

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN – February 10, 2015**

**MINUTES:**

Meeting called to order at 7:25 PM. Present were First Selectman Donald Stein and Selectmen Ray Pech and Mark Hemenway.

**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 January 29, 2015 Special Meeting. Mark Hemenway abstained.

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

\$ 266.67	Robert H. Brainard 3 <sup>rd</sup>	credit
\$ 61.40	Todd J. Hall	credit
\$ 79.17	Molly Sexton Read	credit

**DISCUSSION:** Jason Cohen, Branch Director of the Winsted YMCA, Keith Blanchard (Barkhamsted resident, Board Member of Winsted Youth Services Bureau,) and Jessica Lindsay, a social worker from the WYSB, presented information on the WYSB, which is a community-based organization which is part of the YMCA. They were established in 1975 to help troubled youths and to prevent further escalation of the issues associated with this population. The services provided include counseling and a Juvenile Review Board intended to act as an intermediate step for teens who otherwise would have to go to court. They also sponsor a camp for elementary age children and have funds available for those who cannot afford the tuition, provide Christmas gifts to children in need and do training programs to help adults identify child sexual abuse. Their total budget is about \$233,000, of which about 21% comes from municipal donations. In 2014, they served about 250 youths.

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectmen reviewed the expenditures through January 31<sup>st</sup> and the proposed budget for FY 2015/2016. Relative to the current fiscal year, it was noted that the actuals were in line with the budget and there were no apparent issues with the current year budget.

On a motion made by Mark Hemenway, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously, the proposed '15/'16 budget was approved for submittal to the Board of Finance. A short summary of the budget is as follows:

- Net increase over the current fiscal year is \$57,663 (2.94%) for a total General Government budget of \$2,016,271. The Recreation, Dog and Senior Center funds were unchanged.
- Of the increase, salary increases are \$17,087 and benefits (primarily health insurance, increased by 7.5%) increased by \$21,980, representing a total of \$39,067 of the total increase.
- \$3,500 was added into the Highway Department budget to better reflect the cost of heating oil for the Highway Garage.

- The Resident State Trooper's line was increased by 3% (\$3,786) to reflect increases from the State, and the Town Constable (School Resource Officer) line was increased by \$9,000 to reflect his pay increase and to grant a request for using his services during the summer to supplement the Trooper for additional police availability when it is most needed.
- All other changes were relatively minor and are based on requests from agencies and service providers for departments within Town Hall.

On a motion made by Mark Hemenway, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously, the Board approved a capital budget of \$192,000 for the General Government, which is comprised of funds for the Plan of Conservation and Development, due to be revised by 2017, and a replacement truck for the 2001 International plow truck for the Highway Department. This budget was previously approved by the Capital Committee for submittal to the Board of Finance.

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectmen discussed improvements to the Town Hall security and reviewed the Farmington regulations which they had previously received. Don Stein took an action to request that the Town's alarm provider meet with him to discuss appropriate actions including "panic" buttons and video cameras. Once this meeting has occurred, a recommendation will be brought back to the BOS.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Mark Hemenway, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to appoint Carmen Smith to the School Building Committee.

**DISCUSSION:** Don Stein informed the Selectmen that there is a closing scheduled for March 3 to borrow the funds required for the School roof and photovoltaics project. The Town will borrow \$1.85 million to cover the full cost of the project, but will only be responsible for about \$827,000 after the State reimbursements are made. The cost of borrowing will bring this total to about \$860,000. The repayments will be made over 10 years, with \$500,000 due in March 2016, \$515,000 in March 2017 and the remaining payments will range from \$130,000 in year 3 to \$97,000 in year 10. There will be no tax impact in FY 2015/16.

The Building Committee has been meeting and has signed contracts with CREC (project manager) and the Design Team.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Mark Hemenway, and passed unanimously to add the following items to the agenda:

- Appointment of a tree warden
- Discussion of the meeting regarding the MDC's Greenwoods Property path
- Appoint of a member to the Recreation Commission and discussion of the Recreation Director's salary and the programs run by the Commission
- Revision to the Town's 5-Year Capital Improvement Program, which governs the use of LOCIP funds

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Mark Hemenway, and passed unanimously to appoint Debbie Brydon as the Town Tree Warden for a 1-year period in accordance with the State statutes. She was certified for that position on 11/11/14 by passing a State of Connecticut course for Tree Wardens.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Mark Hemenway, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to appoint Rob Courtemanche to the Recreation Commission for a term through 12/31/19.

**DISCUSSION:** Don Stein informed the Selectmen that he had received a request from the Recreation Director for a salary increase based on the amount of time that the job required and on the changing requirements to satisfy liability issues and parent concerns. The Selectmen authorized Don Stein to negotiate with the Rec Director and to phase in appropriate increases for the next 2-3 years. He will report back on this subject at the next meeting, as this position is funded from the Recreation Fund and the Town's donation will be flat from the prior year.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Mark Hemenway, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to approve a change to the 5-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to include a line item for \$13,000 to replace the large copier in the Town Clerk's office, which has failed. This copier is important to the Town as it allows large maps and other documents to be reproduced. This funding will come from the LOCIP line item, which currently has \$16,655, and which will receive a check from the State on March 1 for an additional \$36,653.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein  
First Selectman

The Selectmen will cancel the meeting of February 24, 2015 will hold the regular meetings on March 10 and 24, 2015, and will schedule a Special Meeting on April 7, 2015, instead of the regular meeting of April 14.