

**Preston Board of Selectmen  
Special Meeting  
Thursday, April 15, 2021  
Teleconference Call  
7:00 pm**

**BoS Present:** Sandra Allyn-Gauthier, Jerry Grabarek, Ken Zachem  
**Also Present:** John Spang, Preston Director of Finance  
Attorney Duncan Forsyth, Halloran & Sage LLP

**1. 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.*

**2. Public Comment**

Andy Depta, Preston resident stated that the way the Resolution is written, there is no statement in there for a follow up appointment after the first three years. A statement should be added to it. Not to exceed three years, but also after the first three years there will be a follow up appointment by the 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman.

**3. Discussion and possible vote on a Resolution for the adoption of an Ordinance providing for the appointment of a Town Treasurer within 30 days after the November 2, 2021 biennial election for a term not to exceed three years by First Selectman in accordance with the provisions of Section 9-185 of the Connecticut General Statutes and Executive Order 7JJ**

1<sup>st</sup> Selectwoman S. Allyn-Gauthier explained that the State Statute allows for election or appointment of a town treasurer. Municipal fund accounting is different than business or corporate accounting. Towns are governed by governmental accounting standards and the duties of municipal finance officers has become more complex. A level of experience and expertise is needed to comply with regulations and accounting procedures and continue to be accepted by investors that are tied to issuing bonds.

Attorney Duncan Forsyth stated that his firm represents two dozen municipalities in CT and the majority of them have some separate financial officer who is a municipal employee, who oversees the finances of the municipality.

Attorney Forsyth noted that the ordinance certainly implies that the position will continue its appointment in perpetuity, but Mr. Depta does make a fair point.

An amendment can be added to the proposed ordinance so that after the words *biennial election*, additional wording be inserted that states; *and as may be necessary thereafter*,

**A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek that an amendment be added to**

**the proposed ordinance (after the words *biennial election*, additional wording be inserted; *and as may be necessary thereafter*.)**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**A motion was made by J. Grabarek and seconded by K. Zachem to approve the ordinance as amended.**

**All in favor. Motion carries**

#### **4. Public Comment**

Andy Depta thanked the BoS for amending the ordinance.

#### **5. Adjournment**

**A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm.**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,

*RT Charpentier*

**AN ORDINANCE REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF A TOWN TREASURER:**

Within thirty days following the November 2, 2021 biennial election, the First Selectman, after seeking the advice of the remaining members of the Board of Selectmen, shall appoint a Town Treasurer for a term not to exceed three years. Said Treasurer shall perform all duties required pursuant to Chapter 94 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Effective November 1, 2021 any prior Ordinance concerning the election of a Town Treasurer shall be deemed null and void.

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in 1930 and 1931 the General Assembly, passed Special Acts providing for the election of a Town Treasurer in Preston at the biennial election; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut General Statutes now provide for either the election or appointment of a Town Treasurer and such decision is one of local concern; and

WHEREAS, the duties of municipal finance officers have become more complex in recent years requiring professional staff on a regular basis to attend to the financial affairs of the Town of Preston and other municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of a Town Treasurer will allow for greater possibility of continuity in the position of Town Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen believe it is in the best interest of the Town of Preston that, henceforth, the Town Treasurer be an appointive position; and

WHEREAS, time is of the essence to adopt an Ordinance providing for the appointment of a Town Treasurer after the upcoming biennial election in November 2021 in order meet the requirements of Section 9-254 of the Connecticut General Statutes as the list of offices to be filled at the next municipal election must be filed with the Secretary of State no later than May 6, 2021; and

WHEREAS, action by the Board of Selectmen is necessary, in lieu of a Special Town Meeting, in order to permit the orderly operation of the municipality, and there is need to act immediately, and during this period of declared public health and civil preparedness emergency such action is necessary in order to avoid endangering the public health by conducting a Special Town Meeting to adopt this Resolution and any such Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Preston Board of Selectmen in accordance with the Executive Order 7JJ, issued on May 6, 2020, hereby votes, in lieu of a Special Town Meeting, to approve an Ordinance for the appointment of a Town Treasurer subsequent to the November 2021 election and the voiding of any Ordinance providing for the election of said Town Treasurer.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2021.

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Sandra L. Allyn-Gauthier, First Selectman

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Kenneth L. Zachem, Selectman

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Gerald W. Grabarek, Selectman