

**Preston Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting  
January 14, 2010**

**Selectmen Present:** Robert Congdon, Michael Sinko, Timothy Bowles (arrived 6:32 p.m.)

**Selectmen Excused:** None

**Recorder:** Kathleen Nichols

**Guests:** A. Bilodeau, C. Sajkowicz, M. Clancy, N. Gauthier, B. Legler

**1st Selectman Congdon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.**

**Agenda**

**1. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes**

- **Acceptance of the January 7, 2010 Meeting Minutes.**

**A motion was made by M. Sinko, seconded by B. Congdon to accept the January 7, 2010 minutes as presented. So voted.**

**Unfinished Business**

**1. Former Norwich State Hospital Property/Redevelopment Agency:**

- **Public Hearing (1/28/2010) and Special Town Meeting (2/11/2010)**

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon stated the PRA has scheduled a Public Hearing on January 28, 2010 at the Preston Veterans Memorial School at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussion and to obtain public comment on the Agency's proposed Conceptual Management Plan for the Redevelopment of Preston Riverwalk.

The PRA will then have their regular meeting on February 3, 2010 and will consider incorporating comments received at the public hearing.

The PRA has requested the BOS to schedule a Special Town Meeting on February 11, 2010 for residents to consider the Conceptual Management Plan.

**A motion was made by M. Sinko, seconded by B. Congdon to schedule a Special Town Meeting on February 11, 2010 to present the CMP for approval.**

***Discussion:***

A. Bilodeau asked what version of the CMP was going to be approved at the February 11, 2010 Special Town Meeting and if it would be available for review prior to the meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon answered the public hearing will be on Ver. 12 and if there are substantive changes that come out of the public hearing, there may be a new version presented at the town meeting.

**So voted.**

**Reports**

**1. Fuel Spill @ Preston Veterans Memorial School**

- **General Update**

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon reported the fuel spill clean-up is still in process. The Department of Environmental Protection came back and put in additional monitoring wells around the outskirts of the school on the east and west side. No evidence of oil is showing in any of the

monitoring wells on the outskirts of the school. 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon stated four micro-wells were being drilled this evening – two in the art room and two in the hall way between the boiler room and the gym to try and delineate the boundary of the plume in the ground. When he left the school earlier, the DEP hit refusal at eight feet in the art room so they were unable to get to ground water in the art room.

The next step is to convert the wells to have an electric pump on-site to treat the water and have a water/oil separator. Some complaints have been received due to the pumping trucks operating 18+ hours per day and the fumes associated with the truck going into the school. The truck has been moved further away from the school to alleviate this issue.

Septic system samples have been sent out for testing today. This hole has been open for 2 ½ weeks and the water on the bottom of the septic system is clear.

If the ground and water samples come back clean, DEP will allow the town to fill the hole(s) back in and build a septic system. The DEP will sign off noting this area is completely clean and will not need to have an environmental land-use restriction on this part.

B. Legler asked if the town was moving forward on an alarm system that will be tied into the security system.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon answered yes – the security system company has been in to review the system.

➤ **Board of Finance appropriation to Selectmen’s Budget for related miscellaneous costs.**

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon reported that CIRMA (Town’s insurance carrier) will cover \$50,000 of petroleum remediation of the soils and groundwater. This will cover the contaminated soil removal from the septic system.

There is a \$10,000,000.00 accident policy with a \$1,000,000.00 hazardous limit on the boiler. However, because there was a drain in the boiler room and the oil seeped out beyond the boiler room into soils and groundwater, CIRMA may claim the damage is under the \$50,000.00 cap. CIRMA may also seek to have the boiler company honor the million dollars to do the clean up. CIRMA is owned by municipalities and may have more of a vested interest in trying to fight for the insured.

CIRMA has paid the first \$80,000 bill to KROPP Environmental Services.

The disposal of the contaminated soil is estimated at approx. \$65,000 - \$75,000 of which \$20,000 are trucking expenses. The town is responsible for the trucking portion of the bill. The BOF has appropriated \$19,000+ as an emergency appropriation to pay the trucking company. This will be placed in the general budget as a line item for bills associated with this incident. Presently the cost of removing the soil is \$14.75/ton, however, if the invoice is not paid within a one week period the cost will increase to \$18.74/ton.

A. Bilodeau asked what the school was using for a septic system.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon answered the ends of the existing septic tank have been plugged and the tanks are being pumped once a week.

A. Bilodeau asked if the bus garage and day care also dumped into this septic system.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon answered no.

## **2. Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Budget**

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon reported he has requested from the BOF to give both the BOE and BOS some direction for the 2010-2011 budget.

The BOF would like to see a 0% budget increase for the town and BOE. 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon noted the BOF expressed they wanted to see a zero percent budget based on a zero based budgeting method from the BOE and the town. Budgets are due by the second week of March.

T. Bowles noted one of the issues that have come up is COLA increases and would like to have a discussion on this.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon noted he has told staff that it would be very difficult to have a zero based budget based at a zero rate and have any substantial or any at all COLA increases.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon does not feel town employees on the lower end of the pay structure should have zero increases if BOE employees and teachers/administrators who are on the higher end of the pay structure have COLA increases.

T. Bowles asked what the term of the teacher's contract is.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon answered they will start negotiations for July 1<sup>st</sup> and will be negotiating for FY 2011-12.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon reported the BOF discussed and agreed to send another letter to the BOE requesting they ask the education unions to reopen contracts.

A. Bilodeau asked what the outcome was from the BOF's last meeting regarding the opening of the financial software bids.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon answered there were three companies within a range of \$70,000 for the software and the vendor will present a demonstration of software on January 26, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

T. Bowles noted the town employees are the responsibility of the BOS and the issue of equity and fairness in regards to COLA adjustments is an issue the BOS will need to discuss and decide upon.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon noted he will send out to all Departments, Agencies, Boards and Commissions a letter providing some guidelines to work toward a no increase budget and to request their 2010-11 budgets.

**The BOS concurred to have the 2010-11 Budget discussion on the next regular meeting agenda of the BOS.**

## **New Business**

### **1. Tax Refund(s)**

- **A motion was made by, seconded by to refund the sum of \$6.66 to Keith F. Peck for overpayment of taxes. So voted.**

### **2. 2010 Holiday Schedule – Revise (delete Lincoln's Birthday 2/12 and change Washington's Birthday from 2/22/2010 to 2/15/2010-Observed on the 15th as President's Day)**

**A motion was made by T. Bowles, seconded by M. Sinko to approve the revised 2010 Holiday schedule as presented.**

**Discussion:** T. Bowles asked about the Personal Policy manual and requested to have this placed on the BOS agenda sometime in March or April for review.

**So voted.**

**Appointments and/or Resignations**

1. Police Regional Study Committee – Recommendation to appoint Peter Hall as Alternate  
1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon stated Dave Paige and Jim Bell have been appointed to the Police Regional Study Committee and have requested to add Peter Hall as an Alternate.

**A motion was made by T. Bowles, seconded by M. Sinko to appoint Peter Hall to the Police Regional Study Committee as an Alternate. So voted.**

**A motion was made by M. Sinko, seconded by T. Bowles to waive onto the agenda a request from the State Traffic Commission recording the Building Official for the Town of Preston.**

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon noted the State Traffic Commission was requesting in accordance with section 7-148 of the CT General Statutes the recording of the towns Building Official appointment. The BOS discussed the request and determined it did not require a motion for the 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman to sign the request as Appointing Authority.

**Correspondence Received/Sent Out**

- CT Conference of Municipalities State Regulatory Bulletin regarding Department of Environmental Protection Proposed Amendment to CT Water Quality Standards. Public Information Session – January 26 and a Public Hearing on February 3, 2010.
- CT Conference of Municipalities State Regulatory Bulletin regarding Municipal Pole Attachment Agreements: Consult your Town Attorney.
- CT Conference of Municipalities State Regulatory Bulletin regarding State Holding Regional Meetings: Why the US Census Matters to Your Municipality and How to Maximize Your Count.
- Email dated January 14, 2010 from Jennifer Gross, Deputy Director, Eastern Regional Mental Health Board regarding appointment of Tim Bowles by the BOS to Catchment Area Council 12.

**Public Comment**

None

**Adjournment**

The motion for adjournment was submitted, seconded and approved at 7:48 p.m.

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Robert Congdon

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Michael Sinko

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Timothy Bowles