

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – AUGUST 22, 2017

MINUTES:

Meeting called to order at 5:08PM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein and Selectmen Ray Pech and Mark Hemenway.

DELEGATIONS: No delegations were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No representatives from the public were present.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Mark Hemenway, and passed unanimously (Mark Hemenway abstained) to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2017, meeting.

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

\$ 11.72	Lisa Thomas	refund
\$ 77.04	Audrey or Robert Brighenti	refund
\$ 126.08	Carol Zitkus	tax credit

MOTION: A motion was made by Mark Hemenway, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to approve the budget line item transfers as presented. With the transfer of appropriate amounts of funding from the Town Aid Road budget (\$82,079) and from the Park Road Reconstruction STEAP Grant budget (\$35,204), the General Government budget ended the '16/'17 fiscal year with a surplus of \$483. The individual transfers will be presented to the Board of Finance at their Special Meeting to be held on August 30, 2017, since the BOF has to approve the transfers.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen briefly discussed the status of the State budget and the upcoming joint meeting among the Region 7 Towns' Boards of Finance. That meeting will take place on Monday, August 28, at 7:00PM in the New Hartford Town Hall and is intended to look at options if the State budget takes an excessive amount of funding away from the Towns. It is expected in the next few days that the Legislative caucuses will announce their respective budget proposals, and that the Towns will not be hit nearly as hard as was included in the Governor's executive order. However, it is still possible that further action will be required by some combination of the Board of Finance, Board of Education, Board of Selectmen and the Regional 7 Board of Ed.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen discussed the situation at the West Hill Pond dam, which will require repairs in the Fall after the water level is lowered. The West Hill Pond Association believes that the engineering report will show that the Town's snow plowing of the town road that crosses the dam has created this situation by causing the plowed snow to put force on the

gatehouse, thereby moving the gate valve shaft and some of the foundation stones. The Town has referred this to our insurance carrier and is working, along with New Hartford, with the WHPA to provide assistance by our highway departments to help in getting the needed repairs done. The Association is doing fundraising to cover the costs of the repairs and both towns contributed \$5000 each to help with the cost of the engineering that was needed.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen discussed the new website that is being developed by Virtual Towns & Schools. The project has been kicked-off and should be complete by the end of the year. The first step is to select a layout for the graphics and the pages, and then the contractor will work with the individual departments and the First Selectman's office to figure out the content to be included and how data will be input and maintained.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein informed the Selectmen that there has been a problem with invasive species in two locations in Town: phragmites in the drainage pond below Miner Lane that was repaired several years ago and stiltgrass along Park Road that is starting to be seen in Beaver Brook, which feeds the Farmington River. Betsy Corrigan, a consulting botanist to the Farmington River Coordinating Committee, is working with the Town and the residents in both areas to come up with solutions for eliminating these problems, and to use techniques that do not cause any environmental problems.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 PM on a Motion by Ray Pech, seconded by Don Stein.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein
First Selectman

The next meeting of the BOS will be the Regular Meeting to be held on September 12 at 7:00PM.