Preston Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 24, 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
January 10, 2019 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by M. Sinko and seconded by L. Crary to approve the January 10, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.
All in favor. Motion carries.

A motion was made by M. Sinko and seconded by L. Crary to move up Appointments and/or Resignations as next on the agenda.
All in favor. Motion carries.

Appointments and/or Resignations
Appointment: Parks & Recreation – Kimberly Koniecko, Member (1/10/19 – 3/31/21)

1st Selectman Congdon explained that the BOS has a policy to meet new members of Preston’s Boards and Commissions and hear why they’d like to serve.
Kimberly Koniecko stated that she has 3 kids that are 12, 11 and 2. Antonio Farinha sees her often at various Rec. programs and had asked her if she’d be interested in joining Parks & Rec. She liked the idea because her family enjoys the programs so much. She could give back and help to give new ideas.

A motion was made by M. Sinko and seconded by L. Crary to appoint Kimberly Koniecko as a Regular Member of Preston Parks & Recreation Commission for a term of 1/10/19 – 3/31/21.
All in favor. Motion carries.

New Business
1. Avalonia – Tax Abatement Request
1st Selectman Congdon explained that Avalonia does not pay taxes for land owned by them in Preston and they are requesting a tax abatement for property acquired at 96 Brand Road.
1st Selectman Congdon noted that the taxes owned on this property were owed during the time before it was donated to Avalonia, so these taxes are due and payable.
L. Crary asked if the taxes are owed by the previous owner.
1st Selectman Congdon answered yes and explained that the Town has no provisions to waive those taxes.

2. **Long Term Planning – Internship & Professional Practice Program**
   1st Selectman Congdon met with the Mayor of Ledyard, Chief of Police and the Lieutenant and put together some preliminary numbers.
   1st Selectman Congdon averaged two choices and that amount is $500,000 to have police coverage 24/7 365 days a year.
   Resident State trooper’s fringe is going from 100% to 115% with a 3% increase to wages.
   2 Resident State troopers could cost Preston $380,000 with an additional $10,000 in overtime.
   M. Sinko noted that would be $400,000 versus $550,000. For $550,000 Preston has 1 person 24/7.
   L. Crary asked 1st Selectman Congdon to find out exactly how many hours the Resident State troopers are working in Preston.
   1st Selectman Congdon noted that Ledyard would be adding additional support that Preston does not have; a crisis intervention team, marine patrol unit and a juvenile review board.
   1st Selectman Congdon stated the next step would be to have Ledyard come and make a presentation.

3. **Expense Reimbursement Policy**
   A motion was made by M. Sinko and seconded by L. Crary to accept the Expense Reimbursement Policy.
   All in favor. Motion carries.

4. **Roadside Mower Bid**
   L. Crary stated that he did some more research and wrote up what he thought was the best choice.
   A motion was made by M. Sinko and seconded by L. Crary to go out to bid for a flail mower pending L. Cary’s review of the bid specification.
   All in favor. Motion carries.

5. **Budget Workshop Schedule**
   The first Budget Workshop will be held on January 31st at 5:30 pm

6. **Uncas Health District – Board Appointment**
   A motion was made by M. Sinko and seconded by L. Crary to appoint Preston’s 1st Selectman as a Board Member of the Uncas Health District.
   All in favor. Motion carries.

7. **Homeland Security – Authorizing Resolution**
   1st Selectman Congdon explained that Homeland Security distributes funds to Southeastern Connecticut
   
   **RESOLVED**, that the Town of Preston may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and
   
   **FURTHER RESOLVED** that Robert Congdon, as First Selectman of the Town of Preston, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Preston and to do and perform all acts and things which he/she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents
   
   A motion was made by M. Sinko and Seconded by L. Crary to approve the Authorizing Resolution.
   All in favor. Motion carries
8. CIRMA – Stabilization Agreement
1st Selectman Congdon stated that CIRMA is the Workmen’s Compensation and Liability insurance carrier for the Town.
CIRMA offers a 3 year policy where rates are locked in and the policy is up for renewal. They have offered another 3 year with a 10% reduction in Liability Policy and a 3% increase in workers’ Compensation.

A motion was made by M. Sinko and seconded by L. Crary to authorize the 1st Selectman to sign the CIRMA Stabilization Agreement for the next 3 years.
All in favor. Motion carries.

A motion was made by M. Sinko and seconded by L. Crary to add next on the Agenda Impact on Federal Employees Due to Government Shutdown.
All in favor. Motion carries.

Impact on Federal Employees Due to Government Shutdown
Governor Lamont suggested Towns waive interest and penalties on property tax for federal workers not getting paid due to the shutdown and a Bill has been passed that authorizes Boards of Selectmen or Town Councils to offer eligible affected employees waivers on interest of property taxes.

A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by M. Sinko that the Board of Selectmen implements a property tax interest and penalty waiver for Federal employees affected by the shutdown. In compliance with House Bill #5765
All in favor. Motion carries.

Old Business
None

Reports
None

Tax Refunds
1. Hyundai Lease Titling Trust-Leased vehicle-Reg. 870-VSP
A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by M. Sinko to refund Hyundai Lease Titling Trust $384.89 for overpayment of taxes.
All in favor. Motion carries.

2. Phillip J. Krzywicki - 392 Old Jewett city Road
A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by M. Sinko to refund Phillip J. Krzywicki $98.29 for overpayment of taxes.
All in favor. Motion carries.
3. CAB East LLC - Leased Vehicles - Reg. 7AUTM1 & Reg. 7AMXS6
A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by M. Sinko to refund CAB East LLC $347.36 for overpayment of taxes. All in favor. Motion carries.

**Correspondence**

4. Representation letter dated January 17, 2019 from Sandra E. Wellwood, Certified Public Accountant.
5. Report dated January 11, 2019 from Lt Todd Harbeck Commanding Officer Troop E, Montville re: December calls for service.
6. Community Renewal Team (CRT) 2018 Annual report.
8. Personal Communication with Department of Transportation re: Preston has been approved for flashing lights at both Town schools.

**Public Comment**

Nick Negliante, Preston resident stated that the property tax interest and penalty waiver for Federal employees affected by the shutdown was proposed and Preston’s State Representative was 1 of 15 who voted against it in the House and asked if any of the Selectmen had any insight as to why.

L. Crary noted that he’s surprised because Mike France is from the military.

M. Sinko commented that he has a military pension.

Nick Negliante asked if there will be any opportunity to educate the Town on the Town Manager model.

1st Selectman Congdon answered the only way it could happen would be to get buy-in from the public. I would be in favor of having an informational meeting.

Andy Depta, Preston resident noted the January 10th Minutes and asked if the owner reimbursed the Town for replacing their water pump.

1st Selectman Congdon answered that the owner and 1st Selectman Congdon came up with a payment plan. They are a very financially strapped family at this time, but have agreed to sign a payment plan.

Andy Depta noted there was a lot of debris on the road from today’s storm and asked why Public Works was not out roaming the roads and picking up the debris because he saw all the plow trucks parked at the Town garage.

1st Selectman Congdon answered that Public Works was out all day responding to downed trees. They did not use the plow trucks – they were out in pickup trucks and the 450.

**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