

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 22, 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

Kimberly Lang - Recording Secretary

Members of the Public - 2

2. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. March 8, 2023 - Special Meeting - Budget Workshop

Ken Zachem motioned to approve March 8, 2023 - Special Meeting - Budget Workshop Minutes as presented. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

b. March 8, 2023 - Regular Meeting

The following correction was noted:

- Under **New Business**, #2 instead of *needs have been discussed with the Board of Finance*; should read *needs were previously discussed with the Board of Finance*.

Ken Zachem motioned to approve March 8, 2023 - Regular Meeting Minutes as amended. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Roberta Charpentier was thanked for her services during Kim Lang's absence.

3. Correspondence - None

4. Reports - None

5. Appointments and/or Resignations

- a. Resignation for Preston Housing Authority Board: Leigh Pappas**

b. Resignation for Preston Parks & Recreation Commission: Roberta Charpentier

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier stated that Leigh Pappas was resigning from the Preston Housing Authority and thanked her for her service; and that Roberta Charpentier resigned from the Parks & Recreation Commission and thanked her for her service.

It was mentioned that the two open positions would be posted on the Town's website and notifications would be sent out to appropriate persons stating that the Housing Authority is looking for a Regular Member and the Parks & Recreation is looking for an Alternate Member.

6. New Business

a. Preston Public Library & Preston Youth Services - Community Garden

Sandra Allyn- Gauthier shared that the Preston Youth Services along with the Preston Library would like to plant a Community Garden on the property near the Preston Library. It is hoped to bring awareness to the community of the nuances of gardening in raised beds. They will be working in collaboration with Dan Williams and local garden centers. The Library will host a Garden Club with talks and activities for youth ages 8-18 from April to October.

Ken Zachem motioned to approve the use of the designated area (between the flagpole and monument by the Library) for the raised bed Community Garden. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

b. Agricultural Forum Update

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier reviewed the highlights of the Agricultural Forum that was held at the Ekonk Grange. Preston partnered with North Stonington, Voluntown, Griswold, and Sterling to bring agencies, legislators, and farmers together to discuss area needs and available opportunities. About 60 people attended the Forum that allowed farmers a chance to learn about programs, funding, and grants that are offered. It also allowed them to network and share their concerns and needs with agencies and legislators that could help solve issues.

c. Grant Update

Ms. Allyn-Gauthier shared the Community Invest Fund which will pay for the engineering fees for Phase 1 and 2 of the Poquetanuck Traffic Calming Project has been selected to move forward to be approved by the Governor; and that it will take 60-90 days to finalize the few remaining steps.

She also shared a spreadsheet that shows the various grants and funding opportunities that the Town has applied for, and at what stage each is at. While reviewing the spreadsheet a few other grants were mentioned that are not on the chart that will be added. It is hoped that eventually this can be posted on the Town's website for citizens to review and be aware of. It

was noted that the Town has applied for a little over 12 million dollars and has received approximately 10 ½ million dollars.

d. Budget & Key Upcoming Dates

The Board then reviewed the 2023-2024 Proposed Budget Planning Calendar. It was noted that the Board of Finance received both the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education budgets by March 14th. The Board of Finance has a Budget Workshops scheduled for March 29th to review the Board of Selectmen budget and one on March 30th to review the Board of Education budget. Barring any unforeseen glitches the budget looks to be on track to go to a referendum between May 18th and May 25th.

7. Old Business - None

8. Tax Refund

- a. Davis, Phillip H. 3rd - 2020-03-0051208 for \$72.74
- b. Davis, Phillip H. 3rd - 2020-03-0051209 for \$51.46
- c. Davis, Phillip H. 3rd - 2021-03-0051215 for \$50.46
- d. Donaldson, John A. 3rd - 2021-03-0051351 for \$7.81
- e. Durand, Ryan M. - 2021-03-0051430 for \$12.04
- f. Frazao, Al & Maryann - 2021-02-0040234 for \$249.87
- g. Pace, Dominic Jr. - 2021-03-0053716 for \$179.49

Ken Zachem motioned to approve a tax refund to:

- h. Davis, Phillip H. 3rd - 2020-03-0051208 for \$72.74
- i. Davis, Phillip H. 3rd - 2020-03-0051209 for \$51.46
- j. Davis, Phillip H. 3rd - 2021-03-0051215 for \$50.46
- k. Donaldson, John A. 3rd - 2021-03-0051351 for \$7.81
- l. Durand, Ryan M. - 2021-03-0051430 for \$12.04
- m. Frazao, Al & Maryann - 2021-02-0040234 for \$249.87
- n. Pace, Dominic Jr. - 2021-03-0053716 for \$179.49

Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

9. Public Comment and Questions

Melissa Lennon, Preston Youth Services, stated that the Community Garden is a joint effort between the Preston Library and the Preston Youth Services. It is hoped to bring awareness to the community of the nuances of gardening in raised beds. The garden will be two 4x8 raised beds that can be moved if need be. Working in collaboration with Dan Williams and local garden centers it is hoped that the garden will be planted in time for Earth Day April 15,

2023. The Library will host a Garden Club with talks and activities for youth ages 8-18 from April to October.

10. Adjournment

Ken Zachem motioned to adjourn at 6:27 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 MAR 28 P 1:44

Jim Keich
PRESTON TOWN CLERK