Preston Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, April 9, 2020  
Teleconference Call  
7:00 pm

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

Call to Order
1st Selectwoman Sandra Allyn-Gauthier called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

Roberta Charpentier (recorder) 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 26, 2020 – Regular Meeting
A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to approve the March 26, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.
All in favor. Motion carries.

Correspondence
1. Thank you note from Preston Historical society re: Assistance from Public Works.

Reports
None

Appointments and/or Resignations

A motion was made by J. Grabarek and seconded by K. Zachem to reappoint Gary Deveau as a member of Parks & Recreation Commission with a term of 4/1/2020-3/31/2025.
All in favor. Motion carries.

New Business
1. SCRRRA – Addendum/Ordinance
SCRRRA is requesting an addendum and ordinance from all 12 member towns.
Addendum can be done before the ordinance change with the agreement that the Town will work to have a town meeting to present the ordinance change.
The ordinance change is for the negotiation of tipping fees of solid waste management to Wheelabrator. Currently COVANTA charges $86.00 per ton and they have negotiated with Wheelabrator for $69 per
ton.

J. Grabarek asked if the price is just for this year or for 10 years.
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier answered the price is for 10 years with a built in inflation cap.

A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to approve 1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier signing the addendum.
All in favor. Motion carries

2. Staffing
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier explained that some employees are working remotely and some are still coming in to Town Hall.
Shifts are staggered so employees are all not coming in at the same time.
Discussions have taken place at various Town Halls and SECOG regarding layoffs/furloughs, benefit offers, etc.
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier asked for thoughts on this going forward.
K. Zachem asked if the new rules will address how to handle Public Hearings?
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier answered that she hopes so; they are coming out with new executive orders every day.
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier noted that she will bring this up with SCOG and CCM.

3. Budget
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier stated when the budgets were presented a small increase here and there did not sound so bad, but it ended up being and increase of $173,000 which is almost 4.5% increase.
K. Zachem stated he would like to see a zero increase or below zero (negative) because the Town won't see tax dollars until November.
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier explained that it will be hard to keep it flat because of health insurance and contractual obligations that automatically increase.
J. Grabarek stated that he agrees with K. Zachem on this because his outlook has changed so much in the past couple of weeks.

A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to have a BoS Special Teleconferencing Budget Meeting on April 16th at 6:00 pm.
All in favor. Motion carries.

4. Capital Projects
K. Zachem stated that he would like to put a freeze on all Capital Projects until the end of this fiscal year.
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier stated it would not be a good idea to pull out of things the Town is contractually obligated to.
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier noted that the fire department has already ordered the pumper truck, it is being worked on and scheduled to be delivered in June.
K. Zachem stated we don't know what the future holds, if we put a halt to projects that haven't started, it may cost a few dollars down the road but we have no income coming in 90 days after July 1st.
People aren't going to pay their property taxes because people aren't working. J. Grabarek stated the tax bills don't get paid until November, NFA has to be paid a million bucks in October, so we're going to be borrowing money.

5. Executive Order 7S – Section 6
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier noted that the Town has until the 25th to make a decision as to which option to go with. Town Clerk, Jill Kieth has been collecting information on the different options. One option is to defer the taxes by extending to 90 days and the second option is a low interest rate program of 3% instead of 18% a year, also extended for 90 days.

Old Business
None

Tax Refunds
None

Public Comment
A. Depta, Preston resident noted that executive orders 7S paragraph 7 needs to be looked at by the BoS and the BoF. for some agreement.
A. Depta asked if BoE staff is on furlough.
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier answered that she does believe so but would have to check for confirmation.
A. Depta stated so the schools are closed and everybody is getting paid.
K. Zachem stated the bus drivers too.
Stacey Becker, Preston resident noted that there is a BoE meeting currently taking place and A. Depta might be able to go to that meeting to ask his question.
S. Becker noted that she sent a chart of accounts with the updated actual values for 2019 to the BoS, so they can look at the actuals that were spent for the General Government.

Adjournment
A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 pm.
All in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Charpentier