

BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING – September 28, 2016

MINUTES:

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein and Selectmen Ray Pech and Mark Hemenway. Also present were Mike Muszynski and Zach McKeown of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

DELEGATIONS: No delegations were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No members of the public were present.

DISCUSSION: Mike Muszynski, who is the Town’s liaison with CCM, and Zach McKeown, a legislative rep for CCM, joined the meeting to discuss some of the services provided by CCM and to see if the Selectmen had any questions about the organization. The services that the Town currently uses include random drug testing for the highway department, electrical purchasing, and research questions, including the salary survey. Don Stein participates heavily in the legislative program, which is oriented towards working with the legislature in an attempt to get bills passed that are favorable to the communities. Of particular interest is the recent initiative by the Department of Public Health to force the towns to join one of eight regional Health Districts, organized by county, with mandated costs that would be onerous. Barkhamsted is currently a member of the Farmington Valley Health District which provides the needed services at a modest cost. The Board and the CCM reps also discussed the cost of the Resident State Trooper and the need to look at options for mitigating the cost increases that have been implemented. CCM is attempting to set up a meeting with the State Police Commissioner to discuss options for sharing a Trooper, while still maintaining the ability to hire constables.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Mark Hemenway, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2016 meeting.

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

\$ 72.35	Teresa Delaney	refund
----------	----------------	--------

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen discussed the current language in the Town Ordinance regarding vendors and agreed that a \$100 fee per month for a maximum of three months was overly harsh. Don Stein will draft language changing that requirement to \$100 for an annual permit fee. Stein will provide language for the Selectmen to consider, which, if approved, would go on a Town Meeting agenda.

DISCUSSION: Francine Beland, the Assessor, provided the Selectmen with information regarding her request to no longer assess horses and ponies as personal property and a separate request to change the way the Town assesses open space under PA-490. Both of these requested changes to our ordinances would be compliant with State statutes and would require a Town Meeting to make the ordinance modifications. Don Stein will provide language for the Selectmen to consider, which, if approved, would go on a Town Meeting agenda.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein provided a summary of projects that could be considered for improving the Town Hall. These include re-doing the two staircases between floors, which are currently quite steep and which have narrow treads, remodeling the small kitchen area to make it more attractive, and replacing the ceiling tiles and lights in the upstairs area to improve the efficiency of the lighting and the illumination the current lights provide. These projects will total between \$10,000 and \$20,000 and could come out of LOCIP funds. Once firm estimates are available, the Selectmen will have to include this project in the 5-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which was last updated in February 2015.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein informed the Selectmen that a woman, who is not a resident of Town, is interested in joining the Recreation Commission. She and her husband own a second home, which will become a family weekend residence. The current ordinance for members of the Recreation Commission dictates that they be electors of the Town. However, similar to the State Statute for Town Meetings that states that eligible residents for Town meeting participation include those who do not vote in town, but who pay property taxes in excess of \$1,000. The Selectmen agreed that changing the requirements to allow a Rec Commission member to not be an elector, but simply a taxpayer, would make sense.

The First Selectmen will draft ordinance changes reflecting these items (vendor permits, open space assessment, assessment of ponies and horses, and Rec Commission members, as well as the sale of a small piece of town property to Peter Ferrarosso) and will propose a Town Meeting to cover these items. The Selectmen would then act on the individual ordinance changes and the agenda for the Town Meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein
First Selectman

Next Board of Selectmen meeting will be the Regular Meeting on October 11 at 7:00 PM.