

**Preston Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday August 12, 2021
Preston Town Hall - Lower Level**

Call to Order - Sandra Allyn-Gauthier called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

1. Roll Call

Members

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier

Kenneth Zachem

Gerald Grabarek

Also Present

Sean Nugent - PRA

2. Approval of Minutes

a. BoS Regular Meeting of July 22, 2021

Jerry Grabarek motioned to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2021. Ken Zachem seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Correspondence

- CT Municipal Employees Retirement System - Affidavit of Compliance

Sandra Allyn- Gauthier stated that the Affidavit needed to be signed and returned to the CT Municipal Employees Retirement System stating that Preston is in compliance with their regulations that all eligible employees are enrolled and they are not in another plan. It was decided that she should sign and return the document.

- Willimantic Waste Acquired by Casella Waste System

It was shared that Willimantic Waste has changed ownership. According to the letter received, customers will see few changes from Casella Waste Systems, the company that acquired Willimantic Waste.

4. Reports - none were shared

5. Appointments and/or Resignations

- a. **Resignation: Zoning Board of Appeals - Jerry Morales**
- b. **Resignation: Inland/Wetlands Commission - Jerry Morales**

Sandra Allyn- Gauthier shared that Jerry Morales is relocating from the area and therefore has resigned from his positions in town. She stated that she will have his vacancies posted on the town's website and contact both political party's chairman about the vacancies. She also noted that Jerry Morales should be thanked for his many years of service to the town.

6. New Business

a. Covanta, Fuss, & O'Neill Site Access Agreement

Sean Nugent shared that they will be testing on the River Walk site. He shared a map of the area with Board members pointing out the parcels that will be involved. Because the company is drilling two wells on the property for a cooling system they need to test the ground ponds that are located on the property and note any changes in the water levels. There will be no clearing of vegetation during the assessment of the water and the data collected will be available to the town of Preston to review. The water assessment work will begin August 23rd and should take about a month.

Ken Zachem motion to approve the Covanta Access Agreement for their water diversion study permit by Fuss & O'Neill and to authorize First Selectwoman Sandra Allyn-Gauthier to sign the agreement on behalf of the town. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

b. Southeastern CT Water Authority (SCWA) - Representative Advisory Board Appointments

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared that the town needs to appoint 2 representatives to the SCWA Advisory Board for a 2 year term. They need to appoint one democrat and one republican. The Board meets the third Thursday of the month and meets quarterly during the year in Jan., Apr., Jul., and Oct.. She noted that one of the present representatives is Jerry Morales. She will reach out to the other present representative to see if he's interested in continuing in that capacity otherwise the group needs to seek out 2 new representatives for the Advisory Board.

c. Covid Update

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared Preston's vaccination rate statistics with the members. As of August 5, 2021 60% of adults have received at least the first dose; and only 57% are fully vaccinated. She stated it's not where we liked to be, thus it's prudent to continue wearing masks in the Town Hall and other public buildings. She didn't feel that a town wide ordinance would be needed like some other towns have done. Uncas Health continues to share information daily, and have suggested mobile vaccination sites in conjunction with other town events might increase the town's vaccination rate.

Ken Zachem waived the Fire Department's Chief applications onto the agenda. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier stated that the application deadline was August 11th at noon, and that 16 applications were received. The next step is to review the application to ensure that the applicants are qualified for the position. This will occur at a Special Meeting of the Emergency

Services Advisory Committee on Monday August 16th. At that meeting it will be determined which candidates move onto the Fire Chief Oral Board which consists of 3 Fire Chiefs from around the state. The Board is made up of Chief William Seward of North Branford; Jack Casner of Cheshire; and Michael Howley of Waterford Fire Service. They will interview the applicants between Sept. 1st and 8th asking them all the same questions to evaluate their answers. They will then narrow the field down to 3-5 and they will move onto the next level.

7. Old Business - There was none at this time.

8. Tax Refund - There were none at this time.

9. Public Comment and Questions

Sean Nugent asked if Uncas Health has asked for 1% of the ARP (American Rescue Plan) money. Sandra Allyn-Gauthier stated that that request has just been brought up and will be discussed.

Jerry Grabarek asked about the school paving project. Sean Nugent shared that they have removed the fencing and have completed the leveling and grading and that paving would begin tomorrow (Aug. 13).

10. Adjournment

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier motioned to adjourn at 7:26 P.M. Ken Zachem seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Lang

Recording Secretary