

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 25, 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

Kimberly Lang - Recording Secretary

2. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

- **January 11, 2023 - Regular Meeting**

The following corrections were noted:

→ Page 3, 4th paragraph, 5th line the word *received* (twice) should be *solicited*.

***Ken Zachem motioned to approve Regular Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2023 as amended.
Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.***

3. Correspondence - None

4. Reports - None

5. Appointments and/or Resignations - None

6. New Business

a. Budget Proposed - Budget Workshop Calendar

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared a proposed calendar of Budget Workshops that could be held throughout the month of February and the first week in March on Wednesdays at 5:00 PM, and March 8th if necessary. The group agreed that the proposed Budget Workshop calendar was conducive to all concerned.

It was shared that the HR study has all the internal interviews done, job descriptions are in their final review, and that the next step is the salary range; which will hopefully be completed soon so that there is ample time to review and discuss salaries.

b. SolarUpdate

Ms. Allyn-Gauthier shared the information acquired from the webinar with Green Bank. Green Bank looks for energy efficient projects and offers quite a bit of support and feasibility work; and if the project moves forward they help with the bidding process to ensure the best cost effective system is installed. After the Town provides them with the addresses of various properties to be considered, they will do a remote analysis of the feasibility of solar use for the Town on either roofs or solar farms.

It was shared that there are special incentives through the State right now. The Town will have the options to buy the system or a power purchase agreement (lease). If the system is leased then Green Bank owns the hardware, pays all the upfront cost, and maintains and services the system. The solar units have a 20-25 year life span so there is usually a 20 year agreement. The benefits to the Town include: locking into an agreed rate for a long period of time, the tax benefits that the company receives are passed onto the Town, and electricity is obtained in a more environmentally friendly way. All of the data obtained through the remote analysis is free to the Town, therefore it's worth getting the information so enlightened decisions can be made.

c. State/Federal Bridge Program Update

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared that Cooktown Road and Park Road bridge projects had a webinar planning meeting before Christmas where all the documents were reviewed and the Town's obligations were online for the projects to move forward. She shared the agreement between the Town and the State included: the need to notify abutters; the Town to provide press releases which would need to be sent to area legislators and agencies; and the need to hold Public Hearings for *each* bridge project. It was shared that a representative from DOT will attend each Public Hearing. It was mentioned that one Public Hearing could be held back to back on the same evening with one occurring at 7:00 PM and the other at 8:00 PM. It was also mentioned that the Town would be allowed to be part of the design phase.

The Agreement that needs to be signed is about 16 pages long, and Ms. Allyn-Gauthier is still reviewing the document and shared several points in the Agreement that she will ask about before signing.

7. Old Business - None

8. Tax Refund

- a. Ronald P. Coleman - 2020-03-0050943 for \$41.94
- b. Benjamin J. Oddo and Alexa Chebro - 2021-03-0053629 for \$85.03
- c. Ward Terry W. & Deborah V. - 2016-01-0002165 for \$36.00
- d. Ward Terry W. & Deborah V. - 2017-01-0002165 for \$39.04

e. Ward Terry W. & Deborah V. - 2018-01-0002165 for \$39.64

Jerry Grabarek motioned to refund:

- **Ronald P. Coleman - 2020-03-0050943 for \$41.94**
- **Benjamin J. Oddo and Alexa Chebro - 2021-03-0053629 for \$85.03**
- **Ward Terry W. & Deborah V. - 2016-01-0002165 for \$36.00**
- **Ward Terry W. & Deborah V. - 2017-01-0002165 for \$39.04**
- **Ward Terry W. & Deborah V. - 2018-01-0002165 for \$39.64**

Ken Zachem seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

10. Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Lang

Recording Secretary

RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT PRESTON, CT

On 1/31/2023 At 11:19 a.m.

Attest: Jill E. Keith, Town Clerk