

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 26, 2023
Preston Town Hall - Lower Level**

Call to Order - Sandra Allyn-Gauthier called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

1. Roll Call

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier

Jerry Grabarek

Ken Zachem

Also Present

Gary Piszczek - Conservation & Agricultural Commission Chairman

Lynwood Crary - CAC Spokesperson

Kimberly Lang - Recording Secretary

Members of the Public - 1

2. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. April 12, 2023 - Regular Meeting

The following correction was noted:

- Page 2, Grant Update, 4th bullet - SCOG should be SCCOG

Ken Zachem motioned to approve April 12, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Correspondence

a. Letter from Judy Gasperino announcing the National Day of Prayer on May 4, 2023 at 5:30 P.M. to be held at the Preston City Congregational Church and all are welcomed.

b. Letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs requesting a Municipal Representative, it was stated in the letter that each community/municipality should have a designated veteran representative.

After a brief discussion of what the role would entail it was suggested in order to find a representative to forward the information to the Preston VFW.

c. Letter from the CT Judicial Branch, Office of Victim Services, designating April 23-29 as National Crime Victims Rights Week to create awareness and to promote services available to help victims.

4. Reports - None

5. Appointments and/or Resignations

a. Resignation of Amy Brosnan: Parks and Recreation Director

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier stated that Amy Brosnan is taking on a new career in a new direction after serving the Town for 11 years as the Parks and Recreation Director; she has also served the Town for over 20 years in various positions. Amy shared that her proudest moment was coordinating a playscape build on a weekend during the pandemic that brought together over 60 Preston residents to complete the task for the benefit of the children of the Town.

Ms. Brosnan has agreed to help through the transitional period in the evenings and weekends. It is important to her that the programs and Department continue successfully.

It was noted that the Town is grateful for Amy's many years of service and her tireless efforts and devotion to programs and activities that engaged children of all ages.

Ken Zachem waived onto the agenda an appointment to the Preston Housing Authority. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier stated that the Preston Housing Authority is requesting that Maureen Domina be reappointed for a 5-year term from May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2028.

Jerry Grabarek motioned to approve Maureen Domina for a reappointment of a 5-year term from May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2028 to the Preston Housing Authority. Ken Zachem seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

6. New Business

a. Draft Ordinances

1. Additional 100K Exemption for Farm Machinery

Lynwood Crary representing the Conservation and Agricultural Commission shared with the Board the State Statutes concerning Farm Machinery Tax Exemptions. He explained that the State increased the tax exemption in 2001 to \$200,000, however, the Town did not. He shared that there are over 25 municipalities, many neighboring towns, that have adopted the additional \$100,000 exemption that the State allows as of 2001. The CAC is requesting that the Town of Preston adopt an Ordinance that allows for the \$200,000 Farm Machinery Exemption. Mr. Crary also shared a worksheet that showed the financial impact on the Town with this tax exemption.

The Conservation & Agricultural Commission is proposing that the Town apply the second \$100,000 tax exemption that the State allows, to assist farming within the Town.

It was then stated that the process would be the approval from the Board of Selectmen to present to the Board of Finance, who would need to approve due to the financial impact on the Town, and then it would move forward to a Special Town Meeting in June.

Ken Zachem motioned to move the Additional 100K Exemption for Farm Machinery Ordinance onto the Board of Finance. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

2. Right to Farm

Lynwood Crary went on to explain the second Ordinance that the CAC is endorsing, Town of Preston Right to Farm Ordinance. He explained that the Ordinance is allowed by State Statutes. By having a Town Ordinance it shows that the Town understands and appreciates the farms and sees their importance in the community. With the help of Joan Nichols, President of the Connecticut Farm Bureau, they were able to compose the Ordinance using samples from Lebanon and Colchester.

It was noted that the Ordinance had one error, it should read the Commissioner of Agriculture not the Commission of Agriculture.

Jerry Grabarek motioned to approve the Right to Farm Ordinance to be moved to a Special Town Meeting in June on a date to be determined. Ken Zachem seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

b. Budget & Key Upcoming Dates

1. Draft Legal Notice for Annual Town Meeting

The Board was reminded that the Board of Finance's Public Hearing was tomorrow evening at 7:30 P.M. at Preston Veterans Memorial School. And depending on what transpires at their Public Hearing and their Special Meeting afterwards the Annual Town Meeting is slated for Thursday May 11, 2023, which would put the Referendum on Wednesday May 25, 2023.

After a brief discussion it was decided that the Annual Town Meeting would be at 7:00 P.M. at Preston Veterans Memorial School on Thursday May 11, 2023. Sandra Allyn-Gauthier will send out the Everbridge announcement ahead of time. The draft template was reviewed by the Board and they discussed the options of either approving the template to be filled in after tomorrow's meeting or having a Special Meeting next Wednesday May 3, 2023 to fill in the information.

Jerry Grabarek approved the template as presented and have a Special Meeting if necessary after tomorrow's Board of Finance Public Hearing. Ken Zachem seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

7. Old Business - None

8. Tax Refund

- a. Toyota Lease Trust - 2021-03-0055058 - \$7.64
- b. Toyota Lease Trust - 2021-03-0055058 - \$353.66
- c. Toyota Lease Trust - 2021-03-0055058 - \$373.65
- d. Toyota Lease Trust - 2021-03-0055058 - \$285.11

Ken Zachem motioned to approve a tax refund to:

- e. *Toyota Lease Trust - 2021-03-0055058 - \$7.64*
- f. *Toyota Lease Trust - 2021-03-0055058 - \$353.66*
- g. *Toyota Lease Trust - 2021-03-0055058 - \$373.65*
- h. *Toyota Lease Trust - 2021-03-0055058 - \$285.11*

Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

9. Public Comment and Questions - None

10. Adjournment

Ken Zachem motioned to adjourn at 6:30 P.M.. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Lang

Recording Secretary

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Jim Keith
PRESTON TOWN CLERK