

**Preston Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, January 10, 2019  
Preston Town Hall  
6:30 pm**

**BOS Present: Robert Congdon, Lynwood Crary, Michael Sinko  
BOS Excused: None**

**Call to Order**

**1st Selectman Congdon called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm**

**Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes**

December 13, 2018 Regular Meeting

**A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by M. Sinko to approve the December 13 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended.**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

*Page 1; Long Term Planning – Fire Department*

*In the past ~~2 months~~ 2 weeks an ambulance crew could not be filled and the mutual aid ambulance from North Stonington took 1 hour to arrive.*

*Page 2; Relying on a volunteer staff is not realistic, should read, Relying solely on a volunteer staff is not realistic.*

**New Business**

**1. 135 Route 12 – Water**

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon explained that a tenant living at 135 Route 12 had no water and could not contact the owner of the house because the owner was in Peru and left no contact information. Preston's Sanitarian went to the house and confirmed that there was no water. The Town had 2 options to assist the tenant;

1. Put them up in a hotel and the home owner would be responsible for the bill when he returned
2. Replace the damaged water pump for \$1500.00

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon authorized that the pump be replaced rather than the owners getting a \$2,000 hotel bill and the tenants would still be without water.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon met with the owners tonight who agree they are responsible for the costs.

**2. Sale of Surplus School Busses – January 8**

John Spang explained that 5 big busses and 1 Type 2 mini bus went out for bid.

- Four bids were received.
- 1999, 2000, 2001 and (2) 2006. The Type 2 was a 2005.
- Advertised on the State website and the School district website
- The 2 highest bids came from scrap dealers.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> highest bid was a car parts junkyard from Hartford.
- An individual low bid for 3 of the six busses.

The recommendation would be to award the bid to the high bid. A and J Salvage from Foster Rhode Island for a price of \$4,300.00

**A motion was made by M. Sinko and seconded by L. Crary to award the bid to A and J Salvage for \$4,300.00.**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

### **3. Avalonia – Tax Abatement Request**

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon stated that Avalonia does not pay taxes for all other land owned by them in Preston.

The property Avalonia is requesting a tax abatement for property acquired at 96 Brand Road. M. Sinko asked if they still receive abatement if the property was acquired versus being land that was donated to Avalonia.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon will get more information and it will be addressed the BOS meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **4. Long Term Planning – Internship & Professional Practice Program**

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon stated that UConn has a program where a Graduate Student interns for 585 hours.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon stated he thought there would be plenty of work next year that a qualified intern could help with.

L. Crary asked what the cost is.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon answered \$16, 250.00

### **5. Recording Secretary Job Description**

**A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by M. Sinko to approve the recording secretary job description.**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

### **6. Donation Request**

Safe Futures donation request will be put into the Budget.

**A motion was made by M. Sinko and seconded by L. Crary to add FY19 Budget under New Business.**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

### **7. FY19 Budget**

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon noted that the BOS sends out a letter to Boards and Commissions giving some guidance on developing their budgets.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon asked for the wage increases in recent contract negotiations.

John Spang answered that the gross wage increase for teachers was 2.5% and administrators was 2%.

L. Crary suggested sticking with 2% for the FY19 wage increase

The BOS will begin looking at Budgets at the February 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

### **Old Business**

**A motion was made by M. Sinko and seconded by L. Crary to add Polling Place Committee Update to the agenda under Old Business.**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by M. Sinko to add Boom Mower to the agenda under Old Business.  
All in favor. Motion carries.**

**1. Polling Place Study Committee**

M. Sinko stated the first meeting will be held Thursday January 17<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall, not on Wednesday as previously indicated in the BOS' December 13<sup>th</sup> Minutes.

**2. Boom Mower**

L. Crary spoke with several sales people and the Town of Windham employees showed him their Tractor and answered questions.

Delivery will take 6 months from the time it was ordered.

**Reports**

None

**Appointments and/or Resignations**

1. Term Re-appointment: IWWC – John Moulson, member (new term beginning 1/1/19).

**A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by M. Sinko to re-appoint John Moulson for a 5 year term.**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

2. Resignation: Board of Assessment Appeals – Daniel R. Sperduto, Member (11/17/15 – 11/19/19)

3. Resignation: Planning & Zoning – Daniel R. Sperduto, Member (11/21/17 – 11/16/21)

4. Appointment: Parks & Recreation – Kimberly Koniecko, Member (1/10/19 – 3/31/21)

The BOS requested that Kim Koniecko attend their meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup> so they can meet her.

**Tax Refunds**

1. Toyota Financial Services – 3 vehicles leased – 9AHVM8/1APDX6/606ZZG

**A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by M. Sinko to refund Toyota financial Services \$332.48 for overpayment of taxes.**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

2. Dorothy A. Smullen – 296 Old Jewett City Road

**A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by M. Sinko to refund Dorothy Smullen \$223.00 for overpayment of taxes.**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon stated that the Town joined the Capital Region Purchasing Co-op and because they went out to bid for gasoline, John Spang was able to lock in with East River Energy for January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> for \$1.6449.

### **Correspondence**

1. Letter dated November 29, 2018 from Ryan Ivey, Duff & Phelps Vice President, Property Tax re: Southern New England Telephone Company Personal Property.
2. Letter dated December 26, 2018 from James Butler SCCOG Vice President re: Municipal Dues.
3. Letter dated December 20, 2018 from William A. Jorsz, Eastern Connecticut Conservation District Chair, CT Department of Public Health re: Donation Request.
4. Letter dated December 14, 2018 from State of Connecticut Department of Health re: West Nile Virus.
5. Annual summary report dated December 21, 2018 from Eversource Energy.
6. Letter dated December 21, 2018 from Eric Nouri, PaintCare LLC Legal Counsel re: Notice regarding assignment of PaintCare Contract.
7. Invitation to inauguration and Inaugural Ball of Ned Lamont.
8. FOI request from Preston resident Andy Depta.
9. Correspondence from Preston resident Mike Clancy re: defective ramp at the Transfer Station.

### **Public Comment**

Andy Depta, Preston resident thanked the BOS for getting the pothole on Watson Road filled. A. Depta noted that the Governor asked municipalities to become more efficient and asked if the BOS will be asking Departments to look at being more efficient in order to lower their costs. 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon explained that the Governor has formed a shared services task force and has asked towns to look at ways to share equipment, and departments. Andy Bilodeau, Preston resident stated that the metal bin gate at the Transfer Station has been down for 6 months. A. Bilodeau commented that at the last BOS meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon said he would compare other law firm's rates to Shipman & Goodwin. A. Bilodeau commented that at the last BOS meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon indicated he would Like the Town's Public Safety Committee to share their thoughts on policing and fire. A. Bilodeau commented that a car was driving erratically on Route 165. Mrs. Bilodeau called Troop E and gave the plate number, but was informed there was no trooper in the area to respond. There are 2 Resident State Troopers in this Town who are supposed to be available. A. Bilodeau commented that the inventory of trees and potential cost has been on the BOS agenda for 4 months, but we still don't have an inventory or cost and trees keep falling down. A. Bilodeau commented that he looks forward to new management in Town if that comes to fruition at the November election,

### **Adjournment**

**A motion was made by M. Sinko and seconded by L. Crary to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 pm.**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Charpentier  
recorder