

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN – January 26, 2016**

**MINUTES:**

Meeting called to order at 7:10PM. Present were First Selectman Don 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 12, 2016 meeting.

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

\$ 294.32	CVA American Honda Motor Co., Inc.	refund
\$ 144.40	Thomas F. Hubbard	credit

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectmen reviewed the latest, preliminary General Government budget, which included the agreed-upon pay increase for employees and many of the inputs from town offices and outside agencies. Based on these figures, the General Government budget increase is about \$13,000 or 0.62%. This does not include Reginal 7, the Board of Education, RRDD#1 or the various other town funds. These figures will continue to be refined and the budget will need to be finalized at the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting for presentation to the Board of Finance at their meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup>. At that time, Don Stein has been asked by the BOF to present any available data regarding the costs of the Resident Trooper program or viable alternatives.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Mark Hemenway, and passed unanimously to authorize the First Selectman to apply for a grant from the State of Connecticut, entitled Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development. This grant application will be a joint application with New Hartford and will be for \$40,000 to fund a wildlife census and a feasibility analysis to develop a concept for improving the existing trail between Pleasant Valley and New Hartford through the MDC's Greenwood's property. If this concept appears to be feasible, then the MDC, the Hogback Commission and the residents of the two towns would all have to approve any further action.

**DISCUSSION:** Don Stein reported that Allan Fenner of SavATree, has completed his arborist review of the Stanclift Cove trees. He identified 38 that should be removed and a number of other actions that would be required to stabilize the balance of 171 trees in the picnic area, the center island and the driveways in the Cove. The Cove Authority will meet in February to review this information and to formulate a plan (financial and tree removal) to work within these recommendations.

**DISCUSSION:** Don Stein indicated that the Town Attorney, Andy Glassman, has reported that the abandonment/discontinuation of the Old North Road section parallel to Heather Hill could proceed

at the Town Meeting on Thursday, January 28. This road section dates back to the 1700's, but has not been in use as a town road for many, many years.

**DISCUSSION:** The Town is still in need of a volunteer to join the Northwest Mental Health Board. The Selectmen also tabled any further discussion on "Immigrant & Refugee Integration" and "Efforts to end Homelessness" since these are issues more associated with urban areas. If it becomes apparent that the Town can contribute meaningfully to these initiatives, they will be revisited.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Mark Hemenway, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to authorize the First Selectman to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Solarize Connecticut, a program of the Connecticut Green Bank managed by SmartPower. These non-profit agencies, working with the Town, will provide residents with lower cost options to install solar panels on their homes. This will be an 18-week campaign, at no cost to the Town, working with interested residents.

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectmen reviewed a request from Anthony Pucino, a New Hartford resident, for reimbursement of expenses associated with damage to his car that he stated were the result of an accident caused by a Town Bobcat backing into his car on West River Road. The Selectmen denied his request since the Town's insurance carrier had denied Mr. Pucino's claim and the Town employees stated that this was not an accident with a Town piece of equipment. The recommendation was that he turn this matter over to his insurance company.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Mark Hemenway, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to authorize the First Selectman to enter into an agreement with the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, for the Fiscal Year 2016 Emergency Management Performance Grant.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Mark Hemenway, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to endorse an application by the Northwest Council of Governments for a Regional Incentive Performance Grant for Rural Broadband & Mobile Enhancement: Technology and Business Model Study.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Mark Hemenway, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to endorse an application by the Northwest Council of Governments for a Regional Incentive Performance Grant for Design & Engineering of the Litchfield Hills Animal Shelter Facility.

**Other Business:** Don Stein presented the Selectmen with a letter of resignation from Maria Mullady, the Town Clerk, effective February 1, 2016. Maria has served the Town for 30 years and her resignation was accepted with regret.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein  
First Selectman