

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – JANUARY 23, 2018

MINUTES:

Meeting called to order at 5:00PM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein and Selectmen Ray Pech and Nick Lukiwsky

DELEGATIONS: No delegations were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments were presented by the public.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2018, meeting.

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

\$ 19,523.28	Corelogic Tax Service	refund
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DISCUSSION: The Selectmen reviewed various documents and analyses related to the 2018/2019 General Government, capital and LOCIP budgets and the Town road plan for the same period:

- The road plan encompasses finishing the last section of Park Road, paving Day Road, chip sealing 6.5 miles of Town roads and crack sealing as necessary. This work would be paid for by a combination of remaining '17/'18 funds, newly appropriated '18/'19 funds, LOCIP funds from FY '16 and '18, and the balance of Town Aid Road funds remaining after using a portion of the current TAR fund to close out the STEAP grants on the Park Road culverts and paving. The plan would leave approximately \$75,000 for unexpected expenses going into the Spring of '19. The unknown in this plan is whether the State will restore funding to the State Transportation Fund, such that the July 2018 payment to TAR is made. If it is received, that could allow for additional projects to take place in 2018.
- The Selectmen agreed that LOCIP funds should be allocated for Improvements to Town Hall to replace the two staircases going downstairs, both of which are out-of-compliance to the Building Code and which present trip hazards, and to clean up the kitchen area by installing cabinets above and cabinet doors below. With a modest contingency, this project is about \$14,000 (\$3,000 for the kitchen area and \$11,000 for the stairs).
- The only projects currently proposed for capital funding on the Town side is \$35,000 to complete the funding for this year's revaluation and \$130,000 to replace the 1997 backhoe. The school will consider their capital needs at the next BOE meeting, and the Capital Committee will meet on February 6.
- The Selectmen reviewed a first draft of the General Government Budget, which includes the proposed salaries and benefits based on the union contract (2.6% pay increase, assumed 7.5% increase in health insurance premiums, and step increases for the two Highway Department employees not yet at the top step of the pay grade). For those line items for which we have already received requests, those figures have been incorporated into the budget and the Town departments will be meeting with the Selectmen the week of February 5th to make their budget requests. The Recreation budget has been received, but that has no impact on the overall budget, as it is user-funded and agencies, including Helping Hands Chore Service (\$750) and the Susan B. Anthony Project (\$1,000) were reviewed.

Computer expense, including the cost of the website, and other various line items were examined for prior years' expenditure rate. At this point, the budget increase was estimated to be roughly 1.5%, but that number is extremely preliminary due to the number of unknowns at this point.

- The Selectmen requested more information on the School capital budget for flooring and bathrooms, as those figures were quite high, and they also wanted to know what the level of stipends was for Selectmen in comparable-sized towns.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously to re-appoint Tim Sullivan as a member of the Economic Development Commission for a term from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2022.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen reviewed the attached list of potential agenda items for a Special Town Meeting, which would be scheduled in February, and also agreed to hold the Annual Town Meeting at the same time. Don Stein will do a meeting call and develop the specifics of the topics to be covered and present this information to the Selectmen at their next meeting (scheduled for February 13, at 7:00 PM).

DISCUSSION: Don Stein provided the other Selectmen with additional information on the Sustainable CT initiative, which provides an opportunity for the Town to participate in activities which benefit the Town and becoming certified, also allows the Town to promote itself in a very positive manner. He has discussed this with the Economic Development Commission, who was enthusiastic, and will present it to the Conservation Commission at their next meeting. The first step is for the BOS to pass a resolution that signs the Town up for participation in the initiative and the EDC has expressed an interested in reviewing the details of the categories to determine what areas we can already take credit for.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein provided copies of Federal Local Bridge program applications prepared for the Town by Cardinal Engineering at a very nominal cost. These repair projects would cover bridges on Day Road over Beaver Brook, East West Hill over Morgan Brook and Morgan Brook Road over Morgan Brook. These 3 bridges were identified by a DOT bridge inspection as needing varying levels of repair. Don Stein will review this with the Town Engineer and once final copies of these applications are received, will ask the Board to approve their submittal. There is no commitment at this time and approval won't be received until 2019 and the projects would involve a 20 percent cost share from the Town.

Don Stein also informed the Selectmen that Route 44 repaving from Route 183 in Winsted to Route 219 in New Hartford is scheduled to be done this year, pending the availability of funds from the State. He also provided information on the NWCT Economic Development Forum to be held on January 31 in Winsted, which will cover topics of interest to the entire northwest corner. Ray Pech and Don Stein are planning to go, as well as few members of the EDC.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 on a motion by Nick Lukiwsky, seconded by Ray Pech.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein
First Selectman

Potential Special Town Meeting Agenda Items:

- ~~Veterans exemptions – defer to May meeting~~
- Stanclift Cove member – Andrew Motes
- LOCIP Capital Plan
- Building Inspector - ordinance re after-the-fact penalties and revised fees
- ~~PA 10-87 – recycling ordinance (RRDD?) – TBD~~
- Ordinances re raffles/bingo/bazaars
- Gold Star family tax exemptions

Annual Town Meeting items:

- To receive and act upon the report of the Board of Selectmen, Treasurer, Board of Education and to hear and act on any other reports made at said meeting;
- To authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an agreement or agreements with the State of Connecticut, through the Department of Transportation Commissioner, thereof, as they deem necessary relative to Town Aid and Dirt Road Appropriation, so called;
- To authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an agreement or agreements with the State of Connecticut, through the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, thereof, as they deem necessary relative to Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP), so called and subject to the LoCIP capital improvement plan as approved by the Board of Selectmen;
- To authorize the Board of Selectmen for Fiscal Year 2018/2019 to borrow money with the concurrence of the Board of Finance in anticipation of taxes from time to time to pay current expenses of said Town and its obligations and to execute and deliver the Town's obligations for the same;
- To consider and act upon a proposal to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and expend any federal and or state grants for and by the Town;