

**Preston Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 25, 2021
Teleconference Call
7:00 pm**

BoS Present: Sandra Allyn-Gauthier, Jerry Grabarek, Ken Zachem
Also Present: John Spang, Preston Director of Finance
Kathy Warzecha, Preston Town Planner

Call to Order

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

1st Selectwoman Sandra Allyn-Gauthier stated *Per Lamont's Executive Order 7b, Participants are reminded to state your name and title before speaking. Please help us make this conference call as useful as possible by keeping your phone on mute when not speaking. We are keeping the line open to all participants by default, but if background noise becomes a problem, we will mute all participants and ask participants to use "chat" to be selectively unmuted. Also note that we will be recording this meeting to comply with open meeting requirements.*

Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

March 11, Regular Meeting
March 18, Special Meeting

**A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to approve the March 11, 2021 Regular Meeting Meeting minutes as amended.
All in favor. Motion carries**

Page 2, New Business, Budget
Budget of \$4,432,906- \$4,032,906

**A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to approve the March 18, 2021 Special Meeting minutes as presented.
All in favor. Motion carries**

Correspondence

None

Reports

None

Appointments and/or Resignations

SCRRA – Board Appointment

A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to appoint Jim Corley as an alternate member on the SCRRA Board with a 2 year term.

All in favor. Motion carries.

New Business

1. Budget 2021-20222

Plan of Conservation and Development

1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier stated that the BoS has invited Town Planner Kathy Warzecha to clarify the process of the Conservation and Development Plan.

K. Warzecha stated that this will be the 3rd Plan of Conservation and Development that she has worked on for the Town.

- First Plan was done by COG and cost \$50,000 and the 2nd was done “in-house”
- The Commission decided that the next one would also been done “in house” so a request for \$5,000 is being made for additional hours (2 extra hours per week) in order to get the Plan done.
- Surrounding town costs: Kent \$50, 000 Newington \$100,000, Waterford \$100,000 North Stonington (in house) \$25,000
- Not inexpensive but it is required. If the Plan is not done the Town is not eligible for any state funding
- Using interns may not work out unless they are very qualified
- COG could have people available for data collecting and mapping at \$80.00 per hour.
- Will use staff in house. The Planner's assistant will be working on this, she will help proof reading, compile the information for the community survey and investigate different options for mailing the survey.

She will also be forwarding requests put together for the various staff or agencies and she will keep track of all the responses and files and she will make sure everything is organized so we can easily get the information.

She will also make sure that everything that needs to be put on the website gets put on the website which is important because this is a public document and we want public input. So she's going to help me with that.

One of the most difficult things is that she's going to have to format this document using Microsoft Word which is like a nightmare to do and she will have to do that.

So those will be the things we will be using the in house staff for and that's an overview of what's going to be done.

1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier asked back in 2014 I know you did it in house and it took about 15 months to compile that. Do you remember what the cost was back then to do it in house?

K. Warzecha answered I think it was similar. I can't tell you for sure because I can't remember and I

didn't look back. It was probably similar to this.

1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier noted that the cost seems high for an update of something.

K. Warzecha noted that it is a lot of money and Newington and Waterford are paying \$100,000 for updates. The Plan will be cheaper and better if done “in-house”.

Art Moran, Chairman Planning & Zoning stated that the last time K. Warzecha and staff did the POCD, she did a very good job. The \$5,000 the Commission is asking to pay for the POCD for 2 extra hours a week, a Plan that is mandated and allows the Town funding, I think is peanuts compared to Newington. It is just updating, but there has been a lot of change in ten years. I think she deserves to get 2 hours a week extra.

K. Zachem stated that he would like to see what the scope of work is, how many hours you're going to be taking for research, how many hours to design it. When you get an outside firm you get an actual scope of work not just a wish list type deal. There's certain criteria that we have to prove to the tax payer that the money is well spent. We can't just throw out \$5,000 a year.

K. Warzecha answered I can tell you a percentage of it. I can easily say 20% of it will be for research and 20% will be for mapping and 15% for this. . .

It's hard to do because I have to meet with different agencies and I don't know how much time they're going to take.

1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier asked can you give approximates now?

K. Warzecha answered probably 40% will be data, 60% will be meeting with different agencies and staff people. Additional will be additional research. Then next will be getting into the writing of the Plan. The first part of it is going to be mostly research and data collection and interviews with people. That's what will be focused on in the first year.

K. Zachem stated that he is still waiting on an answer if the Planning & Zoning Commission ever voted on the expenditure to pass on to the the BoS.

K. Warzecha answered I think they agreed, but I don't know if they took a formal vote. If you want them to vote on it I can put that on the next agenda

J. Grabarek asked, how much is Bekah going to help.

K. Warzecha answered she's going to have to do proof reading, that is a huge thing. You don't want to have this go out with mistakes in it.

J. Grabarek stated I will say all out funding depends on having a plan of conservation and development. So we're going to have one either way. Either we are going to pay Kathy or we are going to put it out o bid. From what I understand put it out to bid isn't going to be cheap. So I'm on the side of taking it from capital nonrecurring and go the BoF. That's it.

K. Zachem noted that Planning & Zoning has to take a formal vote before the BoS can recommend.

K. Warzecha noted that she will look through the Minutes and if they didn't they will hold a special Meeting .

K. Zachem stated that he would like to reaffirm that the way things were done 10 years ago is not the way he likes to do things. He likes things to be done properly so the tax payers know what is being done.

1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier noted that K. Warzecha will submit a scope of work generically by percentages and the BoS can make a motion contingent on the P&Z having a Special Meeting to conduct a formal vote.

A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to recommend the BoF look at this project for the next three years and finance it through the nonrecurring fund after Planning & Zoning has their vote to approve.

All in favor. Motion carries

Amos Lake Association

1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier stated that the Conservation & Agricultural Commission supports Amos Lake Association in their funding request of \$6494 and Gary Piszczek, Chairman Conservation & Agricultural Commission will ask the BoF to put the request through the CAC.

A motion was made by J. Grabarek and seconded by K. Zachem to recommend that the BoF approve the CAC's request of \$6494 for the Amos Lake Study.

All in favor. Motion carries.

Finalized budget numbers

- \$4,025,036
- Increase from last year \$166,122.54
- 4.3% more
- Increases driven up by
Restoring Public works budget,
Health insurance
Salary increase

A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to approve the 2021-2022 budget as \$4,025,036 pending a Special Meeting if needed, otherwise submitted on or before April 6th.

All in favor. Motion carries.

2. Covid Update

- Executive orders expire midnight of April 19th
- Town Hall and in person meetings will possibly resume ~April 19th

3. Building Official Update

Preston's Building Inspector Kathy LaCombe has resigned.

The Town has an Agreement with SCOGG to use Tom Weber from SCOGG - 4/1 through 6/30. The terms and position will be re-evaluated after June 30th.

T. Weber will be at town Hall on Wednesday Afternoons and all day Friday.

4. Transfer Station Barriers

1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier explained that fencing and barricading needs repair in the back of the Transfer Station.

A motion was made by J. Grabarek and seconded by K. Zachem to transfer \$8,000 from line item 10.5 72.4300.4303.5177 Road Foreman to 10.5.72.4300.4317.5336 Transfer Station Repairs. All in favor. Motion carries.

Old Business

None

Tax Refunds

None

Public Comment

Russ Holland stated that if the BoS is going to ask questions they should ask the volunteers and not the paid staff.

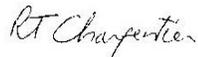
Russ Holland noted that he is still looking for a report from the Treasurer on the ambulance account that he has asked for the past year now.

Adjournment

A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm.

All in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Roberta Charpentier
Preston Recording Secretary