

**Preston Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 24, 2018
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

**May 10, 2018 Regular Meeting
May 18, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes**

**A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by R. Congdon to approve the May 10, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes and May 18, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes as presented.
All in favor. Motion carries**

**A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by R. Congdon to amend the agenda by moving up Old Business, Housing Authority – Tax Abatement next on the agenda.
All in favor. Motion carries**

Housing Authority – Tax Abatement

Sara Vegliante, Housing Authority Secretary

Sara Vegliante explained that in past years the Town has done a tax abatement for the Housing Authority for \$5500.00 X 2; January and July.

- Each grant the Housing Authority receives has a ~\$20,000 price tag that is not covered under the grant.
- CHFA Asset Manager informed the Housing Authority it should stop expecting any help from the State with grants going forward.
- A recent quote for new kitchen faucets was \$14,000.00. Even small items x 40 adds up really fast.

The Housing authority is asking the Town to consider another tax abatement for this coming year.

1st Selectman Congdon stated that when the Housing Authority was first formed the PILOT payment was 10% of the rents, in 1992 it was reduced to 8%. The Town then abated it totally for 3 years.

1st Selectman Congdon stated that his recommendation is go to the Board of Finance and suggest adjusting the Housing Authority PILOT to 4% rather than 8%.

If you then get a grant where you require a \$20,000 co-pay, we can always address those on an issue by issue basis.

**A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by R. Congdon that the BoS recommend the BoF adjust the Preston Housing Authority's PILOT payment to 4% from 8%.
All in favor. Motion carries**

New Business

1. Budget 2018-2019 – BoF Budget Cuts

1st Selectman Congdon stated that the BoF cut the General Government Budget \$120,003.00.

1st Selectman Congdon noted that the BoF wanted wages cut from 3% to 2%;

1st Selectman Congdon explained that the commercial haulers are charged for their tipping fees; it is not known what will be coming to the Transfer Station and what is going to get picked up by commercial haulers. This has been consistently over budgeted by ~\$50,000 and returned to the Town every year.

- Wages cut to 2% - \$14,839.00.
- PRA cut - \$20,000.00
- Transfer Station fees cut - \$40,000.00
- Cut the 2nd Resident State Trooper - \$45,164.00

1st Selectman Congdon noted that Preston's budget is 2 million dollars less than North Stonington and they are the same size. Preston has been frugal for so long, people keep expecting it.

L. Crary stated residents should read the double A+ bonding report.

1st Selectman Congdon noted that it was pretty impressive.

1st Selectman Congdon noted that Ledyard just overwhelmingly passed their budget with a mil rate 12 to 15 points higher than Preston.

Sara Vegliante stated regarding the resident trooper, some of the residents at Lincoln Park are mentally disabled. There was a situation where a mentally disabled tenant had an altercation with another tenant. The police came and it was not one of Preston's resident troopers, so the trooper did not know anything about this tenant or his disability. The tenant ended getting brutally beat up by the trooper. Our state troopers know all the residents at Lincoln Park, they are there a lot and know there are some with mental disabilities. If one of our state troopers was on at the time, the situation would have been dealt with differently.

1st Selectman Congdon agreed and noted there is real value to community policing.

1st Selectman Congdon stated that he thinks the budget is more than frugal keeping the 2 resident troopers and the library. I would hate to see the library cut, but residents can go to a library in Ledyard or North Stonington.

Sara Vegliante stated she would like to see the library do more fund raising.

Mike Clancy suggested the BoF use money from unfunded surplus.

1st Selectman Congdon explained that tonight, by law, the BoS has to have a line item budget that shows \$120,003 worth of cuts. We don't have the option to go back to the BoF and see if we can reduce the \$120,003.00.

A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by R. Congdon to reduce the General Government budget by;

- **Wages cut to 2% - \$14,839.00.**
- **PRA cut - \$20,000.00**
- **Transfer Station fees cut - \$40,000.00**
- **Cut the 2nd Resident State Trooper - \$45,164.00**

All in favor. Motion carries

Sean Nugent, Chairman Preston Redevelopment Agency stated for the record, I know you did what you had to do, but from a PRA perspective, we feel harmed by it.

2. Schedule Annual Town Meeting

A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by R. Congdon to approve the Notice Of Annual Town Meeting as amended.

All in favor. Motion carries

**TOWN OF PRESTON
NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TO BE HELD
THURSDAY, May 31, 2018
And REFERENDUM, TUESDAY, June 12, 2018**

The Annual Town Meeting of the electors & citizens qualified to vote in Town Meetings of the Town of Preston will be held at the Preston Veterans Memorial School on Thursday, May 31st, 2018 @ 7:45 pm. for the following purposes:

1. To act on and to adopt the expenditure budget of the Board of Education for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 in the amount of \$11,926,804.00 as recommended by the Board of Finance.

2. To act on and to adopt the expenditure budget of the General Government for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, in the amount of \$3,496,000.00 as recommended by the Board of Finance.

3. To act on and to adopt the Revenues Budget, including any revenue from the Mohegan/Mashantucket Pequot Slot Grant, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, as recommended by the Board of Finance.

4. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend the greater of \$199,569.00 or the amount granted to the Town by the State of Connecticut, plus interest, on the Town Aid Road Account, upon receipt of such funds from the State of Connecticut, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

6. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend the greater of \$51,631.00 or the amount granted to the Town by the State of Connecticut, plus interest, on the Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) Account, upon receipt of such Funds from the State of Connecticut, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

7. To ratify and authorize the Treasurer to expend; \$307,200.00 for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 to pay debt service on the School Construction Bonds approved at the June 8th, 1999 Referendum; \$134,000.00 to pay debt service on Capital Projects approved at the September 21st, 2004 Referendum; \$116,033 to pay debt service on the Preston Riverwalk Project approved at the December 18th, 2012 Referendum, \$138,470 to pay debt service on the Five-Year Capital Projects Plan approved at the April 23rd, 2013 Referendum and \$79,196 to pay debt service on the Five-Year Capital Projects Plan approved at the February 6th, 2018 Referendum (Total \$774,879).

8. To adopt the following Resolution:

Resolved, that upon recommendation of the Board of Finance, that the Board of Selectmen and Treasurer are authorized, pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes, to borrow upon the note or notes of the Town, such sums in such manner as in their judgment shall be required to pay expenses and obligations of the Town for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, in anticipation of the receipt of tax collections, water rents or charges, or any federal or state grants with respect to a project or program.

*Pursuant to the Town Ordinance adopted on May 16, 1995, Items 1 and 2 of the Call of the Meeting will be put to a machine or paper ballot **Referendum** vote to be held at the Preston Town Hall on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 from 12:00 Noon to 8:00 PM, unless the Annual Town Meeting votes to open the polls for voting on the questions at a time earlier than 12:00 PM (Noon) but not earlier than 6:00 AM. Absentee Ballots will be available at the Town Clerk's Office.*

Copies of the Proposed Budgets are available at the Preston Town Hall, Library, Preston Veterans Memorial School and on the website at www.preston-ct.org.

Dated @ Preston, CT this 24th Day of May, 2018.

Robert Congdon

Lynwood Crary

Michael Sinko

First Selectman

Selectman

Selectman

3. Blight Ordinance – Process

Tabled

Appointments and/or Resignations

None

Old Business

1. Housing Authority – Tax Abatement

Moved up on the agenda

2. Bonding

Went out to Bond;

- Capital Projects
- Refinance the PRA Note
- Call the 2013 Notes

Came in ~\$100,000 lower than what was budgeted for Bonding costs.

3. Public Works - Loader

L. Crary discussed his comparative research of the two loaders

Tabled in order to look at warranties

A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by R. Congdon to waive St. James Episcopal Church on to the agenda.

All in favor. Motion carries.

4. St. James Episcopal Church

A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by R. Congdon to approve a road closure on June 28th at School House Road between 6:55 and 8:00 pm for the 27th Liz Harris Cannonball Run.

All in Favor. Motion carries.

Reports

None

Tax Refunds

None

Correspondence

1. Report dated May 9, 2018 from Connecticut Department of Energy & Protection re: Norwich State Hospital Pond Dam.

2. Letter dated May 17 2018 from S & P Global Ratings re: S&P Global Ratings has assigned a rating of "AA+"

Public Comment

Andy Depta, Preston resident asked 1st Selectman Congdon if the statement in the 1st Selectman's Pipe Line article, "We can no longer kick the fiscal can down the road", was his statement.

1st Selectman Congdon answered yes

A. Depta asked what he meant by that.

1st Selectman Congdon answered go read the report on fiscal stability. I think they outline what we've been doing in the state of Connecticut and the fiscal mess we're in, and we can't continue doing business as we've always done business.

Mike Clancy, Preston resident stated that this Town over the years has been so fiscally sound and frugal in the way they do something that everyone expects it and we just can't do it. With that said, regarding policing, I think we have to look at other alternatives because it's becoming expensive the way that policing is right now.

Sean Nugent, Preston resident stated he was surprised there was nothing in the Call of the Meeting about having a vote on whether we retain a 2nd State Trooper permanently. I was wondering, was there any discussion about adding a question on the state Trooper

1st Selectman Congdon answered we had discussed it. The BoF did not request to put it in. It certainly something we can discuss at the annual Town Meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by R. Congdon to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 pm.

All in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Charpentier
recorder