

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN – Special Meeting – July 17, 2017**

**MINUTES:**

Meeting called to order at 4:08 PM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein and Selectman Ray Pech. Also present were New Hartford First Selectman Dan Jerram, and Martin Seifert and Ed McNally from West Hill Pond.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Don Stein, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2017 meeting.

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

\$117.18	Wayne King	tax refund
\$ 57.40	White Pines, LLC	tax credit

**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. 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 State has not yet passed a budget for the current fiscal year, so there is no new information regarding municipal aid. Once the budget has been passed by the Legislature, the Selectmen and the Board of Finance will have to consider whether any budget modifications or a supplemental tax will be required.

**DISCUSSION:** There was no new information regarding the request for a transfer of Fancher Road to a private individual or the request by Peter Ferraresso regarding the property line adjustment with the school playground.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Don Stein, and passed unanimously to authorize Don Stein to sign the contract with Virtual Towns & Schools for the update to the Town's website. VTS was the low bidder on the 8

proposals received, and was highly recommended by neighboring communities who employ their services.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Don Stein, and passed unanimously to authorize Don Stein to sign the contract with the State of Connecticut for the Town's Resident State Trooper for the period from July 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019. This contract has only a few minor changes as compared to the prior contracts and has a clause which allows cancellation with 30 days' notice by either party.

**DISCUSSION:** Martin Seifert (West Hill Pond Association) and Ed McNally (Laurel Acres Property Owners Association), along with Dan Jerram, provided information regarding the problems that have developed at the West Hill dam gatehouse. This small building houses the gate valve that controls the level of water in the lake. The building has moved 4-6", as have some of the rocks that form the cavity that houses the valve mechanism below the top surface of the dam. There is also a sink hole next to the building. The shifting presents a potential hazard to the dam integrity and must be addressed quickly. The lake level will be reduced early in September and this work will require expedited approval of DEEP permits so that it can be performed this fall.

The initial cost of this activity is for engineering and permits (~\$17,000) and the Lake associations are asking if New Hartford and Barkhamsted can share the cost of this effort. They will try to fundraise the balance of the funds needed for construction, but may come back to the towns for more assistance. They also asked that we reach out to our insurance carrier to determine if this could be covered by our liability insurance. However, that determination cannot be made until there is evidence that the snowplowing is a causative factor rather than the age of the building and freeze-thaw cycles.

Don Stein will meet with Dan Jerram to consider the conversation and may need to call a special meeting to determine an appropriate course of action.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein  
First Selectman

The next meeting will be the Special Meeting on August 1 at 7:00PM.