

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 10, 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

Members of the Public - 2

2. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. April 26, 2023 - Regular Meeting

The following correction was noted:

- In Tax Refund numbers b., c., and d. the last three digits should be 065, 066, 067 in both the listing and the motion.

Ken Zachem motioned to approve April 26, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

b. May 2, 2023 - Special Meeting

The following corrections were noted:

- Page 1, 3rd bullet the word *decided* should be *discussed*
- Page 2, 1st paragraph, 6th line the phrase *will be used* should be *could be used* (this would also be corrected within the motion)

Ken Zachem motioned to approve the May 2, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes as amended. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Correspondence

a. Letter: from Yale New Haven, stating the importance of L&M Hospital and looking for donations to their development fund.

b. Letter: from Allison Devork, the new Executive Director of Senior Resourcing Agency on Aging in Norwich, explaining the programs and support they offer. It was stated that this information will be passed onto Fran Minor.

4. Reports - None

5. Appointments and/or Resignations - None

6. New Business

a. BoS Resolution Nationwide Town of Preston 401(a) Plan

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared that when the new Firefighter was hired it was discovered that MERS has a separate classification with a much higher contribution rate for Police and Firefighters than general employees. When the topic was taken to the Board of Finance they requested that different plans be looked at, which was done, and that after searching for an equitable program for the newly hired firefighter it was discovered that Nationwide offered a program that closely mirrors what other employees are offered. She then reviewed the differences between the two programs (MERS and Nationwide).

It was then explained to finalize the plan that is offered by Nationwide a Board of Selectmen Resolution was needed. It would state we've approved and adopted and are having an authorized representative of the employer directed to execute and deliver the administrator of the plan, one or more counterparts of the signatories parts of the 155 pages.

Ken Zachem motioned the Board of Selectmen Resolve the form of the Plan in trust, effective March 1, 2023, presented at the May 10, 2023 meeting hereby approved and adopted that an authorized representative of the employer is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver to the administrator of the plan one or more counterparts of the plan. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

b. Federal Local Bridge Program and CT DOT Designated Managed by State (DMS) Acceptance Agreements

1. State Project No. 0113-0111: Parks Road over Broad Brook

2. State Project No. 0113-0112: Cooktown Road over an Unnamed Brook

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier reviewed the Acceptance Agreement which states that the project will be completed with 100% funding, the Town will be involved in the design phase, once permission is given the proper advertisement will be done, proper public hearings will be held with the help of CT DOT, and the Town will follow the standard audit, confidentiality, contractor assurances, etc. The next step is authorization for the First Selectwoman to sign the agreements and send it back to the state.

Jerry Grabarek motioned to approve authorizing Sandra Allyn-Gauthier to sign the Acceptance Agreements for State Project No. 0113-0111: Parks Road over Broad Brook and State Project No. 0113-0112: Cooktown Road over an Unnamed Brook. Ken Zachem seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

c. Budget Update

There was a quick review of the budget process that remains: Annual Town Meeting, any adjustments after that, and then the Referendum on May 25th It was noted that an Everbridge notification was sent out.

d. 32nd Annual Liz Harris Cannonball Road Race, June 15, 2023

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared that this 1 mile road race will be held on June 15, 2023, and will take place on Schoolhouse Road from 6:30-7:00 P.M., all proceeds go towards scholarships for children's summer camp. It was mentioned that the Resident State Trooper, Fire Chief, and Public Works have all been notified of the event. Public Works will mow the site of the Poquetanuck school.

Ken Zachem motioned to approve and close Schoolhouse Road on June 15, 2023 from 6:30-7:00 P.M. for the 32nd Annual Liz Harris Cannonball Road Race. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

e. Annual St. Catherine's Road Race, June 22, 2023

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared that this 5k walk and 5k run road race will be held on June 22, 2023 starting at 6:30 P.M. with an anticipated end time of 8:00 P.M. The route will start at Maple Lane Farm use Northwest Corner Road to Hollowell Road, turning around in the vicinity of Amos Lake Beach, traveling back Hollowell Road, and then Northwest Corner Road to Maple Lane Farm. It was mentioned that the Resident State Trooper, Fire Chief, and Public Works have all been notified of the event.

Ken Zachem motioned to approve and close Northwest Corner and Hollowell Roads on June 22, 2023 from 6:30-8:00 P.M. for the Annual St. Catherine's Road Race. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

7. Old Business - None

8. Tax Refund

- a. Dean Lautenbach - 2021-03-0052821 - \$80.06

- b. Nissan Infiniti LT LLC - 2021-03-0053543 - \$350.68
- c. Nissan Infiniti LT LLC - 2021-03-0053544 - \$350.68

Jerry Grabarek motioned to approve a tax refund to:

- 1. Dean Lautenbach - 2021-03-0052821 - \$80.06*
- 2. Nissan Infiniti LT LLC - 2021-03-0053543 - \$350.68*
- 3. Nissan Infiniti LT LLC - 2021-03-0053544 - \$350.68*

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

9. Public Comment and Questions

Andy Depta, 6 Young Court, questioned that the 70% assessment corrections are not showing on the Vision data. He was told that those corrections are being finalized.

He also questioned the \$100,000 reductions from the General Government budget. Ms. Allyn-Gauthier explained to Mr. Depta using his spreadsheets where those cuts were taken from.

Andrew Bilodeau, 99 Lakeview, had several questions for the Board.

1. The first was the Nationwide vs MERS decision for the new firefighter - he asked for clarification that by going through Nationwide (17.55 contribution rate) it would have a significant saving to the Town rather than using MERS (23.11 contribution rate).

2. He also wanted to know when the corrected assessments would be available and would they be used when figuring this year's tax bills. He was told that it will change the Grand List.

3. He questioned who would receive the funds raised by the 2 road races, he was told the respective churches that sponsor them for various purposes.

4. Mr. Bilodeau asked when the bridge projects go to bid would local business be given preferential treatment. It was stated that the Town would need to follow the guidelines that the state gives, it was noted that only those businesses that can handle the job can be hired through the mandated bidding requirements.

5. It was asked, now that American Ambulance has been absorbed into Hartford Healthcare, what changes could Preston residents expect. It was noted that at the time of the takeover that Hartford Healthcare promised that there would be no changes, that people would receive the same quality of care as before.

6. Finally, he asked about the use of ARPA funds to offset the budget, he was given clarification of allocating ARPA funds that exceed \$50,000 must go to a Town Meeting.

Andy Depta, 6 Young Court, asked if the Town has small business opportunities established for various purchases. It was explained it was encouraged when seeking purchases to shop locally whenever possible.

10. Adjournment

Ken Zachem motioned to adjourn at 6:37 P.M.. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Lang

Recording Secretary

RECEIVED
PRESTON, CT.

2023 MAY 16 P 3:38

Jie Keich
PRESTON TOWN CLERK