Preston Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, April 23, 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
April 9, 2020 – Regular Meeting  
April 16, 2020 – Special Meeting Budget Workshop  
A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to approve the April 9, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.  
All in favor. Motion carries.

A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to approve the April 16, 2020 Special Meeting Budget Workshop Minutes as presented.  
All in favor. Motion carries.

Correspondence
1. Report from CT State Police, Troop E re: Troop E responded to 332 calls of service in Preston for the month of March.

Reports
None

Appointments and/or Resignations
None

New Business
1. Budget Line Transfer Request – Fire & Emergency Services

1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier explained that the Fire Department's Vehicle Maintenance line item funds have been depleted due to mechanical failure in three different pieces of apparatus. Fire Chief
Casey has requested a line item transfer to pay for the repairs.

A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to transfer $5,800 from line #3580-0079 Part-Time Staff to line #3570-5329 Fire Departments Vehicle Maintenance. All in favor. Motion carries.

2. Amendment to 2019 Resident Trooper Contract
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier explained that CT General Statute 29-5 prohibits a contract from exceeding a 2 year period. This amendment stated that the end of the contract has changed from June 30, 2022 to June 30, 2021.

A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to approve authorization of 1st Selectwoman Sandra Allyn-Gauthier signing the amendment to 2019 Resident Trooper Contract where the end of the contract has changed from June 30, 2022 to June 30, 2021. All in favor. Motion carries.

3. Executive Order 7S – Section 6
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier explained that there are two programs to choose from. Deferment or low interest rate.

1. The deferment program gives taxpayers 90 days for any taxes that were due from March 10th to July 1st without interest or penalties

2. 90 day low interest rate program reduces the rate from 18% to 3%.

A motion was made by J. Grabarek and seconded by K. Zachem to defer tax payments for the whole Town. All in favor. Motion carries.

4. Budget
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier noted that at their last meeting the BoS determined the budget would come to 3,945,474, a 1.75% increase.

1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier suggested submitting the budget to BoF before May 7th because if necessary, the BoF will allow changes up to May 7th even if it was already submitted.

A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek that the BoS present the budget as is to BoF with adjustments allowed up to May 7th if needed. All in favor. Motion carries.

1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier noted that she will try to get it to the BoF by early next week.

5. Set Special Meeting for April 28 at 6pm
A Special Meeting was scheduled by the BoS.
K. Zachem noted that the BoE minutes showed that MERS was resolved and asked if it was resolved.
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier answered that she will get more information on that.
K. Zachem asked if John Spang has already gone out to bid on fuel and power price lock-in?
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier answered yes.
K. Zachem asked for the status on the Town Garage fuel tanks.
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier answered they will be starting next week.
K. Zachem stated that the transfer of funds by the Board of Ed from Operating to Capital was disappointing to hear.
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier stated she understands what K. Zachem is saying but noted that they do have the authority over their operating budget to make that decision.

Old Business
None

Tax Refunds
None

Public Comment
A. Depta, Preston resident asked what will be the procedure for notification about deferment of taxes. 1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier answered some options are putting it on the web site, Preston Pipeline, Social Media, Everbridge. There will be multiple ways that we'll try to do it.
Bob Congdon, Preston resident recommended that the BoS reinstate funds in the Capital Project line item in the budget. That is the line item where you expend funds for LoCIP projects. For LoCIP projects you have to expend the funds and then seek reimbursement from OPM. I recommend that that line be funded so the Town is able to do LoCIP projects.
Russ Holland, Deputy Fire Chief, Poquetanuck stated that he has a question about the transfer of money from Chief Casey's account. We agreed to pay $75,000 towards salaries. For the first 6 months of this budget year we had $30,000 that wasn't used. We recommended way back that if the money wasn't used it would go back into an account. Last year it didn't, $14,000 was used to pay someone's budget mistakes. This is the 2nd time we've taken from the salaries account to pay for an overage, which wasn't part of the agreement. It was told that we wanted this money to be used strictly for salaries, but we're paying for other stuff. I think it's not there for the Town's use like that and it should be set aside strictly for salaries.
1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier stated I think we should have a conversation with you about this and we will be in touch about it.

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