Preston Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 23, 2020
Preston Town Hall
7:00 pm

BOS Present: Sandra Allyn-Gauthier, Jerry Grabarek, Ken Zachem

Call to Order
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2020 – Regular Meeting
A motion was made by J. Grabarek and seconded by S. Allyn-Gauthier to approve the January 9, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended.
K. Zachem abstained. Motion carries.

Page 2, Appointments and/or Resignations;
A motion was made by J. Grabarek and seconded by S. Allyn-Gauthier to appoint John Sacrey as an Alternate Member of the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Commission Zoning Board of Appeals with the term being January 9, 2020 – November 21, 2023.
All in favor. Motion carries

Page 2 New Business, Library;
• Two of the three heating units are not working.

Public Comment
Leilani Parker, Preston resident asked how you can get someone from the Town Garage to call back.
L. Parker noted that she needs sand bags so she called and left a message.
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier stated if a call is not returned call the 1st Selectwoman’s office.
Fire Chief Tom Casey stated that he will give sand bags to L. Parker.
Vick Rabowsky, Preston resident asked if maybe twice a year the Town could pick up bulk waste from homes because freezers, toilets, etc. are being discarded on the side of the roads.
J. Grabarek noted it is probably from Out-Of-Towner’s.
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier stated that we could consider it, but it is going to add to the budget because it is an added cost.
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier suggested calling the Town Garage or Town Hall when she sees discarded items so that the crew can pick it up.
Leigh Pappas stated that there was a great turn-out for Earth Day last year, so maybe residents with trucks could volunteer to pick up bulk waste on earth Day.

Correspondence
2. Letter dated January 16th from Eversource re: vegetative management plan and time schedule.
5. Report from Lieutenant Todd Harbeck, Commanding Officer Connecticut State Police, Troop E Montville re: December 2019 287 calls for service.

Reports
None

Appointments and/or Resignations
   A motion was made by J. Grabarek and seconded by K. Zachem to re-appoint Hank Podzra as a member of the Ethics Commission, with a three year term of January 23, 2019- December 31, 2022.
   All in favor. Motion carries.

New Business
1. Fire Chief – Update
   Tom Casey
   • Applied and received grant for new rescue tools. Delivery will be within the next few weeks. The Town provides the first $6,000 and FEMA then provides $120,000. Budget passed so late funds for per diems was not used. Requesting $6,000 of those funds be transferred from Part Time Staff line item #35805101 to the New Equipment line item #35705318.
   1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier noted that this a transfer of funds between line items, so the BoS just needs T. Casey to submit the request in writing.
   
   A motion was made by J. Grabarek and seconded by K. Zachem that the BoS approve line item transfer of $6,000 from Part Time Staff line item #35805101 to the New Equipment line item #35705318, pending receiving T. Casey’s written request.
   All in favor. Motion carries.

   • When the Bond was passed, $40,000 was set aside to replace the rescue truck at Preston City Fire Department.
   • Ford F250 purchase off the State Bid will cost $32,000. Adding lights, lettering, etc. will not exceed $40,000.
   • Preston City will pay for additional add-ons out of their own treasury.
   • Requesting approval from BoS to purchase truck off the State Bid for NTE $40,000.

   A motion was made by J. Grabarek and seconded by K. Zachem to approve the Preston City Fire Department purchasing a Ford F250 pick-up truck from the State Bid for NTE $40,000.
   All in favor. Motion carries.

   • The increase in paid staff has resulted in a big improvement. No longer missing calls, only a
couple of missed transports.

- Hours are still difficult to fill because per diems do have a primary job that they go to first.
- Will be requesting one additional full time firefighter for this year’s budget.

Fire Chief Tom Casey stated that he doesn’t have Social Media and has recently learned there was something on there that wasn’t true. He was told there was discussion about the Fire Chief not allowing Santa Claus on the apparatus. Something about a liability. This is not true. Santa Claus is allowed on the apparatus. No one has ever asked me except for the tree lighting at the Park. Every year since that began, Santa Claus has been transported there on the Fire apparatus.

So whoever told you that I’m the Grinch and that Santa Claus is not allowed on the fire truck, it is untrue. Our insurance covers events like that. There is no prohibition; it is just that no one has ever asked. If someone wants Santa to arrive on the Fire truck all they have to do is call.

2. Fuel Tanks
- Received formal approval to use LoCIP funds for up to $97,700
- In the process of finalizing quotes.
- Might request a waiver from the formal RFP process due to completion time line.
- Met with State regarding the timeline (April 21st).

J. Grabarek stated that at the last BoS meeting he brought up that LoCIP cannot use their funds for Board of Education, however the gas is used by Board of Education. Preston Board of Education pays for the gas. So the Town owns the gas tanks and the Board of Ed uses that gas, but reimburses the Town for it. So this is not a Capital Project for the Board of Education. 1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier noted that she confirmed with the Town’s LoCIP coordinator that there is no problem because of the reimbursement.

3. Library
- Two of the three heating units are working.
- CIRMA will pay for this claim, so the Town is only responsible for the $1,000 deductible.

- Departments have received current budgets with YTD figures and were asked to look at need for the next fiscal year.
- Look at fixed costs versus variable costs.
- Look at future budget years.
- To be completed by February 14th.

5. SCCOG: Resolution Grant Application, Legislative Committee

Resolution Grant Application:
- SCCOG is applying for a grant to use for a Regional Code Enforcement Official, Grant Writer and Human Resources Staff Consultant.
- 22 towns have free use for the 1st year.
SCCOG requested that the towns sign a resolution.

A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to approve the BoS to sign and forward SCCOG’s resolution.
All in favor. Motion carries

Legislative Committee:
The Legislative Committee met with Legislators and asked them to focus on;
1. Education
   ➢ Stability and predictability in budgeting for education and special education and required reporting by Boards of Education.
2. Solid Waste Management/Recycling
   ➢ Support H. B. 7294 “An Act Concerning Bottle Redemption in the State”
   ➢ Direct DEEP to revise recommendations that promote single-stream recycling.
   ➢ Legislation that would allow the use of crushed glass in the constructions of roads, sidewalks and septic systems.
3. Storm Water Management
   ➢ Legislation that would amend Public Act 13-222 to allow municipalities to create municipal stormwater authorities.
4. An Act Concerning Jobs In and Revenue from Gaming Industry
   ➢ To support on-line wagering.
5. Town Hall Security
   • Three companies have been to Town Hall to give quotes on 3 options;
     1. New locks and keys
     2. Battery operated key fob
     3. hard wired system
6. Job Descriptions
   • 1st Selectwoman is 90% through the process of meeting with department heads and discussing job descriptions.

Old Business
None

Tax Refunds
290 Route 2 – Richard D. Barrett
A motion was made by J. Grabarek and seconded by K. Zachem to refund Richard D. Barrett $143.48 for over payment of taxes.
All in favor. Motion carries.
177 Brickyard Road – Cindy Bearden
A motion was made by J. Grabarek and seconded by K. Zachem to refund Cindy Bearden $12.24 for over payment of taxes.
All in favor. Motion carries.
Leased Vehicle – Registration A077283 – Toyota Lease Trust
A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to refund Toyota Lease Trust $288.30 for over payment of taxes.
All in favor. Motion carries.

JD Builders LLC – David G. Ballestrini
A motion was made by J. Grabarek and seconded by K. Zachem to refund David G. Ballestrini $240.07 for over payment of taxes.
All in favor. Motion carries.

156 River Road – Christine L. Fullenlove
A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to refund Christine L. Fullenlove $49.95 for over payment of taxes.
All in favor. Motion carries.

Public Comment
None

Adjournment
A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 pm.
All in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Charpentier
recorder