

**Preston Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 13, 2021
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 7:00 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.*

Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

February 25., Regular Meeting
April 22, 2021 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by J. Grabarek and seconded by K. Zachem to approve the February 22, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes as amended.

All in favor. Motion carries

A motion was made by J. Grabarek and seconded by K. Zachem to appoint Zachary ~~Boucher~~ Robinson as a Youth Representative on the Youth Services Bureau. All in favor. Motion carries.

A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by S. Allyn-Gauthier to approve the April 22, 2021 Regular Meeting Meeting minutes as presented.

All in favor. Motion carries

Correspondence

- a) Letter dated April 21st from Jennifer Harris to Preston BoS and BoF re: Support For Additional Paid Emergency Services Staffing.
- b) Letter from Jarred Harris, Deputy Chief PCVD to BoS re: Support For Additional Paid Emergency Services Staffing.
- c) Letter dated April 17th from Preston Emergency Services Advisory Committee to BoS re: The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.
- d) Report from Lt. John Ceruti, Commanding Officer Connecticut State Police, Troop E Montville to 1st Selectwoman Sandra Allyn-Gauthier re: 195 Calls of Service to the Town of Preston during the month of April.

Reports

None

Appointments and/or Resignations

1. Resignation: Parks & Recreation – Paul LoPresti, Patricia Jankowski

A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to regretfully accept the resignation of Paul LoPresti.

All in favor. Motion carries.

2. Appointment: Youth Service Bureau Advisory Board – Kasey Peek

Kasey Peek stated that she has lived in Preston for 19 years, was president of the PTO and currently works at Franklin elementary school.

A motion was made by J. Grabarek and seconded by K. Zachem to appoint Kasey Peek as a member of the Youth Service Bureau Advisory Board with a term through 12/31/2024.

All in favor. Motion carries.

3. Resignation: Youth Service Bureau Advisory Board – Dr. Roy Seitsinger

A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to regretfully accept the resignation of Dr. Roy Seitsinger

All in favor. Motion carries.

A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to amend the agenda by by moving Waiver of Conflict/Covanta SE Conn- Shipman & Goodwin from #3 to #1 under New Business.

All in favor. Motion carries.

New Business

1. Waiver of Conflict/Covanta SE Conn- Shipman & Goodwin

Sean Nugent, Chairman PRA stated that Covanta is upgrading their system and has has to monitor water level changes including on Riverwalk property because there is linkage with the water tables. In order to allow Covanta to monitor on the property, an Agreement needs to be set up. Shipman & Goodwin represent Covanta in other areas so a waiver is needed in order for Shipman & Goodwin to be allowed to perform their usual duties for the PRA.

A motion was made by J. Grabarek and seconded by K. Zachem to approve the Waiver of Conflict between Covanta and Shipman & Goodwin.

All in favor. Motion carries.

2. Bid Waiver Requests: Public Works – Milling & Paving of Savage Road; Tree Trimming

Jim Corley, Public Works Manager stated road resurfacing funds will be used this year to mill and pave Savage Road by Charles Pasteryak.

A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to approve the bid waiver for Savage Road.

All in favor. Motion carries.

J. Corley stated that a lot of trees in Preston need attention. Tennett Tree Service, Inc. will be brought in for 5 days at a daily rate of \$1,485.

A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to approve tree trimming throughout the Town of all the dead trees.

All in favor. Motion carries.

3. School Bus Bid Recommendations & Award

John Spang, Director of Finance explained that the school busses are gradually being replaced and the old busses are being sold. The last of four 2006 and a 1985 bus went out to bid.

A motion was made by J. Grabarek and seconded by K. Zachem to award the sale of the 2006s to Maria Lopes for \$5600 and the 1985 to Connecticut Scrap for \$1,000.

All in favor. Motion carries.

4. Budget Update & Timelines

1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier noted that the BoF had a budget workshop. It was cut by \$3,900 so the over all budget is \$4,021,136.00 which will move forward to a Public Hearing.

All COVID safety protocols will be practiced.

A motion was made by J. Grabarek and seconded by K. Zachem to set a Public Hearing for May 20, 2021 at 7:30 pm at Preston Plains Middle School, Route 164 in Preston

All ion favor. Motion carries.

5. Covid Update

- Some restrictions will be lifted May 19
- 71% of adults have had their first dose
- 12 to 15 age group will now be vaccinated
- In person meetings will be permitted
- Preston Meetings to be held in lower level of Town Hall, School and/or Fire House

A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to keep meetings virtual through the month of May to give time to digest the guidance from Uncas Health and the CDC and then have in person meetings resume and Town Hall re-open to the public on June 1st.

All in favor. Motion carries.

1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier stated that CCM is offering webinars at the end of May on using American Rescue Funds.

6. Strategic Planning Update

1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier noted that Strategic Planning will be revisited now that everything is opening up.

- Five year plan
- Vision, mission, values
- Evaluate strengths and threats of departments
- Look at culture and climate of departments
- Serving the community
- How do stake holders feel about culture and climate
- Overview of process and policies
- Strength and weaknesses of staff and job descriptions
- Cost savings and efficiencies

Old Business

None

Tax Refunds

ACAR Leasing – List #2019-03-0050038

A motion was made by J. Grabarek and seconded by K. Zachem to refund ACAR Leasing \$537.73 for over payment of taxes.

All in favor. Motion carries.

Public Comment

Andy Depta, Preston resident suggested the Strategic Plan be accomplished in conjunction with the Plan of Conservation and Development.

Adjournment

A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 pm.

All in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Roberta Charpentier
Preston Recording Secretary