

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN – Special Meeting – March 7, 2017**

### **MINUTES:**

Meeting called to order at 7:18 PM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein, Selectmen Ray Pech and Mark Hemenway. Also present were Peter and Sarah Ferraresso

**DELEGATIONS:** No delegations were present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No representatives from the public provided comments.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Mark Hemenway, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2017 meeting.

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

\$ 44.49	Julie Burrell	refund
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### **DISCUSSION:**

The Selectmen reviewed the budget expenditures through January 31, 2017, which are on track for the first 8 months of the fiscal year. The tax collections to-date appear to also be on track to meet or exceed the collection goals. Issues that were present in past months were reviewed, i.e. highway department expenses (supervisor's overtime and salt usage due to the number of ice storms, and road improvements); legal fees, and computer expenses (which appear to be slowing down). The highway department budget has not been adjusted for Town Aid Road funds. Once that is done, those line items should be in-line with the budget.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Don Stein informed the Selectmen that nothing has changed with the State budget except that the Legislature is now tasked to come up with their budget modifications to the Governor's proposal. The Governor has suggested that the State pass a statute providing the towns with more time to prepare their budgets, but most of the small towns are opposed to this, and would prefer that the Legislature focus on expediting their budget process. The only data available (similar to last month) is that the Town would lose approximately \$550,000 in State funding if the Governor's proposal is unchanged. This is a 1.5 mill tax increase (5%) before any other budget increases are considered.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Selectmen reviewed the latest draft of the FY '17/'18 budget, which is still preliminary due inputs from various agencies that have not yet been received and on-going negotiations with the employees union. The values in the draft budget for salaries and benefits are still placeholders until the negotiations are concluded. The recommended budget includes the need to hire a new contractor to create and maintain a new website, since the current website consultant is getting out of the web business. Additional funds are also being requested for tree work, which is becoming a bigger expense, and for additional IT support and scheduled replacement of computers, as these systems are getting more complex, and several of the Town Hall computers are nearing the typical end-of-life. Rich Novak has been preparing the road maintenance plan, with the completion of the STEAP grant repaving of Park Road and using town funds to redo Day Road being the highest priorities. Don Stein also provided details of the computer and IT expense and the Selectmen discussed a request from the Recreation Commission to add \$1000 to the stipend for the Recreation Director to cover additional work required for summer camp. The Selectmen did not vote on this issue, but felt that it should not be added to the Rec Director line item due to substantial raises provided in the past few years and this year's very difficult financial issues. Therefore, the final General Government budget will not include this additional stipend. However, the current budget does include a raise for the Director the same as for other Town employees.

The Selectmen also reviewed the capital request from the Highway Department for a new plow truck and agreed to spread this request over two years to help level capital expenditures (\$95,000 per year).

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectmen met with Peter and Sarah Ferraresso regarding their request to purchase a small strip of land along their back property line and adjacent to the school playground. This purchase had been approved at a Special Town Meeting, but the Planning & Zoning Commission had not been given the opportunity to review this sale prior to the Town Meeting, as required by CT Statute 8-24. The PZC disapproved the sale at their meeting of December 8, 2106. Therefore, the Town is required to re-vote on this sale at another Town Meeting. The PZC indicated in their minutes that they would consider an easement on the .06 acre parcel, so the Selectmen request that the Ferraresso's consider this option, which they agreed to do. The request was also made that they provide Don Stein with any questions they might have regarding an easement versus a sale, and he will then review their questions with the Town Attorney. Depending on how they wish to proceed, the proposal for an easement would go back to PZC for consideration, and then, assuming approval, go to a Town Meeting vote. If they still wish to pursue the sale, the Selectmen would have to vote on whether to put the sale of the land on the Annual Town Meeting agenda despite the negative vote by the PZC.

**MOTION:** The Selectmen entered Executive Session to discuss union negotiations at 7:55 on a motion by Ray Pech, seconded by Mark Hemenway, and passed unanimously. They left Executive Session at 8:05 PM – no motions were made and no votes taken.

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectmen reviewed ordinances from Burlington and Winsted regarding the home delivery of advertising material that is thrown on private property (e.g., the Foothills Trader). They agreed to ask the Town Attorney to draft an ordinance for Barkhamsted that mirrors the examples. This proposed ordinance could be on the May Annual Town Meeting agenda, assuming timely execution.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM on a motion by Mark Hemenway and seconded by Ray Pech.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein  
First Selectman

The next meeting will be the Regular Meeting on March 28 at 5:00 PM.