

**Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, January 11, 2023  
Preston Town Hall - Lower Level**

**Call to Order** - Sandra Allyn-Gauthier called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

**1. Roll Call**

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier

Jerry Grabarek

Ken Zachem

**Also Present**

Jim Corley - Public Works Director

Keith Wucik - Fire Chief

Hank Podraza

Jill Keith

Kimberly Lang - Recording Secretary

**2. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes**

- **December 22, 2022 - Regular Meeting**

*Ken Zachem motioned to approve Regular Meeting Minutes of December 22, 2022 as presented. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.*

**3. Correspondence - None**

**4. Reports - None**

**5. Appointments and/or Resignations**

- a. **Reappointment for the Ethics Commission: Hank Podraza for a three year term to end on December 31, 2025.**

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier thanked Hank Podraza for his willingness to continue to serve on the Ethics Commission, and for his many years of service on that Commission already..

*Ken Zachem motioned to reappoint Hank Podraza to the Ethics Commission for a three year term ending December 31, 2025. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.*

**6. New Business**

**a. Public Works- Guardrail replacement on Mathewson Mill Road - Bid Waiver Request.**

Jim Corley stated that he has received competitive pricing from Atlas Industry Services, LLC for the removal and installation of approximately 100 feet of metal beam guide rail on Mathewson Mill Road. The removal and replacement pricing falls under the State DAS Contract #18PSX0147, Complete-in-place installation and removal of guide rail and impact attenuation systems, of which Atlas Industrial Services, LLC is a contractor on this bid list.

The guide rail was damaged in an automobile accident and is no longer capable of serving its intended use. The approximate cost for this replacement is \$3,815.00. Therefore, in conjunction with the December 2014 Town of Preston Ordinance, Bid Opportunities, and section no. 1 of its waiver of bid requirements, Public Works is requesting the Board of Selectmen to authorize this purchase under the related Connecticut DAS State Contract.

There was a brief discussion regarding another section of guide rail that needs replacement on Mathewson Mill Road.

*Ken Zachem motioned to approve Atlas Industrial Services, LLC, a contractor that falls under the State DAS Contract #18PSX0147; for the complete-in-place installation and removal of guide rail and impact attenuation systems for an amount not to exceed \$3,815.00 under the December 2014 Town of Preston Ordinance, Bid Opportunities, and section no. 1 of its waiver of bid requirements. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.*

*Ken Zachem motioned to move to item #3 (Grant Update) of the agenda. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.*

**b. Grant Update - Community Investment Fund 2030 & Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP)**

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared that the Community Investment Fund 2030 grants were submitted January 6th. She reviewed that one application covers the engineering and design costs for Phase I and Phase II of the *Poquetanuck Village Traffic Calming* project; and that the other application was to cover the cost of Phase II of the Transfer Station upgrades that would allow the area to be safer for use and to bring the area up to DEEP standards.

Both applications had many letters of support from various state and federal representatives and senators, which should add weight to the applications.

The other application supported by SCCOG which was due January 10th is a pre application stage for TRIP, Transportation Rural Improvement Project.

Jim Corley pointed out that the completed Road Management Plan identified Mathewson Mill Road as a minor collector road and so the million dollar project would include reclaim, repave, add width to the road to accommodate possible bike lanes, and guide rails.

**c. Budget**

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier stated that Department heads have been requested to submit their budgets by January 27th. So that at their next meeting, Budget Workshops could be scheduled to go over the various budgets.

**d. Solar Exploration**

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier stated that after participating in a CCM Webinar and learning about Green Bank, a company with a quasi relationship with the state, she has set up a meeting with Green Bank's, Mike House, Roy Seitsinger, Jim Corley, and herself for this Friday to discuss solar options that the Town and schools might have. Thoughts are that perhaps the large fields behind the Transfer Station and the PPMS could be used for solar farming.

**e. Strategic Planning**

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier stated that partnering the Town and the school to develop a cohesive Strategic Plan seems prudent. She shared that she and Roy Seitsinger have drafted a letter requesting proposals for the development of a school district and town wide Strategic Plan, reaching out to those suggested by CCM and the Chamber of Commerce. The Town has already received about 10 proposals and the Superintendent has received 5. The deadline to submit is February 3rd; after which the various offers and costs of developing a Strategic Plan will be compared. Ms. Allyn-Gauthier will keep the Board posted as the process moves forward.

**7. Old Business**

**8. Tax Refund**

- a. Ward Terry W. & Deborah V. - 2019-01-0002203 for \$40.34
- b. Ward Terry W. & Deborah V. - 2020-01-0002215 for \$40.42
- c. Ward Terry W. & Deborah V. - 2021-01-0002213 for \$41.82

*Jerry Grabarek motioned to refund Terry W. and Deborah V. Ward for 2019-01-0002203 in the amount of \$40.34; 2020-01-0002215 for \$40.42; and 2021-01-0002213 for \$41.82. Ken Zachem seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.*

*Ken Zachem motioned to waive #2 (Fire Dept. Update) back onto the agenda. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.*

**c. Fire Department Update & request for transfer for ARPA Project**

Keith Wucik stated that during the last fire call their thermal imaging camera was acting up and that he was told that it couldn't be repaired. He requested that the remaining ARPA funds of \$6,270.00 appropriated for the large diameter hose, be used to purchase a new thermal imaging camera.

***Ken Zachem motioned to transfer the remaining ARPA funds of \$6,270.00 appropriated for the large diameter hose, to be used to purchase a new thermal imaging camera. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.***

Chief Wucik went on to share that a full time firefighter has been hired. There was a rigorous hiring process and this candidate stood out among the 12 other applicants. He will start on January 22nd and with his hiring the two paid full time firefighters will have a 3 on, 3 off schedule that will cover weekends and holidays.

**9. Public Comment**

Jill Keith, 26 Tanglewood Drive, stated that she appreciated the hard work that's being done to move the budget through the process and would like to see Preston move towards more transparency and to encourage citizens to participate in the budget process through more town wide notifications.

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared that it's a fine balance to keep citizens informed and not to over use the system they have in place. They do notify people of the Town Hearing, Town Meeting, and the Referendum.

Ms. Keith requested that on the Budget Calendar to make it clear to citizens how they will be informed throughout the process.

**10. Adjournment**

***Ken Zachem motioned to adjourn at 6:39 P.M. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.***

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kimberly Lang*

Recording Secretary

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PRESTON, CT.  
2023 JAN 17 A 9:35  
*Jill Keith*  
PRESTON TOWN CLERK