

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 11, 2022
Preston Town Hall - Lower Level**

Call to Order - Sandra Allyn-Gauthier called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

1. Roll Call

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier

Jerry Grabarek

Ken Zachem

Also Present

Kathy Warzecha - via phone for the LoCIP and STEAP discussions

Cindy Varricchio - Finance Director

Kimberly Lang - Recording Secretary

4 members of the public

2. Previous Minutes - July 21, 2022, Special Meeting Minutes

Ken Zachem motioned to approve July 21, 2022, Special Meeting Minutes. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Correspondence - None

4. Reports - None

5. Appointments and/or Resignations

- a. Appointment to the Parks & Recreation Commission - Holly Gorman, To Fill Vacancy - Term to End on March 31, 2023.**

Jerry Grabarek motioned to appoint Holly Gorman to the Parks & Recreation Commission to fill the vacancy for the Term ending on March 31, 2023. Ken Zachem seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

It was noted that the Town thanks Holly for her service to the Town.

- b. Reappointment to Preston Housing Authority Board - David Hamelin, Tenant Commissioner Representative - Term: Sept. 1, 2022 - April 30, 2024.**

Ken Zachem motioned to reappoint David Hamelin to Preston Housing Authority Board as Tenant Commissioner Representative for the Term of Sept. 1, 2022 - April 30, 2024. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

It was noted that the Town is thankful for David's continued service to the Preston Housing Authority.

6. New Business

a. LoCIP Grant Application

Kathy Warzecha shared that Preston has applied for a SCCOG grant which has multiple steps to acquire. The first step was due on June 15, 2022 and she shared that the Poquetanuck Village Traffic Calming Plan has been chosen as the number one project for the region. Poquetanuck Village borders the park, Tri-Town Trail, and the cove making it a gem in the rough. Unfortunately the resources in this area can't be fully tapped due to the high speed and volume of the traffic. This project will enhance the Village by slowing the traffic and making the area safer for pedestrians. By doing these two vital steps: slowing traffic with lights, crosswalks, and speed humps; and making it safer for pedestrians by adding sidewalks, crosswalks, and lighting, it is hoped that this will promote economic growth in the village. It will allow for cafes, boutiques, and give the area the right feel that will make people want to stop and visit. The grant will cover the cost of the construction which is estimated that this first phase will cost \$3,000,000. However, it will not cover the \$300,000 engineering fee, which is why we need to create a public partnership with the residents of the Town, particularly Poquetanuck Village residents in order to gain their support as we move forward with this project. There will need to be multiple meetings in order to show SCCOG that the citizens of Preston are behind this project and want to see it move forward. Once the engineering plan is completed the construction should be completed in about a year and a half.

Carol Matsumot asked if the Poquetanuck Village people need to be at next Wednesday's Board of Finance meeting.

Kathy Warzecha shared that they don't have to be, but it would be important to be there to show the Board of Finance that they support this project and would like to see it move forward.

Dave Candler shared that he felt that slowing the traffic is the key because the traffic is the problem. If the traffic isn't slowed, even the people on the sidewalks will be at risk.

Kathy Warzecha shared that the goal is to slow the traffic so people aren't just passing through, and that more positive economic development can occur.

Carol Matsumot stated that the Village wants to be involved when the engineers develop their final plan. She stated they want a say in what is done. Right now they feel like they're the backwash of the Town and this is an opportunity to make the Village special. She

stated that a Poquetanuck Village Committee has been formed and they want to help with this project.

Keith Lozon came later, and stated that he is new to the Poquetanuck Village. He is restoring a home along the main road and would very much like to see this project move forward to ensure safety and to help the Village bring back lost businesses. He also mentioned the need for safe parking.

Kathy Warzecha shared that this project will be brought up at the Board of Finance meeting on August 17, 2022 and the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting on August 23, 2022.

b. STEAP Grant Application

It was explained that the guidelines have changed since last year and that the Town is applying for a \$500,000 grant with an August 15, 2022 deadline. It was shared that the Dept. of Public Works recently completed a capital improvement study for the Preston Transfer Station(PTS). In order to upgrade, modernize, and add to the PTS, Jim Corley estimated a cost of \$498,000. While the construction cost of Phase 1 is slightly under \$500,000 and will hopefully be funded 100% by the STEAP Grant, the \$34,000 engineering cost is not covered by the grant. The group continues to look for alternative sources to pay the 11% required, \$34,000; it is possible that the 34K could come from the LoCIP account which has about \$200,000.

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared that once these improvements have been completed that the following phase of the Transfer Station project would include composting and that there have been talks with Blue Earth about the composting.

Kathy Warzecha stressed that many of these grants require shovel-ready projects, therefore it's imperative that the town prioritizes projects and do the groundwork planning so as these grants become available the Town is ready to move forward.

It was stated that for every grant that covers a major project, like this, that's less that has to go into the Town's Capital Improvement costs.

Ken Zachem motioned to opt into the STEAP Grant Program with provisions that were discussed. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Ken Zachem motioned to approve the following Resolution: At the August 11, 2022 meeting of the Board of Selectmen representing the Preston municipality, the Board authorized Sandra Allyn-Gauthier, who has been First Selectwoman of Preston since November 19, 2019, to submit and accept a STEAP Grant in the amount of \$498,453 for Transfer Station Improvements, and that Sandra Allyn-Gauthier is hereby authorized to execute any and all agreements, contracts, and documents necessary to obtain the STEAP Grant and that all of

this is true and correct to the best of our knowledge. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

c. Board of Selectmen Schedule Planner for the POCD

The group looked through the Schedule Planner 2014-2024 that was last revised in 2016. The Schedule Planner Board of Selectmen section needs to be revisited and revised as part of the POCD that is being updated for 2024. There was a brief discussion about the possibility of reestablishing the Economic Commission that was started in 1979 and consisted of 15 members with staggered terms. The Commission was last active in 1993. The collective thought was that 15 interested people would be hard to find, but perhaps 5 would be easier. It was mentioned that the Economic Commission would need to interact with the PRA. It was decided to spread the word throughout the Boards, Commissions, Committees, and the 2 Town Committees; that the Town is looking for those interested in reactivating the Economic Commission.

It was decided that each member would look over the Schedule Planner and have suggestions and revisions to go over at the next meeting.

d. Healthcare Discussion

Ken Zachem felt that it was worth a try to get Brown & Brown Insurance to agree to a third year cap increase. The group agreed that it seemed like a seamless crossover, however, there will be credits and debits when a shift in coverage is made and those amounts need to be made very clear before finalizing any agreement. Another possible cost saving strategy that was mentioned was to pay the premium for the year in full and see if the Town could get a reduced rate.

6. Old Business - None

7. Tax Refunds

a. Matthew Savage - 2020-04-0080866

Jerry Grabarek motioned to approve the Tax Refund to Matthew Savage - 2020-04-0080866 in the amount of \$89.17. Ken Zachem seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

b. Matthew and Stacey Savage - 2020-04-0080867

Jerry Grabarek motioned to approve the Tax Refund to Matthew and Stacey Savage - 2020-04-0080867 in the amount of \$32.38. Ken Zachem seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

8. Public Comment - None

9. Adjournment

Ken Zachem motioned to adjourn at 8:10 P.M. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Lang

Recording Secretary