

BOARD OF SELECTMEN –MARCH 12, 2024
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TOWN HALL

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were First Selectman Nick Lukiwsky and Selectmen Ray Pech and Selectman Mark Mahoney. Also present was Ted Shaffer.

DELEGATIONS: No delegations were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment was made

MOTION: Ray Pech made a motion, seconded by Mark Mahoney, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 20th, 2024 Special Meeting.

Reviewed and sign checks. No issues were noted.

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

Howard F III and Deborah J Ives	\$ 36.00	Refund
Albert R and Cynthia M Neuman	\$ 339.84	Refund
Dean Martel Trust	\$ 2,544.16	Refund

DISCUSSION: Ted Shaffer, the shared economic development consultant with the Town of Winchester, advised the board of the actions and activities he has engaged in to assist the Town of Barkhamsted to increase economic activity. He provided the board a written “Barkhamsted EDC Status Report” outlining goals and metrics. Shaffer did not provide any specific quantifiable results from his efforts. He feels that he has improved the overall business engagement with the town. Mr. Shaffer’s contract with the town is scheduled to end this July 1st. He offered to provide less time and receive less compensation to continue working in Barkhamsted. The Board of Selectman took no action related to this matter.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen reviewed the General Government and capital expenditures and tax collections through February 29, 2024 for the current fiscal year (2023/2024) and noted that all line items were as expected. The tax collections are at 100% of anticipated as compared to last year’s total through February of 99.91%. That total is \$11,846,276 vs. the total budgeted of \$11,846,395. We are 75% of the way through the fiscal year and have expended 69.52% of the budget (\$1,674,059 vs. the budget of \$2,407,952). 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.

DISCUSSION: Selectmen reviewed the draft general government budget. Proposed budget will be ready the next BOF meeting on March 19.

Motion: Ray Pech made a motion to fund the Northwest Transit District \$3500 in the 2024-2025 budget. The increase (\$3000) will be matched by the State of Connecticut DOT and the funds can be used by the Barkhamsted Seniors for "special trips". Seconded by Mark Mahoney and passed unanimously.

Motion: Ray Pech made a motion to rescind the Town Covid Mask and Vaccine Policy dated September 8, 2021. This was seconded by Mark Mahoney and passed unanimously.

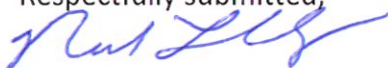
Discussion: Selectmen discussed to Town Employee Policy and Procedure Manual and agree that updates are needed. They will review sections and make recommendations in future meetings.

Discussion: Nick Lukiwsky advised the board that the Planning and Zoning Commission asked him to research with the Town Municipal Attorney questions regarding adult use cannabis sales and cultivation in town. Attorney advised that PZC has authority to prohibit both sales and cultivation with a majority vote. That a grassroots referendum would bring the issue to a public at the next regular election.

Discussion: Mark Mahoney discussed his idea of a town wide volunteer organizing event. Pech and Lukiwsky are supportive of the idea. Mahoney will develop further details.

Adjourned at 8:16 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Nick Lukiwsky

First Selectman