

BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING – April 15, 2016

MINUTES:

Meeting called to order at 9:05AM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein and Selectmen Ray Pech and Mark Hemenway. Also present was Natalia Zagula, UCONN intern and Christina Lavieri, PZC Chairperson

DELEGATIONS: No delegations were present.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Mark Hemenway, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2016 meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Mark Hemenway, and passed unanimously to approve the following tax refunds:

\$ 106.21	Sterling Quimby	refund
\$ 108.58	Joan Morneault	refund

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen reviewed the General Government expenditures through March 31, 2016. The budget is on track to meet the goals, with the only major overrun in the Town Counsel line. The intent is to cover that overrun with lower spending in other accounts, but it is unknown if that will be possible. If not, the Board of Finance will be requested to transfer funds from the General Fund to cover the shortage.

DISCUSSION: Natalia Zagula presented the results of the surveys that were done and meetings that were held in support of the Plan of Conservation and Development. The meetings were a business focus group, and forums to discuss Environment & Recreation, Economic Development and Housing. There were two surveys, one an informal internet poll and another which was mailed out to the entire town and could either be returned via filling out the paper form or filling out the same survey on-line. The latter survey result in 253 responses, or about 13.8% of the households in town. It was requested that only one survey be filled out per household. This presentation was still a draft, but the themes that were most evident in the responses were:

- Preservation of rural small town environment
- Preservation of Barkhamsted's wild qualities
- Protect the Farmington River
- In favor of hiking and biking trails
- In-fill development (using existing space/buildings)
- Improved cell service
- Limited economic development only
- Encourage growth of businesses (new and existing)
- Public water and sewers
- Improved road maintenance
- Speeding/traffic

Once this information is completed, it will be incorporated into a draft POCD, which will be reviewed by the Board of Selectmen and the Planning and Zoning Commission. After that, there is a process defined by the State for final approval of the POCD by the residents of the Town.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen reviewed the feedback from the Board of Finance budget that was forwarded to the Town Budget Hearing on April 25. The Resident Trooper was left in the budget to allow the residents to review the position, there does not appear to be an opportunity to reduce electrical costs until our current contract ends (November 2017), and Don Stein indicated that he would be meeting with the New Hartford First Selectman and representatives from the New Hartford Ambulance to discuss their cost increase and their financial strategies. The Board's next meeting is the day after the Budget Hearing and will provide an opportunity to make any changes that are the result of the Hearing.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM on a motion by Ray Pech, seconded by Mark Hemenway and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein
First Selectman