

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – Special Meeting – August 1, 2017

MINUTES:

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein and Selectman Ray Pech.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Don Stein, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2017 special meeting, with one correction: the motion to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2017 meeting was made by Ray Pech and seconded by Don Stein.

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

\$ 14.76	Pamela and Mark Eckhardt	tax credit
\$ 142.60	Dawn Cooley	tax credit
\$ 18.69	Thomas Banach	tax refund

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen reviewed the expenditures through June 30, 2017, representing the end of the year figures except for the checks that were signed at the meeting. As was noted previously, it is still anticipated that the overruns in the Highway Department lines will be covered by Town Aid Road funds already received, so the General Government budget is expected to end the year without requiring any transfers from the General Fund. There is expected to be surplus funds from the Board of Education budget and the tax collections, so the General Fund should end the fiscal year with a net surplus.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen reviewed the expenditures through July 31, 2017. For the first month of the fiscal year, there were no issues and expenditures were as expected.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein stated that he had approached CONNDOT about using the expected excess funds from the 2016 STEAP Grant for repaving Park Road to help defray the Town's contribution to that project. Previously, DOT has stated that the grant funds could only be used for the paving contractor, but they have approved the use of these funds for other contractor/supplier expenses. That figure is expected to be around \$43,000, and will help the fiscal year close-out numbers for 2016/2017.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Don Stein, and passed unanimously to authorize the expenditure of \$5,000 to support the West Hill Pond Association's engineering study to: 1) determine the cause of the damage to the gate house and valve, and contiguous parts of the dam; and 2) to come up with a design solution for the repairs, which are being given a high priority by the DEEP and the property owners due to the potential impact to the dam. The cost of this study will be \$17,000, to be funded by the WHPA (\$7,000), New Hartford (\$5,000) and Barkhamsted (\$5,000). The WHPA feels that the damage was caused by the Town's plowing snow against this shed-type building, but until the engineering evaluation is complete, that is not necessarily a correct assumption.

The Town's liability insurance carrier has been contacted and a potential claim started. The Town's deductible is \$ 0.00. Until the engineering is completed, the insurance company may or may not cover these costs.

The rationale for this expenditure is that the road across the dam is a town road, which is plowed and maintained by the Town, and dam failure or significant leak would pose a significant danger to residents below. A failure or leak would certainly also financially harm all of the property owners around the lake. The Town is not committing to any further expenditures on this matter and will make any additional determinations based on the facts developed by the engineer (Fuss & O'Neill) and with close coordination with the insurance carrier.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM on a motion by Ray Pech, seconded by Don Stein.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein
First Selectman

The next meeting will be the Regular Meeting scheduled for August 22 at 5:00PM.