

## **PDTC MINUTES**

**Monday, February 27, 2023 @ Preston Town Library**

- 1. Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by Chair Nick Vegliante.**  
**Attending:** Linda Christensen, Teresa Eickel, Jerry Grabarek, Susan Hotchkiss, Melissa Lennon, Sean Nugent, Karen Stockton, Kayla Thompson, Nick Vegliante  
**Excused:** Sandra Allyn-Gauthier, Megan Gallant  
**Absent:** Deborah Grabarek  
**Guest:** Michael Hinton
- 2. Motion to approve January Minutes by Linda Christensen, Second Kayla Thompson, unanimously approved**
- 3. Treasurer's Report by Karen Stockton: \$125.00 expended to VAN contract, leaving \$879.64 balance.**
- 4. New Business**
  - a. 2023 Municipal Elections: Town positions for re-election:**
    - 1. Selectmen**
    - 2. Town Clerk/Tax Collector position currently held by Jill Keith**
    - 3. BOF: no more than 4 positions can be held by any party. Melissa Lennon suggested that Nick clarify with town clerk about rules regarding position filled by highest vote-getter.**
    - 4. BOE: Five positions open for election. (Deb Grabarek planning to run for re-election.)**
    - 5. PZC: Four positions for election.**
    - 6. Other elected town positions include Bd of Assessment Appeals (new re-evaluations), PZC alternate, Zoning Bd of Appeals**
  - b. CT VAN contract renewed**
  - c. Other: none**
- 5. Old Business**
  - a. 2022 Election Results: Nick re-iterated that Dems did very well state-wide. Lamont won 46 more towns than in 2018. Low voter turnout in cities is of concern.**
  - b. Vacancies:**
    - i. P&Z vacancy: Anne Stockton was looking into filling this position.**
    - ii. Current BOE vacancy was to be filled following interviews at upcoming BOE meeting this Wednesday.**
  - c. Other: none**
- 6. Updates from Town Officials (Optional)**
  - a. BoS: Jerry G.: Town hall is running well; Finance director doing great job**
  - b. BoE: Sean N.: Budget work: prospective budget looks to be higher primarily due to salary increases; upcoming collective bargaining by bus drivers and paraprofessionals. Preston is growing. Need reinstatement of building committee. All classrooms are being used. Due to effect of Covid on educational processes, children have more behavioral issues and are behind in learning. Three classes per grade level needed. Megan Gallant is assuming more responsibilities as vice-chair (Sean not running for re-election).**

- c. **BoF: Kayla T.: Finance director has recommended formation of subcommittee to create policies. Using some of the town surplus fund may help to minimize effect on taxpayers by budget increases.**
- d. **PRA: Sean: Committee hopes for activity at site resuming middle of March.**
- e. **P&Z: Teresa E.: Short Term Rentals are current issue of discussion. New Zoning Enforcement officer.**
- f. **Youth Services: Melissa L.: Facing challenges attracting participants to important programs. Mental health programs needed. Developing new programs for adults and kids, parent educational programs.**
- g. **Other: Sean shared regional news that EB plans for 22,000 new hires by 2033 in RI and CT. This presents housing issues in the area.**

**7.State Central Update: current leadership remains; DNC has planned new primary schedule.**

**8. Public Comment: Guest Michael Hinton looking to increase involvement in town activities.**

**9. Motion to Adjourn at 8:12 PM by Linda C; seconded Kayla T. Unanimous.**

**Upcoming Meetings: March 27, 2023**