

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MINUTES
MAY 5, 2026
7:00 P.M.
BARKHAMSTED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Meaghan Cook, First Selectman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with approximately 50 residents in attendance.

Deb Brydon nominated Sherry Courtemanche moderator and Ray Pech seconded the nomination. Motion then carried to close nominations. Sherry Courtemanche was elected moderator. Ray Pech nominated Holly Krouse secretary and Deb Brydon seconded the nomination. Motion carried to close nominations and Holly Krouse was elected secretary.

A motion was made by Terri Collins and seconded by Matt Kelly to dispense with reading the call of the meeting. All were in favor so the meeting moved on to the first item on the call.

1. Motion made by John Lavieri, seconded by Don Stein to receive and act upon the report of the Board of Selectman, Treasurer, and Board of Education and to hear and act on any other reports made at the meeting. There was no discussion and the motion was then passed by all.
2. Motion by Ray Pech, seconded by Amanda North 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. No discussion. All were in favor.
3. Motion made by Ray Pech, seconded by Don Stein authorizing 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. The motion was approved by all with no discussion.
4. Motion by John Lavieri, seconded by Ray Pech to authorize the Board of Selectmen for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 to borrow money, if necessary, 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. No discussion and the motion then carried with all in favor.
5. Motion by Matt Kelly, seconded by Don Stein to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and expend any federal and or state grants for and by the town. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.
6. Motion by Ray Pech, seconded by Amanda North to consider and act upon proposed changes to a Town Ordinance regarding Open Burning. One change was to add extinguishment authority to include Fire Chief designees, another change adds that campfires will now also be subject to the daily fire danger level, and the third change added that vegetation shall not be burned as it stands, but must be cut down and collected prior to burning. Discussion ensued with answers to questions given by Firefighter Kevin Archer. The changes to the Ordinance was passed with most in favor, some opposed.
7. Motion by Ray Pech, seconded by Don Stein to consider and act upon proposed changes to a Town Ordinance regarding the Taxation Waiver section. As reported by Ray Pech on behalf of the Tax Assessor, this change was to add wording to keep our ordinance consistent with the Connecticut General Statutes. The other revision as explained by Terri Collins was in reference to the Tax Collector waiving bills under \$5.00. The reason for this update is to clarify the difference between the waiving of newly issued bills versus small balances that may remain due to reasons such as late submittals, incorrect check amounts or the penny shortages that are anticipated every year. The consensus was that these changes were necessary and all were in favor of making the changes to this ordinance.
8. Matt Kelly made the motion, seconded by Kevin Noblet to consider and act on the recommendation of the tax collector that for the grand list of October 1, 2025, the town collect real estate and personal property taxes in excess of \$100 in two installments and that the town collect motor vehicle taxes and any other taxes less than \$100 in one installment. Motion passed with all in favor.

9. Motion made by Deb Brydon, seconded by Francine Beland to consider and act on the recommendation of the tax collector that the town set a due date of January 1, 2027 for bills on motor vehicles registered subsequent to the first day of October but prior to the last day of September and added to the grand list by the Assessor. Motion passed with all in favor.

It was moved by Matt Kelly and seconded by Deb Brydon to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting. Sherry Courtemanche then adjourned the meeting at 7:40pm.

Attest:

Holly P. Krouse, CCTC
Town Clerk