

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN – JANUARY 9, 2018**

**MINUTES:**

Meeting called to order at 7:02PM. 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 December 12, 2017, meeting.

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

\$ 10.09	Jennifer Lodovico	credit
\$244.62	Robert & Linda Snyder	credit
\$ 55.00	Edward K. Gallmeyer	credit
\$559.15	Pleasant Valley Property Services	credit
\$272.90	JP Morgan Chase Bank	refund
\$ 29.72	Bethany Baird	refund

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectmen reviewed the expenditures through December 31, 2017, and did not see any items that caused concern. Through the first half of the fiscal year, the General Government expenses were on-track at 46.6% and the State has not taken any further reductions in Town Aid since the Governor's cutbacks in late 2017.

Don Stein presented an update to the Selectmen on the status of the Town revenues and General Fund balance. Tax Collections are ahead of last year's rate and hopefully will come in with a surplus for this fiscal year, similar to what has been accomplished in the past years. The Town's cash position is still in good shape and the proceeds from the tax sale will be finalized in the first week of April per the requirements of the sale. There is a balance of about \$175,000 in the Town Aid Road fund and LOCIP funds have been released for FY '16 and FY '18. More discussion on the use of these funds will take place at the next Selectmen's meeting.

Nick Lukiwsky also suggested that the Town investigate the use of Dave Wood (Town Constable/School Resource Officer) for traffic control on road projects rather than the use of State Police or contractors, since the Town can collect additional funds over and above his salary. This could provide some additional income to the Town.

**DISCUSSION:** Don Stein presented a preliminary budget for FY'18/'19, which included the wage increases that are specified in the union contract and a rough estimate for the health insurance and other benefits. All other line items were held at a zero increase. The Board of Finance will be discussing the coming year's budget at their meeting on January 16, which will include the General Government, Board of Ed, capital and other line items budgets. Once guidance is received from the Board of Finance, the Selectmen will put together their

proposed budget for presentation to the BOF, probably at their February meeting. That will also include a road plan, which is critical since a modest amount of road maintenance was performed during the current fiscal year due to the lack of funds.

The challenge will be that the final figures for Education Cost Sharing and Town Aid Road grants may not be known in a timely fashion due to the State deficits. Currently, the second payment for the FY '18 TAR funds will not be made until the Legislature provides financial relief to the State Transportation Fund. Other actions from the State regarding Town finances are also unknown at this time, although Senator Witkos was hopeful that no cuts would be made to the FY '19 ECS formula, which provides towns like Barkhamsted with an increase in the grant value.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky, and passed unanimously to re-appoint Peter Bakker, Jr. to the Regional Refuse Disposal District (RRDD #1) for a term from 1/1/18 to 12/31/20) and Linda Ganem to the Inland Wetlands Commission for a term from 1/1/18 to 12/31/19, and to appoint Frank Miceli as an alternate to the Economic Development Commission for a term from 1/1/18 to 12/31/22.

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectmen will need to hold a Special Town Meeting probably in early-to-mid February to cover several topics: LOCIP capital plan, revision to the ordinance regarding Building Department fees, a new ordinance regarding Bingo Games, Bazaars and Raffles resulting from new State legislation, possible changes to veterans' tax exemptions and establishment of exemptions for Gold Star families. These will all be discussed at the next Selectmen's meeting, as well as the possibility of holding the Annual Town Meeting at the same time instead of waiting until May.

**DISCUSSION:** Don Stein told the other Selectmen that he and a few members of the EDC will be attending a Launch Event for Sustainable CT in the Torrington City Hall on January 18. This initiative is one that could benefit the Town by getting more volunteers to work on projects that are positive for the Town and by giving the Town some positives for promoting it as a good place to live if we achieve certain level with associated recognition. Participation could also qualify us for grants to achieve some of the items in the initiative that the Town may wish to pursue.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 on a motion by Ray Pech, seconded by Nick Lukiwsky.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein  
First Selectman