

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 27, 2022
Preston Town Hall - Lower Level**

1. Call to Order

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Members

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier

Ken Zachem - excused

Jerry Grabarek

Also Present

Kimberly Lang, Recorder

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular Meeting Minutes dated January 13, 2022

The following corrections were made:

- Page 2, item #7, third line abetted should be abated
- Page 2, last paragraph, second sentence should start - If approved
- Page 2, last paragraph, CERMA is with an I not an E - CIRMA
- Page 2, second sentence, after 25% add - unless less a liability

Jerry Grabarek motioned to approve the January 13, 2022 Minutes as amended. Sandra Allyn-Gauthier seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Correspondence

- ➔ DOT to the Local Road Network - Form ENG-029 and Local HPMS Surface Improvement Data - This needs to be completed by February 18, 2022. Jim Corely will complete the yearly updated form. If there are no changes it will be submitted. If there are changes it will be brought back for a review.
- ➔ BoE - Vacancy - Notification from the Board of Education of the vacancy left by Tom Turner's passing. His passing is a great loss to his family and to the town of Preston. His years of service and dedication to the town will be sorely missed. Thoughts and prayers go out to his family and close friends.

5. Reports - None shared

6. Appointments and /or Resignations - none

7. New Business

1. SCCOG and CCM's Legislative Agendas

Both SCCOG and CCM work collectively on legislative agendas that they'll promote in the upcoming short session. Sandra Allyn-Gauthier first shared SCCOG's legislative agenda pointing three high priority areas:

- Legislation to assist municipalities to have stable and predictable Special Education costs and that funds follow a student until the end of the fiscal year when they move school districts and to allow towns to adjust their MBR when major changes occur.
- Solid waste management and recycling - Hoping that DEEP will change it's guidance for mix single stream recycle, which is no longer viable in the global market, it is less valuable in today's market. One major push is to promote the use of crushed glass in roads, sidewalks, and septic systems; right now it's only approved use is for landfill covers. There are few landfills left so to allow other uses would significantly reduce the volume of waste going into landfills and generate revenue. It is hoped that DEEP will develop a timeline specific to this use, which would help create a market for the crush glass.
- Zoning Enforcement Officer 2023 extension - ZEOs will need to be certified by January 1, 2023 an extension would allow enough time for all ZEOs in the state to comply with this mandate. Also within the realm of Zoning it is hoped that the state will provide guidelines to ensure safe, responsible short term rentals regulations.

SCCOG has a meeting with the legislators on Feb. 8, 2022 to further discuss their priorities.

As for CCM their agenda is a bit more involved, areas that are pertinent to Preston are the following:

- No harm to municipalities by changes to state aid - in particular Educational Cost Sharing, PILOT Program, and LoCIP fundings, also no additional burden to towns with new property tax exemptions. Legislation to create incentives for municipalities to expand shared and regional services.
- PA 490 Farm Land - look to see that it continues to meet its goal; that it remains fair and equitable; municipalities are being compensated for lands within the program; and still being used for the original purpose.

- Education - State Bonds which cover a variety of costs - regional schools, special education cost, HVAC and air quality systems, Social and emotional health, and youth employment opportunities
- Municipal law liability and insurance to prevent municipalities from damages from individuals engaging in activities on town property
- Legislation to support no excuse absentee voting
- Legislation to allow posting legal notices online rather than in newspapers
- Human Services - It is hoped that there will be legislation providing adequate funding for local health service. Also with regards to the opioid crisis having adequate access to substance abuse and recovery programs. It is hoped that a greater portion of funds be spent on drug awareness and prevention.
- Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, TIC, looking for legislation to ensure sustainability of programs such as TAR and LoCIP through increased allocations rather than creating new programs.

2. Budget Preparation 2022-2023

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared that all Boards and Commissions are to submit their budgets by Friday Jan. 28, 2022. She shared that CCM general wages negotiation average increase is 2.31%. As far as insurance, Kevin Limbo of the Partnership Plan sees an 8% increase in coverage costs. Other items to consider when putting together the budget are: SECTOR \$1,676; Norwich Probate \$3,529.68; Sexual Assault \$300; Safe Futures \$300.

It was decided that the Board of Selectmen will hold Budget Workshops on both February 10th and 24th at 6:00 P.M.

3. Capital Planning

Capital Planning continues. Keith Wucik has shared with the First Selectwoman that the Fire Department is in need of the following:

- Bunker gear - which can be purchasing a few sets per year
- New Fire Chief vehicle at a cost of \$51,000
- Replace 5" supply hose at a cost of \$45,000
- A rescue boat at a cost of \$10,000
- Vehicle exhaust system updated at a cost of \$5,000 for each of the 6 connections for a total of \$30,000
- Replacing another vehicle for \$63,000
- Dry hydrants replace and repair damaged ones around town at a total cost of \$20,000

It was briefly discussed that some of the cost could be covered by the \$660,000 from the American Rescue Plan. As the regulations for spending these funds become more established it

has become clear that the parameters for spending these funds are much greater than previously thought, therefore some of the items could be paid for through the ARP.

Amy Brosnan submitted information regarding guardrails at the park. The required 1060 feet of railing will cost \$29,680 and the required posts \$1,250.

There has been no forward movement on a Building Committee.

4. Eversource: 2022 Vegetation/Tree Work/Scorecard

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared that Eversource sent a letter regarding their work in the area for cutting back vegetation to decrease service problems. They also sent a Scorecard showing their process for proactively maintaining powerline safety in a 4 year cycle. The Scorecard was unclear so an Eversource representative will be contacting the Selectwoman's office next week to further clarify the information.

8. Old Business - None

9. Tax Refund - None

10. Public Comment and Questions - There was none.

11. Adjournment

Jerry Grabarek motioned to adjourn at 8:05 P.M..Sandra Allyn-Gauthier seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Lang

Kimberly Lang

Recorder

