Preston Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 25, 2019
Preston Town Hall
6:30 pm

BOS Present: Robert Congdon, Lynwood Crary
BOS Excused: Michael Sinko

Call to Order
1st Selectman Congdon called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes
- April 11, 2019 – Regular Meeting

A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by R. Congdon to approve the April 11, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.
All in favor. Motion carries.

New Business
1. Parks & Recreation – Capital Projects
Parks & Recreation Chairman Antonio Farinha
Parks & Recreation Vice Chairman Dan Coley
Parks & Recreation Director Amy Brosnan

A. Farinha stated that the Parks & Recreation (P&R) is looking for assistance with funding of three projects. The basketball court, tennis court and Playscape. The cracks in the tennis courts have been re-filled for the past few years, but they are re-cracking often. The poles are sinking so they are continually being re-dug and put into concrete. The basketball hoops have sunk and the courts are cracked. Received an estimate of $49,000.00 to get both courts repaired. The Playscape is 20 years old and is rusting and breaking. Each replacement piece is costing $300 to $500 each.
D. Coley stated that the metal parts are starting to flake apart and they are rotting. It is going to become a safety issue for small children.
The Playscape Company presented a similar layout with a quote of $91,000.00.
L. Crary asked if the Playscape could be sand blasted and re-painted.
D. Coley answered that would not be feasible. The metal is flaking and coming apart. It is not surface rust.
A. Brosnan stated that one of the slides has a crack in it.
A. Brosnan noted there is a 20 year life cycle for a Playscape, and that’s where we’re at.
D. Coley explained that P&R looked at a lot of different options.
A. Farinha noted that over the years we’ve had to spend whatever money we saved up to take care of something happening at the park, so P&R does not have enough funds available for these projects.
1st Selectman Congdon asked if P&R has any Capital money or fund raising money available to help with this.
A. Farinha answered that P&R has $20,000 in a CD and $10,000 in a Savings Account.
1st Selectman Congdon noted that P&R shouldn’t use it all and asked if $20,000 is a realistic amount for P&R to fund for these projects.
A. Farinha answered yes and P&R will continue to fundraise.
1st Selectman Congdon stated that there is a possibility that LoCIP (Local Capital Improvement Program) money could be used for the tennis courts and the BoF has funds in Capital non-recurring.
1st Selectman Congdon stated he will research the requirements for LoCIP funding.

2. Connecticut’s Admission Tax
1st Selectman Congdon stated that Towns, by Ordinance can have an admission tax, and will find out how many other towns have an admission tax.

3. Budget
BoF reduced the budget by $145,000.00.
$23,000 from Public Works
$32,000 from the Fire Department
$3,000 from the BoF
$17,000 from the Preston Redevelopment Agency
$70,000 from Poquetanuck fire Department was added to revenue

4. Blight
- Cedarcrest Drive and Route 165
- Route 2A
- Tanglewood Drive

5. CME Proposal – Bestway Gas Station
Tabled

A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by R. Congdon to waive on to the agenda Registrar of Voters - Elections
All in favor. Motion carries.

6. Registrar of Voters – Elections
Every voter in Town must be notified that the Polling Place has been moved to Preston Plains School. Post Cards have been sent out. The cost was $1310.00.

A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by R. Congdon to request the Board of Finance appropriate $1310.00 for the Registrar of Voters mailing.
All in favor. Motion carries.
Old Business
None

Reports
None

Appointments and/or Resignations
Resignation – Andy R. Depta – IWWC (term 1/26/17 – 12/32/22

Tax Refunds
1. 29 Tanglewood Drive – Nicolaou A. Connal

A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by R. Congdon to refund Nicolaou A. Connal $123.77 for over payment of taxes.
All in favor. Motion carries.

2. CCAP Auto Lease Ltd. – Leased Vehicle – Reg. AA95133

A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by R. Congdon to refund CCAP Auto Lease Ltd. $24.67 for over payment of taxes.
All in favor. Motion carries.

Correspondence
1. Position: Public Works Maintainer I Department: Public Works Department
2. Transfer Station Conversations with Representative Mike Franc, June 8th, 9:00 to 12:00
4. Norwich Public Utilities re: rates
5. Hocon Gas re: State bid list
6. Coast Guard Museum re: final renderings

Public Comment
Melissa Lennon, Board of Finance Chair stated that last night (April 24th) the Board of Finance made a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to set a Public Hearing on Thursday, May 9th at Preston Plains School at 7:30 pm.

Mike Clancy, Preston resident stated that he attended the BoF meeting on the budget last night and listened to Chief Casey talk. He commends Chief Casey on the job he did. It was a very complete presentation. I was disappointed to hear that we have missed hundreds of calls in this Town due to inadequate staffing levels. I was also very surprised to hear that we have 700 plus calls a year in this Town, I didn’t know we had that many. I think Chief Casey laid out a complete plan. He gave some options of what we could do and also mentioned a SAFER Grant and explained how that would work. When the BoF discussed this I was disappointed to hear one member say “... in this Town if we go any
more than 1 mil increase this budget is going to be turned down”. I want to know what kind of price do we put on public safety in this community? When we have 100 and something calls that are missed because we don’t have the proper staffing. I think it’s incumbent upon the BoF to stand up and tell people what we need in this Town, along with the Board of Selectmen. I think it’s almost criminal. I hate to think that I’d have to call some night for an incident at my house and we don’t have the proper staffing. In December 2018 there was an incident in this Town where they had to wait over an hour for mutual aid to arrive. When the Chief of the Fire Department comes to the meeting and tells you that kind of information and what is needed and all the BoF is worried about is what the Public is going to say. I don’t think you’re doing your job. I would have said, if that’s what the Chief needs, that’s what we’ll put in for and we’re not going to reduce it. If the public wants to come and debate this fine, but I’ll put the Chief in front and let him explain why.

The other thing I’m disappointed about is that with the Board of Selectmen there is no far reaching plan in this Town from an independent Agency that could give direction. Because that costs money. As a tax payer I expect certain things from this community that I’m not going to receive possibly. I think you all have to wake up, what you passed last night to bring to the public, is criminal. Life means a lot more than a few bucks.

A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by R. Congdon to waive Annual Public Hearing for the Budget on to the agenda.
All in favor. Motion carries.

Annual Public Hearing for the Budget
A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by R. Congdon to set a Public Hearing for May 9, 2019 at Preston Plains School at 7:30 pm.
All in Favor. Motion carries

Adjournment
A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by R. Congdon to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 pm.
All in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Charpentier
recorder