Secretary of State is making grants of \$10,500 available to the towns to help offset the cost of early voting, which will be required for the upcoming Presidential Preference primaries and the general elections in November 2024. The exact ground rules have not yet been defined, but there will be additional personnel and ballot costs for the extended election timeframe and, hopefully, this grant will help defray the expected expenses.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen reviewed the General Government and capital expenditures and tax collections through December 31, 2023 for the current fiscal year (2023/2024) and noted that all line items were as expected. The tax collections are at 60.87% as compared to last year's total through November of 64.43%. This shortfall is not of a concern because a major mortgage company paid taxes in January instead of December. That total is \$7,268,734.04 vs. the total budgeted of \$11,846,395. We are 50% of the way through the fiscal year and have

expended 54.07% of the budget (\$1,105,851 vs. the budget of \$2,407,753). The line items are basically as expected with some of them being on-going expenses and several being annual payments. The capital expenditures are also on-track with the exception of the roadside mower which came in \$4,500 over budget, but that will be balanced out by the Town Hall painting coming in significantly under budget (~\$12,000). In addition, the F-550, which was in last year's capital plan, will be covered by a combination of the \$50,000 from capital, \$50,000 from ARPA, but the town will have to use additional Highway Department or capital funds to cover the final total of \$130,000, or \$30,000 over the total budget.

DISCUSSION: Nick Lukiwsky informed the other Selectmen about the status of the ARPA projects. To-date, \$1,055,076 has been approved and/or expended. That leaves \$12,222 available against the \$1,067,298 which was authorized. The projects that were discussed as still having unexpended, but committed, funds were the:

- welding exhaust system (\$7,500)
- funds available to complete the road repairs and the F-550 truck (\$7,443 and \$17,877 respectively)
- EMR Class and supplies (\$4,351)
- Little League field and T-ball field improvements (\$10,521 and \$15,000 respectively)
- EDC consultant (\$11,451 for the rest of the year's salary)
- Funding to the Fire District for a new truck (\$40,000)
- Soccer field turf improvements and purchase of adjustable basketball hoops (\$10,000)
- Water lines from Winsted (\$75,000). This project will need additional funding from other sources due to the growth in cost resulting from material cost increases and prevailing wage costs. The Selectmen had opted to proceed on this project, which had previously been approved and are working to find the additional funding that is necessary. The total funding for this project, which combines a STEAP grant, town match and some ARPA funds will require careful planning for the funding and for the timing of the construction. It is expected that the pipes will be installed in the summer of 2024 to take advantage of a new fiscal year..

DISCUSSION: Senior Center Kitchen project is roughly \$22,000 over the \$55,000 allocation. If the \$12,222 from ARPA were to be used to help offset this cost, the Town will have to find an additional \$10,000 to balance the expenditures. The project appears to be finished at this point with the replacement of the counters and the installation of the fire door.

Motion: Motion made by Mark Mahoney to appoint Paul Hansen to the Recreation Committee to fill the vacancy with the term ending 12-31-25. Seconded by Ray Pech. Passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas Lukiwsky
First Selectman

